

TreeProject

Sowing the seeds for a sustainable future

Welcome to TreeProject's first edition of The Leaflet!



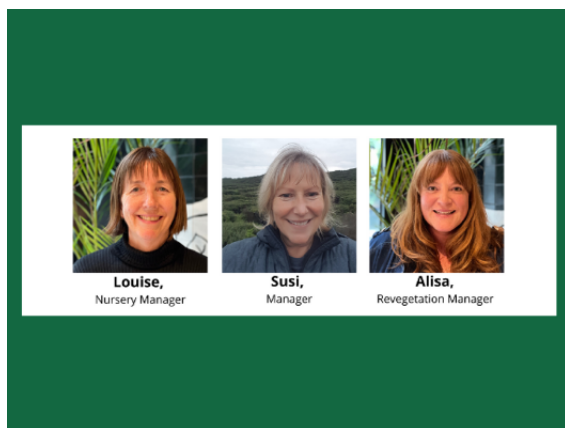
TreeProject acknowledges Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants and traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work to return healthy, sustainable indigenous ecosystems to the land.

WELCOME to TreeProject's update of latest events and news. We are very pleased to share that our newsletter has been named **The Leaflet**. Congrats to Ruby - we put it out on social media that we couldn't promise fame nor fortune but we did promise newsletter naming kudos! Brace yourselves... it's been a few years since we have had a newsletter out there so this edition may be a little more jam-packed than most.

TreeProject has had a bumper Autumn and Spring Distribution, distributing seedling kits to facilitate the growth of more than double the number of seedlings than were grown last year. Taking stock, the final numbers for the year sit at

91,000 seedlings! We acknowledge with immense gratitude and thanks, our trainers, coordinators and the many volunteer seedling growers who are putting in so much time and effort into growing the seedlings. It's time to plan on getting all those seedlings into the landholders' ground in a few short months. Planting dates are being finalised. In the interim, [REGISTER](#) your interest to help plant the seedlings this season (tick the plant trees checkbox) and keep an eye out on our [WEBSITE](#) for planting day updates.

We hope you enjoy reading about what we have been up to in our revegetation journey empowering the Victorian community to secure a sustainable and biodiverse future. Please share our message with your networks—for the planet's sake. Don't forget to be in touch if you would like to feature in our next edition!



MEET THE TEAM!

Meet the amazing ladies and volunteer IT gurus who run the TreeProject show and the dedicated Committee supporting them every step of the way!

A warm welcome is in order to Alisa and Susi, who only recently joined the TreeProject Team, and a huge thank you to Louise and Peter for your many years of dedicated service. We recently welcomed David, who has joined the the TreeProject volunteering team in a Web Designing role.

And then there's the Committee to meet—all serving in a volunteer capacity, each bringing their valued speciality skillset to the mix. We heard they are raring to go and on a mission to fulfil TreeProject's mission.

The TreeProject Staff



Louise,
Nursery Manager



Susi,
Manager



Alisa,
Revegetation Manager

Key IT Volunteers



Peter,
Systems & Database Specialist



David,
Web Designer

The Committee



Grace,
Treasurer



Tom,
Vice President



Stephanie,
President



John,
Secretary



Jenny,
Volunteers



Graeme,
Governance



Annie,
Volunteers



Asger,
Governance



Sally,
Communications



Les,
Fundraising

UPCOMING EVENTS

Seymour Expo *Volunteers
needed* - 16-18 April 2021

TreeProject Event - Save the date -

18 June 2021

Tree planting dates - Coming soon!



TreeProject will be there and would love to see you at the [Seymour Alternative Farming Exhibition](#)—a great day out to catch up on latest technology, practices and trends in small and backyard farming, plus market style shopping, food and entertainment for the whole family.

*****LANDHOLDERS***** It's a great opportunity to secure your **at-cost seedlings!**

*****VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO ASSIST AT OUR STALL***** [YES I can help](#)

WE HAVE A SURPRISE FOR ALL VISITORS TO OUR STALL!

All welcome, so bring the family along for a friendly chat to find out more about how, with your help, we go about restoring healthy and indigenous ecosystems to the Victorian landscape.



WHEN | 18 June 2021

WHERE | Melbourne City Bowls Club, Melbourne West

TIME | 6pm

Please save the date for an exciting evening planned to further cement and foster our fantastic TreeProject community! Details to follow shortly.

To help us with our planning, could you take a minute to let us know if you think you might like to join us! [Yes I will save the date](#)



TREE PLANTING WITH TREEPROJECT dates are currently being finalised.

[REGISTER](#) your interest online via our website to help plant seedlings this season (tick the plant trees check box) and we will be in touch with details. A heads-up: we anticipate plantings to start during the month of June. These days are enjoyed by many and certainly are a highlight in the TreeProject calendar!



RIBBONS OF GREEN | COLLABORATION BETWEEN YARRA RANGES COUNCIL & TREEPROJECT

TreeProject volunteers are helping to increase revegetation work in the Yarra Ranges with their mass planting efforts.

Tim Brown, Biodiversity Officer for the Yarra Ranges council, coordinates the Ribbons of Green program that supports new green corridors on private land to connect existing habitats. Tim and his colleagues work with landholders to assess suitable sites and species for each place, then help to source indigenous plants—sometimes from local nurseries, sometimes from TreeProject growers. But what really helps boost the rate of revegetation is people power, and that's where TreeProject comes in.

We coordinate teams of planting volunteers, often coming from the same

workplace, to come on site in their dozens to put the plants in the ground. It's an enjoyable day out for volunteers who might not otherwise have the opportunity for direct involvement in revegetation, and a great benefit for landholders who don't have the capacity to plant at this scale on their own. Tim describes an important property on the Yarra in the Warramate Hills near Gruyere, where TreeProject contributed 3,000 seedlings in 2020, creating a substantial habitat corridor in the gully. Unfortunately COVID-19 prevented TreeProject volunteers from planting them, but we'll be back!

And since the resilience of a patch of vegetation is related to its size, the long-term advantage of the Ribbons of Green and TreeProject partnership is that together we can foster larger plantings more quickly, which vastly helps the prospects of these new corridors.

Article by TreeProject volunteer & coordinator, Kate



REMEMBER KURT?

We'll take a look at him standing in his paddock, doing the *Themeda triandra* 'taste test'; if he collects enough of it he could make bread!

Kurt most generously donated 1kg of *Themeda triandra* (kangaroo grass) seed to TreeProject. Just so you know, that is a LOT of *Themeda triandra* as it's quite a process to harvest it. Kurt goes on to explain the harvesting process. When he bought land a few years ago, the previous owner mentioned there was Kangaroo grass growing on the property and that the seed was valuable. After doing some research Kurt looked at what ways the seed could be harvested. He contacted [Seeding Victoria](#) and spoke to a very friendly and helpful chap going by the name of Dan Frost. He mentioned that he would be an interested buyer and he would come to visit to have a look at what Kurt had and to teach him how and when to harvest. Covid came and went a few times and that played havoc with Dan heading over to Kurt's place. In the end he told Kurt via his new best friend Zoom that an average picker (by hand) can pick 0.5 to 4KG per hour. Kurt says he is yet to find the person who can (clean) pick 4kg/h but 1.5 KG seemed possible

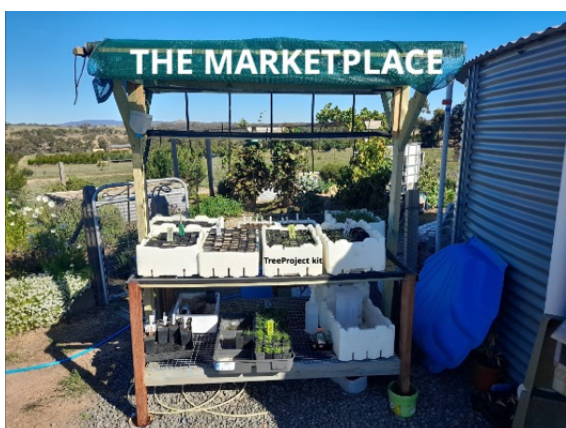
after some trying out. That is when the seed heads are not yet dry. After 3 weeks on the shed floor when dry, it is only about half of that.

When shortly before Xmas a friend treated Kurt with a surprise visit together with his son, he offered the son a job picking kangaroo grass seed. He took the bait and within days he drummed up the support of about a dozen friends to come and help out whilst camping on the farm for a few days around Xmas. In the end the seed wasn't ripe till the very last days of the year. City boys, knowing little about the cycles of farming had by and large lost interest and went to the beach with mums, dads and friends instead to celebrate surviving 2020. In the end two boys turned up for two days. Will M and Will M, one being the son of Kurt's friend (and he will leave it up to us to guess who the other one would be!)

The short of it is W1 & W2 or in short 1 & 2 picked about 20KG each. Seed bank Dan is now indeed "the man" who has found an interested buyer and Kurt has been invited to drive to Creswick VIC with a bag the size of a small car filled with seed heads!

The seed that Kurt donated to TreeProject made its way straight into the hot house trays so that volunteer seedling growers could transplant it. It's a grass so doesn't have to have a big root system for planting like the trees. Growers who have more than one seedling in the tube can thin out for growers who have none. The seedling will bounce back and produce more.

GO KURT! AND A VERY BIG THANK YOU!



WHAT'S YOUR SETUP?

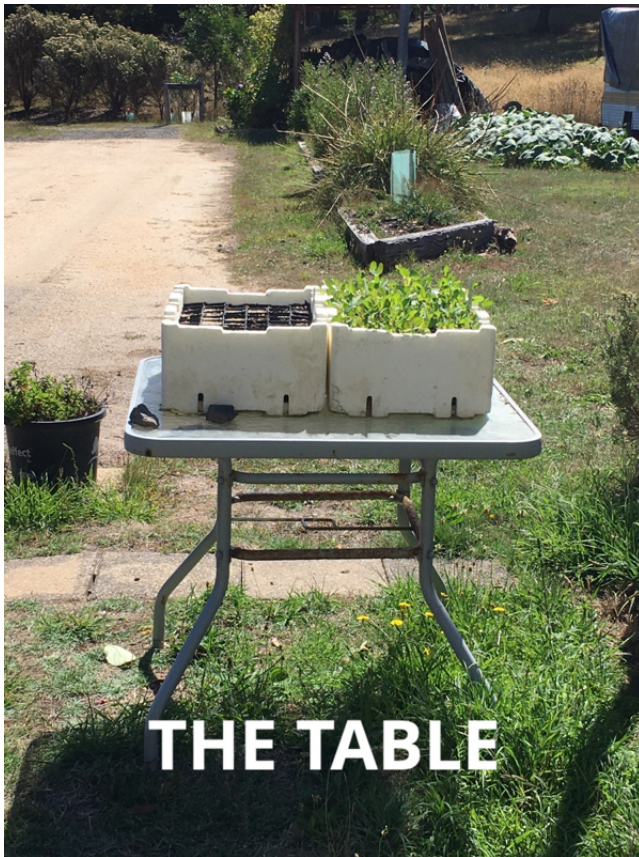
There are many different versions of how volunteer growers set up their seedling set ups and we just want to show the variety and the fact that they all work—well, most of the time!

From Stafford, one of our creative Volunteer Seedling Growers:



"The reason it is built the way it is, is twofold. Each side can be rolled up like a blind to regulate the amount of sun each box receives.

In the top and probably not obvious from that photo is a twofold watering system (mister for when the boxes are just starting out and fine spray for when the plants are a bit bigger). We only have tank water here and it is hooked to a timer for those times we are away."



The Table - Ken's uncomplicated setup just outside the back door!



Peter Hooke's setup - well, we are still trying to come up with a name for this elaborate set up!

TreeProject acknowledges with thanks each and every supporter who has so generously donated.

We thank the following businesses who have offered generous one-off donations, signed a donation agreement or registered their business details with TreeProject to donate on a regular basis in accordance with set business criteria.

We recognise below the following donors who have donated *within the current financial year*.

If you would like further details please [be in touch](#).

DONATE

Major TreeProject Donors

(click on logos)

ELK



RECOGNISED BUSINESS DONORS

(click on logos)





We'll be back in your inboxes soon - in the meantime we will be working hard continuing to revegetate Victorian land with indigenous species and fostering the urban/country link we value so much. Happy Easter to all and a heads up that our

office will be closed over the Easter long weekend.

The TreeProject Team

PS: Which flower can you dip in water and lick like a lollipop? (Find out in the next edition of The Leaflet)



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