

# TreeProject



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

# OUR ORIGIN

TreeProject began as a conversation between friends who were concerned about the environment and shared a strong belief that planting trees was a practical action for restoring health to the Land in Victoria.

TreeProject's first planting in 1989 was an outstanding success and many urban and rural plantings have followed.

In 1990 the Free Tree Scheme (now the Re-Tree Scheme) was set up to organise city volunteers to grow trees for country landholders; a program that continues today, linking urban and rural communities.

In 1994, TreeProject became a registered not-for-profit (charitable) organisation and has grown to become a major contributor to the sustainable restoration of Victorian countryside and threatened eco-systems through a network of over 2500 committed people including donors, sponsors, members, growers, volunteers and land holders.

This effort has enabled the propagation and distribution of 2 million indigenous seedlings for restoration projects by landholders, major water authorities, government agencies such as Parks Victoria and numerous shire councils.

In doing so, TreeProject has been recognised by receiving government and community awards for their environmental contribution.



## Our Vision

- ✔ The re-vegetation of Victoria's indigenous forests and the restoration of damaged landscapes and ecosystems vital for health climate, healthy soil and healthy waterways.
- ✔ Fostering increased rural and urban community awareness and engagement in these restoration projects by supporting capacity in the propagation and distribution of healthy indigenous seedlings.

## Our Mission

- ✔ Growing and distributing healthy seedlings to return healthy, sustainable ecosystems to the Victorian landscape through the planting of indigenous flora species.
- ✔ Provide opportunities and volunteers to support the many landholders, land care groups and concerned individuals conducting these re-vegetation projects.
- ✔ Provide effective educational tools and support for the community to propagate healthy indigenous seedlings at affordable prices for re-vegetation and restoration projects.

## Our Strategic Focus

- ✔ Continual improvement of organisational governance, policy development, operational efficiency and communications channels to become:
  - The trusted provider of propagation of indigenous seedling practices in Victoria
  - The trusted provider of information on the propagation of indigenous seedling and best practice conservation education.
- ✔ Development of sustainable relationships with sponsors, patrons and other relevant and affiliated groups.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In April 2004 Maggie McLeod, then President of TreeProject wrote: "TreeProject still provides a brilliant model for awareness, vision, inspiration, dedication and action and it is all of you with your awareness, vision, inspiration, dedication and action who are needed even more."

Each year when it is time to report to you, our members, volunteers, donors and sponsors, I am pleased to find an appropriate subject to be enthusiastic about.

This year it is a presentation of studies done at LaTrobe University over recent years entitled 'Landscape Connectivity'. Distances were measured, photos taken and land mapped to discover the willingness of birds and animals to move across agricultural land into new habitat. With trees present in paddocks it was shown that birds would move across larger distances to other woodland areas.

TreeProject has often been part of projects aiming to connect segments of woodland with others; wildlife corridors, biolinks, roadside extensions and riparian restoration are making an impact. As we reflect on and celebrate our past achievements and commit to continuing into the future, think of all those connections being made and feel a great deal of satisfaction in being part of it.

The work of the year has continued across maintaining a viable and compliant organisation, promoting our Re-Tree Scheme in rural Victoria, fostering links with like-minded groups and looking for funds to upgrade the systems on which we rely to communicate with our people and to act upon some of our ideas.

To do this our public fund, climate impact and grant writing sub-committees have been active. Volunteer recruitment to assist with implementing our communication plan has been, and continues to be, successful.

So it is with a huge sense of gratitude and appreciation that I say thank you: to our committee of Stephen, Jenny, Loretta, Susan and Gopi; to our sub-committees of Peter, Kurt, Malcolm, Alys, Margaret, Kathryn, Frances and Kirsteen; to our volunteers for their time, knowledge and skill; to our donors and sponsors and to our staff of De in the office and Louise in the nursery.

**Lynette Grocke**  
**President**



# TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's report for the year ended 30 June 2018

## Performance

TreeProject achieved a surplus of \$15.9K in the current financial year compared to \$4.4K in the previous year. This impressive record of 3.6 times over the previous year was the result of higher revenue and lower expenditures in 2018 compared to 2017.

Total revenue for the year is \$105K as against \$97K in 2017. Total donations in 2018 totalled \$68K which is an increase of \$13K over the previous year and accounted for 65% of the revenue in 2018. Total expenditures were \$90K compared to \$92K in 2017 with 57% for wages, 19% for seeds and seedlings, 12% for office administration and other costs at 12%.

## Financial position

Net assets have gone up from \$119K in 2017 to \$135K in 2018, an increase of \$16K for the year. At the end of the year Public Funds had a balance of

\$135K and were placed on term deposits and on call accounts to earn the best possible interest on the balances. All liabilities were paid on time during the year. TreeProject is financially in a sound position and can meet its obligations as and when it is due.

## System improvements

TreeProject successfully moved to cloud-based accounting system in 2018 by implementing XERO accounting system. This has improved efficiency, transparency and reporting to committees and stakeholders. Implementation of this new software led to reclassification and or regrouping of certain accounts in the previous year for comparison to current year results.

**Gopi Nair, CA**

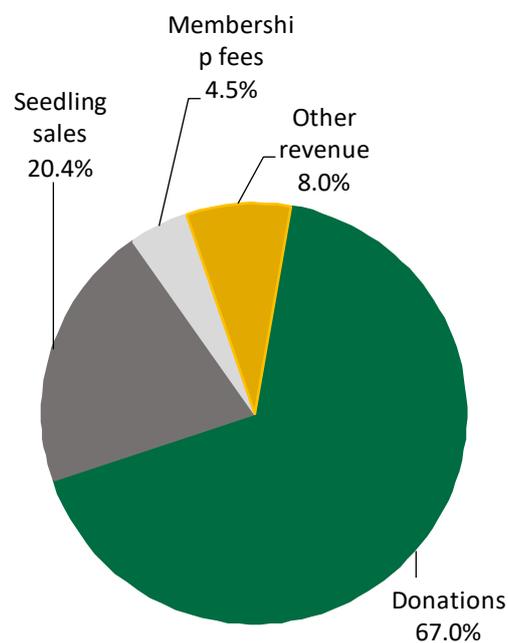
**Treasurer**



## Statement of receipts and expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2018

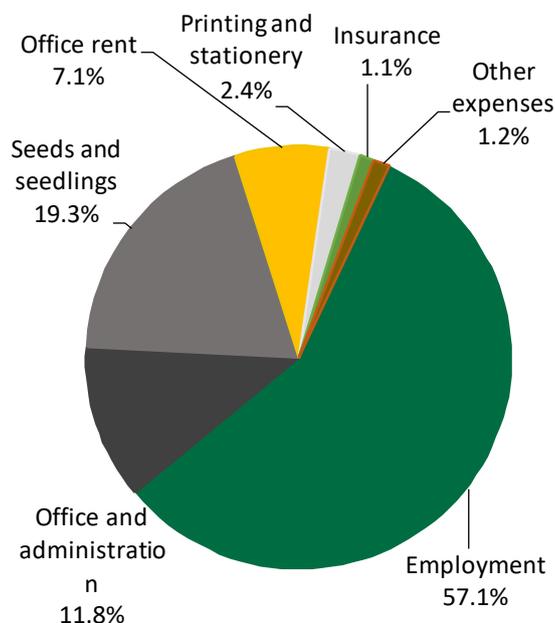
Audit of 2017/18 financial statements is in progress.

Receipts	2018	2017
Donations	70,704	57,701
Seedling sales	21,554	33,620
Membership fees	4,791	4,001
Merchandise sales and others	8,424	1,412
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>105,473</b>	<b>96,734</b>
Expenditure	2018	2017
Employment	51,151	52,683
Office and administration	10,577	8,053
Seeds and seedlings	17,296	19,490
Office rent	6,330	6,476
Printing and stationery	2,151	3,276
Insurance	964	1,026
Other expenses	1,104	1,265
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>89,573</b>	<b>92,269</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>15,900</b>	<b>4,465</b>



## Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2018

Assets	2018	2017
Cash	2,965	3,975
Bank – Public Funds (Investments)	135,421	125,670
Receivables	-	387
Fixed assets	2,394	3,156
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>140,780</b>	<b>133,188</b>
Liabilities	2018	2017
Credit card	144	4
Payroll	5,451	13,387
GST	405	916
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>14,307</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>134,780</b>	<b>118,881</b>
Association funds	2018	2017
Accumulated surplus, beginning	118,881	114,416
Surplus for the year	15,899	4,465
<b>Total association funds</b>	<b>134,780</b>	<b>118,881</b>



# MANAGER'S REPORT

In the 2017/18 planting season TreeProject volunteers grew 50,750 seedlings for landholder orders, which are comprised of 151 kits grown by 137 growers from Melbourne, Geelong, Ballarat, and Bendigo.

The 2017/18 planting season marked the fifth year that TreeProject and the Shire of Yarra Ranges have partnered in the Ribbons of Green Project. TreeProject volunteers grew and planted 13,500 seedlings involving six participating landholders in Healesville, Coldstream and Warburton. Over 13 planting days, 335 planting volunteers contributed their time and energy to ensure our partnership with the Yarra Ranges is a success.

We are pleased to continue our partnerships with many corporations, individuals and community groups that assist with the plantings. Again this year we worked with ANZ both as planters and volunteer growers from the Mt Waverly ANZ who have a nursery on site. Also contributing staff volunteers are NAB, Intrepid Travel, Australian Super, Hardie Grant, PWC, IHS Markit, Aesop, WEX, University of Melbourne and international visitors Bliss & Wisdom Foundation. We received a special contribution from the Environmental Resource Management Foundation (ERM) that provided much needed funding to TreeProject. ERM have 6 staff that grew seedlings and a dozen staff volunteers who participated in the planting. Thank you so much to all our planting partners for your environmental awareness and commitment to repairing Victoria's landscape.

Louise Harvey continues to do an incredible job in her fourth year as nursery manager for TreeProject. This year, she grew 3000 seedlings to ensure that TreeProject met the supply for the Ribbons of Green initiative and provided back up for growers needing extra seedlings to fill in their kits. The nursery remains an integral part of the re-tree scheme, hosting working bees and education days for the community. Kurt Van Wijck and Louise have done an amazing job as planting supervisors, ensuring the smooth running of planting days and making sure that all the seedlings go in the ground properly and all the volunteers are having a good time. We could not have done it without them; thank you, Kurt and Louise!

This year saw the most volunteer hours in TreeProject history, with over 4139 hours by 360 individual persons logged in for volunteering in the office, working bees and plantings.

TreeProject relies on its committed volunteers to assist with daily office tasks, tree plantings and working bees.

Volunteer growers have contributed an estimated 6126 hours during the six month growing season nurturing their seedlings. A big thank you to all the volunteers that have helped in any way they can, the work of TreeProject would not be possible without the dedication and hard work each and every one of you contributes.

TreeProject is supported by generous people who donate each year. Thank you to Intrepid Travel, who have been donating to TreeProject since 2002, while also getting their hands dirty on planting days. Similarly, Fiona McLeod has been donating annually since 2005, which we are very thankful for. Stones of the Yarra Valley continue to offer wedding clients a donation option as part of their wedding package. We would also like to thank The Hope Family Foundation for their generous donation for the past 3 years.

Each donation to TreeProject plays an integral part in helping us restore ecosystems, improve water quality and fight climate change. Thank you to all the people that support TreeProject financially through memberships and donations. TreeProject depends upon your generosity to stay afloat and ensure that our volunteers are supported, that landholders receive the seedlings they order and that together we are able to ensure the environmental repair that is so crucial is undertaken.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our committee members for their dedication and commitment to TreeProject. Each member does a fantastic job contributing their talents and skills to the organisation. So again, on behalf of the office manager, TreeProject would like to thank the committee members for the time, effort and contributions they have given while serving as part of this committee.

**De Grebner**  
Manager

## Volunteers are the life blood of TreeProject



## Members of TreeProject Management Committee 2017-2018

Lyn Grocke (President)  
Gopi Nair (Treasurer)

Jenny Chivers (Vice President)  
Susan Bond

Stephen Watson (Secretary)  
Loretta Dridan

## Members of TreeProject Public Fund Committee 2016-2017

Alysa Johnson  
Malcolm Ng

Peter Whittle  
Kurt Van Wijck

## Major Donors

The Hope Family Foundation  
Intrepid Travel  
Peter Lemon

Nina Padmanabhan  
Trevor Allen  
Bruce Moonie

Stones of the Yarra Valley  
Grace & John McRae  
Fiona McLeod

# TreeProject

SOWING THE SEEDS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

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