

TreeProject

Sowing the Seeds of a Sustainable Future



October 2018

Grower Interviews:

get to know hardworking volunteers

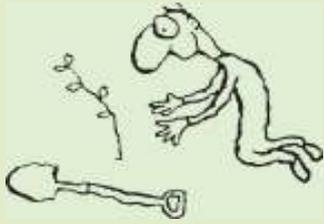
Shelterbelts:

more on how they can improve your land

Celebration:

details on the end of year party and AGM

TreeProject



Sowing the seeds for a sustainable future

TreeProject turns 30 this April!

Come celebrate with us in the month of **April 2019**. We are still looking for an enthusiastic **team of Volunteers** to help our events blossom.

Join us for:

A **picnic party** in Yarra Bend Park where it all began and a **bush dance** to twirl the night away.

We are also looking for any **Landcare groups** who would be interested in taking TreeProject volunteers on a **tour** of joint site projects.

For ideas and contributions please contact us at:
de.grebner@treeproject.org.au or 9650 9477

Come party with us and help us grow!

TreeProject

3/247 Flinders Lane
Melbourne VIC 3000
Ph: 03 9650 9477
Fax: 03 9650 4385
info@treeproject.org.au
www.treeproject.org.au

Meet Our Growers



Alison U'ren

I started about a year ago, after stumbling across TreeProject online. I wanted to get involved because I cared very much about our land and our future and I love gardening and messing around with plants. However, I am disabled by a severe chronic illness which will not go away.

At times, I've needed lots of help, even for the basics. I don't know what the future holds and at my best, my daily activities are limited. I wanted to find something meaningful that gave back to my community. But finding something that I could actually do, felt heartbreakingly impossible.

I was hesitant about signing up with TreeProject. It was not easy for me, needing someone to collect my kit, and for my carer to help me get the pots and clear a space for growing. Watering them every day over summer, sometimes twice a day, was a big effort for me. And I'll confess I was relieved when they were collected. But it was within my grasp and I was able to see it through. I can't express just how much this meant to me. My backyard is the size of a postage stamp, it's been great to have a project that can grow bigger than my own space!

I've really enjoyed doing some proper work with plants. I can be a bit slapdash, but the really clear instructions and support meant that I was learning and I can now see how easy it is to grow plants when done properly. The fact that I'm doing this for other people also keeps me conscientious. I hope TreeProject can keep going, and even expand. I can imagine a lot of people living in small units like me, who love plants and care about the environment, would find it to be a great way to contribute to the community.



Peter Walker

I have been growing for TreeProject for about 19 years. It all started in late 1998 when I began teaching a VCE class in Agriculture and Horticulture in Bundoora. While visiting a fellow teacher at Penola College I noticed quite a few boxes of seedlings and was told all about

TreeProject. I thought that this would be a great way for students to be involved in the cycle from germination to planting out to gave them an appreciation of the

importance of land conservation and amelioration. When I introduced my students to TreeProject it all snowballed from there. My favourite memories as part of my involvement are the students from Mercy College who grew approximately 2000 seedlings for the Malmsbury group over many years. They were able to plant the seedlings at the property of Mr Gerard Noonan at

Malmsbury and have the opportunity to marvel at how well previous seedlings had grown. It gave them a sense of achievement. In addition, after a hearty lunch, Mr Noonan allowed students to feed sheep and poultry which was thoroughly enjoyed by such highly urbanised students.

I hope that TreeProject is able to build on its current grower base and that growers become life-long supporters of the scheme. I also hope that growers further their involvement by joining a regional Landcare group and become participants in other events that the particular Landcare group is involved in.

As for myself, I have used the TreeProject scheme (and L. F Costerman's book "Trees of Victoria") to improve my ability to identify seedlings! I have learnt about seedling germination (it's more than just adding water!) and I have used my time as a former teacher to educate new growers about the TreeProject scheme.

Thank you to Intrepid Travel!

Intrepid Travel has been TreeProject financial sponsors for many years. This will be their last year funding us, so we sat down with them to chat about their experiences.



Intrepid Travel team planting 2018

Thank you for your many years of sponsorship !

**What are the things your employees enjoyed about the planting?
Can you share some experiences or personal stories from the day?**

We loved getting out of the city office and into the nice fresh air. Being outside and working our bodies was really invigorating and it felt great doing something productive to help the environment. The site was absolutely beautiful and we had great weather the whole day. Planting more trees than you thought you would, it was also more fun than I think people expected a day out in the cold would be. Also, the fact that you can see the progress of the trees that were planted the year before is great. You can see that you are making a difference..

“Our staff love it and I would love to see other businesses sponsoring TreeProject in the same way!”

What do you think are the benefits of the planting for the Intrepid Travel and its employees?

It's a really positive way to spend a day of the office, mentally and physically. I can't wait to do it again next year. Hopefully we'll get to go back to the same site one day to see our tree babies thriving. I think it's also a great learning experience for people that have never been tree planting before. Increasing environmental awareness and actions is a big part of our company's social responsible business approach, TreeProject was a perfect match for the values that our company and employees hold.

What were some of the team building benefits that your team got out of the planting?

It made us concentrate on finding each other's strengths and made us work as a team. It was fun working on one small part of a bigger system and then looking back over the hundreds of trees we planted that day knowing that we'd all worked together to care for each one.

Spending the day out together with employees that we don't necessarily interact with on a daily basis at work meant getting to know them better and bonding with them makes work more comfortable when you know people personally not just professionally.

How did Intrepid Travel staff hear about the opportunity to volunteer with TreeProject?

We have been participating in the tree planting days for quite a few years now. We initially came to know of this opportunity through our non-profit arm, The Intrepid Foundation who was a financial sponsor of TreeProject for many years.

Why did Intrepid Travel choose to engage employees with TreeProject plantings?

Our staff are entitled to 20 hours volunteer time per year. Planting trees is always popular. Planting trees also aligns with our other business sustainability initiatives and it is great to support an organisation that is local to our Head Office



Intrepid Travel team planting 2016

Meet a landholder - the Helmans

“Thank you all very much for growing the seeds into lovely trees for us.”

I discovered TreeProject back in 2014, while browsing the internet for land carer options. From the start I was surprised at how easy the process of working with TreeProject is, especially because I knew nothing about germinating seeds and looking after seedlings in their critical stages. Working with TreeProject has been such an enjoyable experience. It's allowed me to complete my own tasks without having to worry about the trees while they're in their earliest stages. As the years have gone on, I have had no problem with TreeProject, I've only found myself more inspired to research and seek assistance from other local Landholders about the variety of Eucalypt best for our Nagambie area.



Revegetation with local provenance indigenous seedlings has benefited the land. The erosion problem we were facing was halted straight away. Because of our plantings grass is growing again where erosion was advancing. I asked many questions to senior and long term farmers and landholders and discovered that the erosion commenced due to the over clearing of trees many years ago. However, we are definitely improving the land. We now have native birds and animals returning. For my area eucalypt varieties such as Black Box, Red Box, Yellow Box and Grey Box work best, all these grow naturally in the district. We have also planted Red Gum, Sugar Gum, Spotted Gum and Stringy Bark varieties but in a smaller amount. All the seedlings are doing well! We don't water them often. We allow them to grow naturally. They are planted in rows about three metres wide and three metres apart.

Overall, there has been a massive improvement to our land. The ground has stopped caving in and grass continues to grow. I am so thankful to all the supervisors and growers over the years for their tremendous help. They even go as far as to help arrange special delivery times to meet the rains. The office staff and volunteers in Melbourne are always on top of things and made the administration as easy as possible. I encourage everyone reading to go and seek out some photographs of their work over the years to show the positive change to your property

“Thank you everyone, you should be very proud of the way you've improved the country!”



Thank you ERM Foundation and staff volunteers

Since 2014 the Environmental Resource Management (ERM) Foundation have sponsored TreeProject through a project that involves ERM staff being trained to grow indigenous seedlings and planting them at the end of the growing season. ERM's team leader Andrew Gray says, "I am thrilled to be growing seedlings for TreeProject to help landholders repair landscapes and ecosystems."

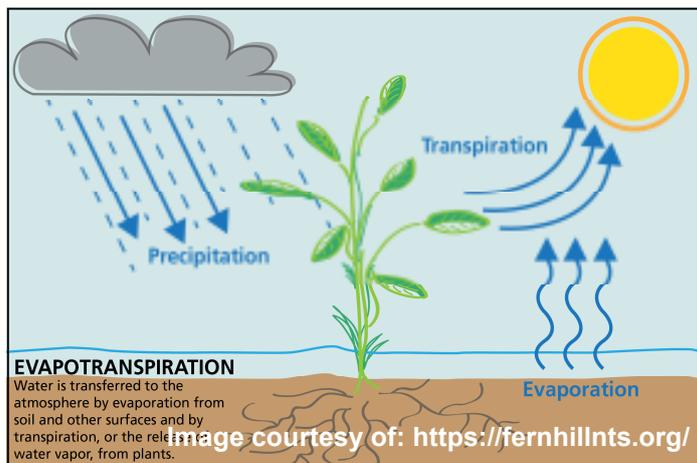
ERM is a leading global provider of environmental, health, safety, risk, social consulting services and sustainability related services. They help clients understand and manage sustainability challenges. "We help companies achieve their objectives with an understanding of how they impact society and the environment."

The ERM Foundation harnesses the enthusiasm and expertise of their staff to support environmental initiatives around the world. Employees raise funds and volunteer their time to provide technical and practical support for projects relating to carbon reduction, biodiversity and conservation, clean water and sanitation and environmental education. ERM provides pro-bono time and matching funds to support these activities.



Shelterbelts, transpiration and rain cycles

In our last newsletter, we featured an article exploring the benefits that shelterbelts could provide in pasture productivity. In this edition, we will take a deeper look into how shelterbelts affect the water and carbon cycles on your land.



What is transpiration?

Life cannot exist without water. Water circulation is a repetitive cycle. It falls from the clouds settles to land, flows out to the ocean and is evaporated back to the atmosphere in what is called the hydrological cycle. According to a report by the National Research Council (1999) this cycle is a major factor in the regulation of the Earth's climate. (NRC, 1999).

Transpiration is an important part of the hydrologic cycle. It affects atmospheric humidity and soil moisture. Water evaporates through small openings under the leaves of a plant which is passed into the atmosphere. Water in the atmosphere becomes liquid when the air is cooled. Moisture cannot be held in cool air, clouds are formed, mist returns moisture in the form of dew. Moisture that moves further into the atmosphere forms clouds that also returns water to the surface.

Shelterbelts are also responsible for improved moisture retention in soil. The plants root systems draw and retains moisture in the soil. Shade from the shelterbelts cools the earth and reduces heat rising from the earth which pushes away rain clouds. Trees attract rain and increase the level of moisture in the earth while decreasing soil temperatures.

Because of this process, areas of larger vegetation are more likely to attract rain as moisture in the air attracts moisture in the clouds. When looking at how to improve this process, the Basalt to Bay Landcare Network found that the use of shelterbelts reduced loss of water from the soil in late spring by 10-12mm, (Austin, 2014).

A lack of vegetation can have the opposite effect. Less vegetation means that moisture is not being absorbed back into the earth through the plants root system. This causes the soil temperature to increase. Heat from the soil rises and pushes potential rain clouds away. Vegetation creates pockets of moisture that cools the local atmosphere thus attracting rain clouds, which improves local waterways and soil health. The moisture pockets in the atmosphere explain why forests and oceans get more rain.

Improved moisture retention in soil through planting vegetation has demonstrated strong benefits in dry environments across Australia. Soil conditions improved by shelterbelts has been shown to increase crop yields during drier periods, increase biodiversity and even reduce stock losses (Howard & McDonald).

Stan Enders, a Victorian farmer, planted shelterbelts on his Carboor property and noted the vegetation on his property increased as well as the length of the growing season. The need for fertiliser and pesticides was also reduced. Stan states that the increased biodiversity and wildlife is "enough to keep the pests down". (Howard & McDonald). Shelterbelts can attract more rainfall while also continuing to improve growing conditions for produce.



Improvements for the Future

Transpiration from shelterbelts create a range of economic and environmental benefits for farms and rural properties by improving soil health and water retention. Not only can you change your local environment and climate for the better by planting shelterbelts, you will also save money on the water/irrigation and the use of fertilisers and pesticides.

References

Austin, P. (2014). *The Economic Benefits of Native Shelter Belts Report 01/14*. [online] Available at: <http://sustainabilitygippsland.com/uploads/3fa379507edc480cee0114b1140ca1d2.pdf>

Howard, J. and McDonald, S. (n.d.). *Two case studies of re-vegetation programs on farms in North East Victoria*. [online] Available at: [http://vro.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/neregn.nsf/0d08cd6930912d1e4a2567d2002579cb/84172621de198c29ca2575ed007bfe89/\\$FILE/Case%20Studies.PDF](http://vro.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/neregn.nsf/0d08cd6930912d1e4a2567d2002579cb/84172621de198c29ca2575ed007bfe89/$FILE/Case%20Studies.PDF)

National Research Council. 1999. *Global Environmental Change: Research Pathways for the Next Decade*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/5992>.

Plastic storage boxes as mini greenhouses

Seedling growing is often an adaptive process. When the weather cools in April/May seedlings that have been late germinating could need a little help getting enough heat to boost their growth. I've got a straight forward solution for you. These great mini hothouses will help maximize and retain heat. This technique that's worked for me. Also, if you have to move, his technique ensures that there is temporary protection for the seedlings while they're at their most vulnerable stages.

The seedling covers in the photos are clear plastic storage boxes that can be readily purchased at most hardware, office and homeware stores. Perhaps you already have a number of these around the home that can be used - a better option than buying more plastic. The boxes I used were approximately 45cm x 35cm x 25cm, which

allowed them to sit over a single foam box of seedlings. I started using these boxes to cover seedlings because renovations and garden tree works resulted in my growing bench being moved around the property a number of times. This hindered installing a more permanent greenhouse structure.

As a temporary measure, I found the plastic boxes useful at different points of the growing process for the following functions:

- maintaining humidity and rain protection for newly sowed seed.
- frost protection for small seedlings.
- hailstorm / heavy rainstorm protection if conditions forecast
- possum protection at night before exclusion mesh was put up.

My site in Southern Dandenong is quite cold, and has a short growing season. So these greenhouse covers have been beneficial for speeding things up at early stages. The boxes also allowed me to manage the different germination and growth rates of various species by only covering those that needed it.

Some thoughts and words of caution on using these boxes as mini greenhouses:

- ensure you manage humidity, some species are highly susceptible to mildew. You can do this by drilling ventilation holes in the side of the box. If you don't want to ruin a perfectly good storage box, use supports to create an airspace between the box and the foam box of seedlings.
- The boxes should be seen as a temporary measure.
- Regularly check the Bureau of Meteorology website or app for frost and severe weather warnings.
- Don't leave the boxes on at later stages, to ensure seedlings are hardened off.

I hope this will be of use for some growers. Every growing season, TreeProject growers and growing sites are different, so I look forward to hearing about what adaptations have worked for you and your site!



Article by James Frazer



End of year celebration and AGM

Sunday October 21st

Celebration for a year well done 1:15 to 3:15 pm

AGM 3:30 to 4:00pm

429 Heidelberg Rd, Fairfield (Cnr Station St)

Enjoy fabulous music, delicious canapés

Inspiring stories and

the company of champions

Join us for the musical talents of Peter Sullivan and Andrea Lees. Peter is a wonderful pianist (was channel 9 music director for years) and co-writer of Up There Cazaly. Andrea an accomplished musician and sought after vocalist with sweet versatile voice.

RSVP by Thursday October 18 for catering purposes

de.grebner@treeproject.org.au or 9650 9477

Working Bees 2018 - 2019

October 2018		Task	Site
Saturday 6	10am - 12pm	Getting Organised	Kensington
Sunday 14	10am - 3pm	Tube Washing	Kensington
Saturday 20	10am - 3pm	Sand packing	Kensington
Sunday 28	10am - 3pm	Tube Washing	Kensington
November 2018		Task	Site
Sunday 11	10am - 3pm	Tube Washing	Kensington
Saturday 17	10am - 3pm	Tube Washing	Kensington
Saturday 24	10am - 3pm	Kit Preparation	Kensington
Sunday 25	10am - 3pm	First Distribution	Kensington
Monday 26	10am - 12pm	First Distribution	Golden Square
Wednesday 28	3pm - 6pm	First Distribution	Kensington
December 2018		Task	Site
Saturday 1	from 9am	First Distribution	Maiden Gully
Saturday 1	10am - 12pm	First Distribution	Kensington
Sunday 2	11am - 3pm	First Distribution	Batesford
January 2019		Task	Site
Saturday 12	10am - 3pm	Tube Washing	Kensington
Sunday 20	10am - 3pm	Tube Washing	Kensington
Saturday 26	10am - 3pm	Kit Preparation	Kensington
Sunday 27	10am - 3pm	Second Distribution	Kensington
Wednesday 30	3pm - 6pm	Second Distribution	Kensington
February 2019		Task	Site
Saturday 2	10am - 12pm	Second Distribution	Kensington
Sunday 3	11am - 3pm	Second Distribution	Batesford

Come join us

In preparation for the distribution days, TreeProject has working bees at the historic Kensington Stockyards where materials for the growing kits are recycled and sterilised, growing materials are measured and packaged and growing kits put together.

It's a great way to network and meet some of the lovely TreeProject volunteers working in Melbourne.

We'd love to have you along. The first Saturday in November is Derby Day, so there's no working bee on that day.

Lunch provided

Locations for
Working Bee and Grower Kit Distribution

Kensington Stockyards

*Cnr. Smithfield Road & Bluestone Street
cnr Racecourse & Smithfield Rds.
Mel. Ref Map 42 J1*

Grower Kit Distribution:

Bendigo

*Council Nursery Mackenzie St.
West, Golden Square*

Geelong

Batesford

Grower training 2018

We encourage all of our growers to attend and refresh their skills.

It is also a great opportunity to meet with other growers. You will find it fun and rewarding!

Details regarding locations will be sent out in October.

Melbourne, Bendigo, Ballarat & Geelong training sessions in 2018			
Fairfield (Nursery)	Andrew McKenzie	Saturday Oct 27	2.00 PM
Bendigo	Brenda Greenall	Sunday Nov 11	2.00 PM
Bentleigh East	Allen Collard	Saturday Nov 17	1.30 PM
Coburg North	Paul Gleeson	Sunday Oct 28	11.00 AM
Mitcham	Genevieve Gill	Saturday Nov 10	11.00 AM
Seaford	Greg Price	Sunday Nov 4	10.00 AM
Glen Iris	Jo Richards	Saturday Oct 27	10.00 AM
Shoreham	Ann Heather White	Saturday Oct 27	2.00 PM
Batesford	Rob Taylor	Sunday Nov 4	2.00 PM

www.treeproject.org.au

3rd floor, Ross House, 3/247 Flinders La, Melbourne Vic 3000/ Ph: 03 9650 9477/ Fax: 03 9650 4385

info@treeproject.org.au



TreeProject

Return Address
247 Flinders Lane
Melbourne Vic 3000

SURFACE
MAIL

POSTAGE PAID
AUSTRALIA
SURFACE

ABN 90 669 079 400
Reg. No. A0018731
Print Post Approved
PP331 08870006

Thank you to our sponsors for their continued support



***Please include TreeProject as your preferred charity for donations.
TreeProject depends upon your generous donation.***