

Do you have an old paddock tree that you would like to see live for the next generation of farmers?

The State Government loved what we achieved with our last round of funding, so we have been offered the chance to protect more paddock trees in our landscape. This is good news for our paddock trees, the wildlife that live in them and also for you as farmers.

PADDOCK TREES ARE ICONIC - THE 'OLD BATTLERS' IN OUR PADDOCKS

Paddock trees are often hundreds of years old and have persisted in our landscape after centuries of land clearance and farming. We value them for their:

- **shade and shelter** for stock (and therefore your agricultural productivity)
- **habitat** and protection for hollow dependent mammals and birds. Large **hollows** do not develop until some trees are well over one hundred years old. Hollows are essential for 16 species of mammal and 44 species of birds in Victoria.
- food production, **flowering** is more prolific and reliable on large old trees, making them a greater source of **nectar** for birds and other insects
- amenity and social value, they are the **beautiful big old trees** that we all love to look at
- connectivity, like islands or **stepping stones in our landscape**, they connect the patches of remnant vegetation, roadside reserves and waterway corridors.

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR PADDOCK TREES?

Through natural attrition, die back, storm damage and impacts of farming, we are slowly losing scattered paddock trees from our paddocks, particularly Red Box, White Box and Yellow Box. The death of paddock trees is a major loss for our local biodiversity and agricultural productivity – in some paddocks these trees are the only shade for stock.



WHAT DOES THIS PROJECT INVOLVE?

This project focuses on the protection of 20 paddock tree sites and the planting of 100 new paddock trees. You can protect single standing paddock trees or patches of trees (greater funding applies for more trees).

We are the only Landcare Group in North East Victoria with a project specifically funded to protect paddock trees.

This is a fantastic initiative, so please contact Sally Day on 0437 136 162 or email sally.day@gretalandcare.org.au to talk about how you can be involved.

Come along on our field tour of completed sites to find out more! Details over the page....

HOW DO I PROTECT ONE OF MY LARGE OLD TREES?



Please call Sally Day to talk about the project further. The steps from here are:

- First we will assess your site
- Once accepted for the project, land holders will be required to prepare the site and erect the fence
- The Group will provide you with suitable shrubs and guards for your site and can arrange planting assistance if required
- Once the site is fenced and planted, the subsidy on fencing costs are paid to the landholder.

Fencing needs to be completed by June for sites to be planted during Winter 2018.

WHAT IF I WOULD LIKE TO PLANT NEW TREES IN MY PADDOCKS?

We have now planted over 175 new paddock trees in our catchment over the last two years. This is great news, but we still have many more to plant to replace those being lost.

We are using the same large wire guards as before – check out Whites Rural Tree Guards on the internet for a look at the specs. Basically pre-rolled 5mm diameter wire, 1.8m tall, 75cm diameter (looks like this →).

Guards can be purchased at a subsidized cost of \$25 per guard (retail is \$52) and collected from Greta South. Limit of 10 guards per member. Must be planted with a native tree, which can be supplied by the group and will be a species specific to your area. Or you can place a guard around a tree which has popped up in your paddock. You supply the stakes.



COME ON OUR PADDOCK TREE FIELD TOUR!



We will be inspecting some of our sites fenced and planted in 2017. Come along to see some beautiful paddock trees, learn more about their importance and help us check how our shrubs are growing. Morning tea provided.

Meeting on Monday 12th of March, 4pm at the Greta West Horse Stud, 48 Dundas Lane Greta West.

Large wire guards will be available for purchase and collection on the day too. Please order in advance so that we can have them ready for you.

Please register online at www.tinyurl.com/paddocktreetour or call Sally on 0437 136 162.