



TreeProject

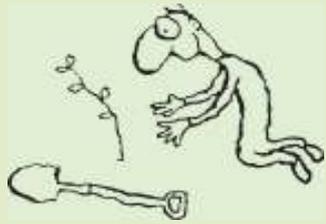
Sowing the Seeds for a Sustainable Future

June 2017

Grower Perspective

Journey with TreeProject

**Benefits of Native
Vegetation in The Vineyard**



Sowing the seeds for a sustainable future

TreeProject is a community based, not-for-profit organisation that helps urban and rural communities to work together and put trees back on the land.

Our network of trained volunteers grow indigenous seedlings for rural landholders and Landcare groups who need our help with revegetation. Our volunteers contribute their time and hard work to propagate and care for seedlings of Indigenous trees, shrubs and grasses in their own backyards.

Together, we are restoring urgently needed Indigenous vegetation and repairing Victoria's damaged ecosystems.

Become a member

Buy or renew your yearly membership now to help TreeProject provide materials and instructions to our volunteer growers.

Individuals: \$33

Couples: \$55

Families: \$66

Business supporters: \$330

TreeProject

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Celebrating our volunteers



From the President: Thank you to all our volunteers

So far this year, TreeProject volunteers have helped us package seed, grow seedlings, recycle materials, move mountains (of potting mix), enter data, write receipts, spread the word at expos, fill in the plant roster, plan ahead and manage the organisation and its finances.

This giving of time, talent, energy and money is a significant voluntary effort don't you think.

You may remember that TreeProject began in 1988, so the combined voluntary effort over 29 years is incredible.

Tree Project volunteers are amazing and deserve to be proud of what has been achieved.

We have celebrated our achievements at 10 years and 20 years. How shall we celebrate 30 years?

Email your ideas to info@treeproject.org.au or call 03 9560 9477.

Lyn Grocke President



Become a grower

Soil degradation is one of the most serious problems facing rural Victoria, and many landholders and Landcare groups are revegetating their properties to tackle soil erosion, salinity and acidification, as well as the loss of habitat and biodiversity.



Taking expressions of interest for the Spring season now

Register online:

treeproject.org.au/volunteer/seedling-grower

Who's new in the zoo?

Susan Bond

Communications leader

Susan joined the committee in December 2016. As someone who grew up in a house surrounded by Australian natives, Tree Project is a natural fit even if she's not what you'd describe as a green thumb.

"As a self-confessed black thumb, the best way I can help out is to offer my communication experience to grow the organisation."

Born in Warrnambool, and a Melbourne resident since 1999, Susan has over fifteen years of experience in government communication.

Outside of the office, Susan enjoys ballroom dancing and plays netball 3 times a week. She's trying really hard to develop her vegetable garden, with limited success.

Focus for 2017

We'd really like to grow the TreeProject community, so expect to hear a bit more from us this year.

We're working on some changes to the way we communicate with our landholders, growers, sponsors and donors and our huge volunteer network.

Over the coming months, you'll see some changes to the website and some of our digital channels and we'll be working on getting this newsletter out more often.

If you have any suggestions or would like to be involved in the marketing and communication of TreeProject, email info@treeproject.org.au or call 03 9560 9477.



Loretta Dridan

Committee member

Loretta joined the committee in March 2017. She has extensive experience working in public and private landscape management across a range of projects and locations.

Loretta has also worked with and volunteered for a number of not-for-profit organisations involved in social and environmental community projects.

She has a strong interest in communities, community engagement and building capacity to support and deliver sustainable outcomes.

Prior to joining the committee, Loretta assisted with various administrative tasks and roles within Tree Project, particularly

during the busy distribution season.

In working along side Tree Project's diverse and inclusive committees, she enjoys being a part of an organisation that actively engages with its volunteers, sponsors and the community.

Loretta has already begun working on providing and updating resources for landholders and those sourcing environmental information. You may also notice an update or two on the website, in particular the seedling database.

Over time, she hopes to be able to build even stronger links between volunteers, partners and urban and rural communities.

To join the TreeProject committee, email info@treeproject.org.au or call 03 9560 9477.

Giving koalas new homes among the gumtrees

Koalas, one of our most iconic animals, are under threat all around Australia. With the support of TreeProject, projects like Janine Duffy's are trying to help.

Janine leads a group of volunteers planting eucalypts in the You Yangs and Brisbane Ranges. The new gumtrees support local koala populations, which are under threat from the effects of climate change and loss of habitat. Koala numbers in the You Yangs have declined by around 34 percent in the past 10 years.

In 2016, the group planted over 500 trees. Supplied with seedlings from Tree Project, they aim to plant at least 2000 more this year.

The group are using a range of natives for the project including River Red Gum, Grey Box, Blackwood and Silver Banksia, all aimed at regenerating a suitable environment for the surrounding koala populations.

"Koalas are drying out. If they are to survive around the You Yangs, they will need moisture-rich eucalyptus", said Janine Duffy. "The river valleys, drainage lines and dams on private farmland are perfect habitats for koalas, and native trees planted there will provide koalas with shade, food, water and protection from increased heat and dryness".

Although not listed as endangered, it is believed there are only 80,000 to 40,000 koalas in

Australia. Koalas have a very specific eucalyptus diet, but up to 80 percent of their original habitat has been cleared away. Further land clearing and urbanisation of rural areas, and more frequent and intense hot weather associated with climate change, is putting increased pressure on koala populations all around Australia. With the majority of remaining populations found on private land, projects like this one might hold the key to preventing further loss of koala population.

"Regenerating eucalyptus environments was a valuable and enjoyable experience for the volunteer group", said Janine. "Most members came from urban areas and had never seen eucalyptus sprout and grow from seed before".

"This has been a fantastic project for us and our regular volunteers, who have been overwhelmed by the speed of growth and the excitement of watching them grow".

Find out more about Echnida Walkabout at echidnawalkabout.com.au.

By Jack Fryer



Picking up growing supplies for 2000 seedlings



Providing benefits to the Victorian wine industry

Jamie McGlade of Helen and Joey Estate, an award-winning Victorian vineyard, first heard about the native planting initiatives of Tree Project from a neighbour.

He was immediately impressed by the concept, and could see the benefits the program could offer to both his business and the environment. Jamie contacted the conservation officer at his local shire, who contacted Tree Project, and from there the process was simple.

A selection of Australian natives including Red Stringy Bark, Golden Wattle and a variety of Eucalypts arrived and were planted in September 2016.

Although only a few months have passed since then, Jamie can already see benefits around the property and expects much more will take hold in the future.

When prompted as to what these benefits may be, Jamie remarked that his employer is “keen to see improvements to the property, both aesthetically and habitat wise”.

Although the property is predominantly used as a vineyard, it also features some of the luckiest cattle in the Yarra Valley. They spend their days grazing around the rear of the property and will benefit from the added shade of native vegetation. As the natives continue to mature, the vineyard itself should experience a “wind belt” sheltering effect.

The deep-rooted species planted on their neighbour’s property will help to combat a minor salinity issue by “soaking up excess water which has been drawing salt up” as groundwater rises.

As the plants are still quite juvenile, there haven’t been any obvious pest control benefits just yet, but Jamie believes that natives are a “good alternative to pesticides”.

It’s expected that the native bird life will take up residence in the future to help with pest control, especially the difficult to kill long-

tailed mealybug. “A lot of vineyards are working on using the natural environment to bring natural insects and predator species in”.

He believes this could give Helen and Joey Estate a competitive advantage in the wine industry, as the popularity of pesticide-free and organic products continues to grow with consumers.

Although it has only been 7 months since his initial contact, Jamie has already expressed his interest in becoming an annual member of Tree Project.

He’s hoping for an even greater variety of Yarra Valley natives next time including blackwoods, swamp gums, manor gums, and long-leaf or narrow-leaf peppermints.

With the multitude of benefits presented from planting natives on Helen and Joey Estate, Jamie would recommend the Tree Project program to other vineyards, agricultural business owners, or anyone in general.

By Mark Hannemann

“The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second best time is now.”

Anonymous

My experience with Capillary Watering: Precautions and Care

Helen Yandell (Volunteer grower)



Capillary Watering is a highly efficient watering technique for plants. It makes use of the natural capillary action used by plants to uptake water from the soil via their roots. The water is supplied directly to the plant roots which prevents the overuse of water and space.

Looking at the multiple benefits of the capillary system, Helen decided to grow Callistemons or Bottlebrush using the capillary system in her backyard.

Bottlebrush belongs to the genus *Callistemon* of the family Myrtaceae. It is native to Australia and can be commonly found in the east and south-east of Australia. They often grow in damp or wet conditions such as along creek beds or in areas which are prone to floods. Their vibrant colour and easy maintenance make them an excellent garden plant.

Helen Yandell, a volunteer Tree Project grower, followed the instructions provided and planted the young Bottlebrush seedlings last November in the boxes that received capillary watering.

Initially the plant received ample amount of sunlight and did very well with many seedlings in each tube. As other varieties had not been so successful many of the bottlebrush were transplanted, making more than 60 tubes.

However, by the end of February, many plants started to show sickness with some snapping off at the base. She also discovered cutworm in some of the tubes.

Helen did not use any chemicals in panic. She contacted Victorian Indigenous Nursery Coop (VINC) who confirmed that the symptoms sounded like collar rot and advised her not to use fungicides. They suggested that the plants had been affected as they had been kept in water for too long and recommended that Helen remove the plants from the water, put them in the shade and give the plants a chance to recover on their own.

Helen followed the advice and was able to prevent the premature death of many of her plants. As she left the plants in shade she could pull out the worms out as they surfaced.

Helen suggests that growers need to be informed about how long the seedlings need to receive capillary watering with an idea of how big a plant should be when it can survive without this style of watering.

She says these problems can be avoided by researching the plants' water needs.

Capillary watering can be an efficient way for growing bottlebrush. However, like any other method, it also requires some attentiveness and care.

By Prachi Garnawat



2017 planting days

Register your interest in planting at one of our Yarra Valley sites.

Prior to the day, we will provide you with the contact number for the TreeProject supervisor as well as a site map and directions prior to the planting day.

You will also be sent a list of planting safety do's and don'ts.

| | |
|---------|---|
| 9am | Registration |
| 9:30am | Planting instructions and OH&S risk management directions |
| 12:30pm | Lunch |
| 1:15pm | Planting and site clean up |
| 3:30pm | Finish |



On the day Provided for the planting team

Tea, coffee and snacks

Tools and other equipment

Supervision and instruction

BBQ lunch.

(with dietary requirements catered for)

Planting Volunteers need to bring –

Sturdy shoes or boots – the terrain may vary rough or wet

Spare socks for the ride home

Gloves to keep your hands clean

Warm weatherproof clothing - the weather can be unpredictable during this time of year,

personal water bottle

To book in for a planting call 9650 6477 Mon Wed Thurs or Fri or at anytime
email de.grebner@treeproject.org.au

| Dates in June | Site |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Saturday 24 June | Gruyere (Coldstream) |
| Friday 30 June | Gruyere (Coldstream) |
| Dates in July | Site |
| Thursday 27 July | Gruyere (Coldstream) |
| Dates in August | Site |
| Tuesday 1 August | Yarra Glen |
| Thursday 10 August | Gruyere (Coldstream) |
| Friday 11 August | Gruyere (Coldstream) |
| Saturday 19 August | Yarra Junction |



TreeProject

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