

Victorian Garden State Committee

Victorian Garden  State Committee



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Introduction

The Garden State Committee is a consultative body acting as a catalyst to bring individuals and groups together to use plants to improve urban and rural landscapes.

Today, nearly ten years on, many of the early ideas have achieved fruition and new approaches, based on our experiences, are continuing to evolve.

We want to show you the practical results and let you decide what application they may have to urban or rural concerns on your doorstep. Improvement of your neighbourhood environment, realisation of employment opportunities for environmental works, revitalising towns by generating increased commercial activity and attracting increased tourism, and tackling land degradation on individual farms are some of the practical outcomes you can read about.

All the projects described have been the result of considerable work by many people and organisations over, in most cases, years of careful preparation. The projects show that productivity targets for commerce and industry, and measures to improve our quality of our environment can be mutually reinforcing, providing benefits both to the individual and community.

A common thread of this work is its pioneering nature. Through pilot projects we can help you in making decisions about how to move in your area, be it urban or rural. In many instances contact can be made with people with local experience of application to your concerns.

Please contact the Garden State Committee if you would like to follow up on ideas, projects or make local contacts.

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May 1985

The Urban Environment



Improved community facilities

The urban landscape is the environment in which most of us live. It is axiomatic that good landscape design will improve the environment where we work and where we relax. (Urban Landscape Guidelines, 1979).

The meaning of good landscape planning, design and management may be understood by showing the "before" and "after" situations, as illustrated in the photograph at the top of this page.

Good landscape planning, as you can see, creates improved community facilities and a better living environment.

The Garden State Committee has worked closely with many municipal councils and community groups to apply the process of good landscape planning both to individual projects and whole towns.

In 1978 the Garden State Committee initiated a program targeted at municipal councils to improve urban landscape planning, design and management.

In the case of commercial and industrial developments, landscape considerations were not being incorporated in the initial planning of projects and this resulted in, at best, cosmetic attention to the needs of the community in terms of enhancement of the surrounding area and the everyday comfort of employees and visiting public.

For municipal councils and local



Previous streetscape

groups concerned to upgrade their area, there were no advisory services or readily available Victorian information at hand to provide preliminary support and guidance for planning and implementation.

For new development, planning strategies provided the "where to" allow uses but little or no guidance on "how to" for site design to meet visual and functional needs at both the individual developer and community levels.

Overall social, economic and physical benefits of good landscape design were little understood by land management decision makers or the public.

A steering group involving representatives from local government, engineering, horticulture, planning, landscape architecture, forests and conservation was formed to oversee the program.

In 1979 an Urban Landscape Guidelines Handbook was launched and a series of seminars for local government held across Victoria. Many requests for assistance from municipal councils were generated and followed up by the Committee in conjunction with the

Environmental Design Section of the then Ministry for Conservation, and later, the Visiting Fellow in Landscape Architecture at Melbourne University.

An Awards program was embarked upon to build on the Handbook: 1979, Manufacturing Industry; 1980, Public Parks; 1981, Commercial Areas; and 1982, Streetscapes. Concurrently, a number of broadsheets were produced.

1980 was a major step forward with the half time appointment of Professor W. Havens, the Visiting Fellow in Landscape Architecture, to the Garden State Committee. Professor Havens initiated the first townscape study in Victoria.

The Seymour Townscape Study set the way for further studies by the following Visiting Fellow, Professor Alex Rattray and a close linking of planning and landscape architecture.

Four Townscape Workshops were held in 1982 and a specific urban improvement demonstration project set up, following on one of the townscape studies.

The then Department of Planning, as a result of the Urban Landscape Guidelines Program, established the Townscape Advisory Service and, in the capacity of a lead agency, is carrying on and expanding key elements of the program (see page 4).

The Garden State Committee is continuing to work closely with Government Departments and municipal councils to encourage and provide the opportunities for community groups and individuals to improve their social and physical environment through the informed use of vegetation (see page 4).

Country Towns

The structure of each Victorian city, town or suburb is comprised of many different parts. Although each town is unique as to geographic setting and physical configurations, all share similar human activities which result in similar arrangements and physical elements. For example, each town has a centre, some have more than one centre, often differentiated by use (commercial, industrial) or age (old, new). Each town has roads and paths. Each has parks, reserves and other open spaces. Yet in actual quantity and configuration, each town is unique. (Professor Havens, 1980)

Seymour was the country town selected for the first townscape study in Victoria and the above quote is taken from Garden State Broadsheet No. 5, that summarises both the process and findings of that study.

The study illustrates the concept of looking at the whole town, both in its regional setting and then the individual components within the town itself.

What this approach means to your town is the ability to clearly identify the physical community needs for the town population, the unique features that can project a positive image to the outsider and specific projects that can be done by residents, industry, town businesses and community groups to improve the town.

In 1982, the Shires of Chiltern and Alexandra were involved with the then School of Environmental Planning, University of Melbourne, in the development of townscape studies.

Both these townscape studies have provided the framework for action on the ground.

In July, 1984, the Townscape Advisory Service held two seminars – in Ararat and Wangaratta – known as "Townscape Victoria '84". The seminars illustrated, through examples of work completed and underway, the processes of townscape improvement in Victoria. The proceedings are now available (see the "further information" at the end of this section for details).

With the formation of the Townscape Advisory Service in the Ministry for Planning and Environment many country towns are now involved in townscape improvements works. These include Dimboola, Orbst, Lakes Entrance, Maryborough, Mildura, Morwell, Kilmore, Yarra Glen and Lorne.

The impetus for different municipal councils to look at their townscape varies



Each town is unique

widely from concern over the future of the town after by-passing to revitalising of town centres.

Contacts and publications for further information:

□ **Townscape: Seymour Case Study** Garden State Committee Broadsheet No. 5, Melbourne, Victoria, 1981.

□ **Urban Landscape Guidelines** Garden State Committee, Melbourne, Victoria, 1979.

□ **Townscape Improvement in Victoria** Proceedings from the Townscape Victoria '84 seminars held in Ararat on 24 July, 1984 and Wangaratta on 26 July, 1984. Townscape Advisory Service, Ministry for Planning and Environment, 1985.

□ **Townscape Advisory Service** The Townscape Advisory Service may be contacted at the following address: Townscape Advisory Service, 5th Floor, 150 Queen Street, (PO Box 2240T), Melbourne, Vic. 3001. Telephone (03) 602 9253

□ **Chiltern – Implementation of Townscape Study Proposals** (included in Townscape Victoria '84 seminar proceedings, see above).

Coburg Community Urban Improvement Program

"Merri Creek Walk crosses the border" and "Trees help to beautify Coburg" were just two headlines from the Coburg Courier in 1984 describing projects undertaken by the Council and community of Coburg to improve the enjoyment and appearance of their municipality.

The Garden State Committee is now working with the Coburg City Council to develop a *pilot* Community Urban Improvement Program building on these activities and looking at the whole of the Coburg "suburbanscape". This is an extension of the townscape process (discussed in the last section) to metropolitan Melbourne and emphasising the role of community groups and residents.

It is the intention of this project to work with the Council in preparing an overall framework in which activities

can best contribute to an improved urban environment. Generally speaking this means preparing a guide for present and future works in the municipality as a whole, bringing together the needs of the community in residential, commercial and industrial areas, public parks and public corridors.

So far the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) through work by a group of their landscape architecture students have prepared a "suburbanscape" study of Coburg. A task group comprising representatives from the Coburg City Council, Garden State Committee and RMIT has been formed to implement the program.

The next step will be to decide on priority areas within the overall guide and then the Council and community can start to look at plans for individual areas.

Contacts and publications for further information:

□ **Coburg "suburbanscape" Study.** A Study of Coburg by students from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Melbourne, 1985. (Copies are available for loan from the Garden State Committee Office.)

□ An update on the Program can be obtained from the Garden State Committee.

Community Projects

While it is ideal to look at your whole town or suburb before doing individual projects, your group or organisation can do something useful now provided you carefully think through your project.

Time and again initial enthusiasm will end up in frustration or an unsatisfactory result unless the following points are clearly addressed:

1. A statement of the *reason* for the project: purpose, objectives, goals.
2. Identification of the *people* involved in the project: users, interested citizens, responsible authorities, professional consultants; formation of task force.
3. Identification of *needs and wants* of the people.
4. Identification of *existing areas and facilities*.
5. Identification of *site features* assets

to be retained, opportunities and constraints to be considered in development and use.

These points are covered in more detail in some of the publications listed at the end of this section.

The preparation of the physical plan is the next and most interesting step. This provides the opportunity for knowledge and imagination to be brought to the forefront.

Textacolours, pens and pencils can be wielded to prepare the concept plan which is somewhat similar to a basic house plan often seen in advertisements for real estate.

The 1980 Garden State Landscape Awards for public parks and Community Innovative Awards identified good examples of landscape design for a range of types of parks and public land, and it could be useful to look at some of these and particularly discuss their development with the organisations involved. The Garden State Committee Office will be happy to provide you with details and

Commercial and Industrial Development



Improved commercial development.

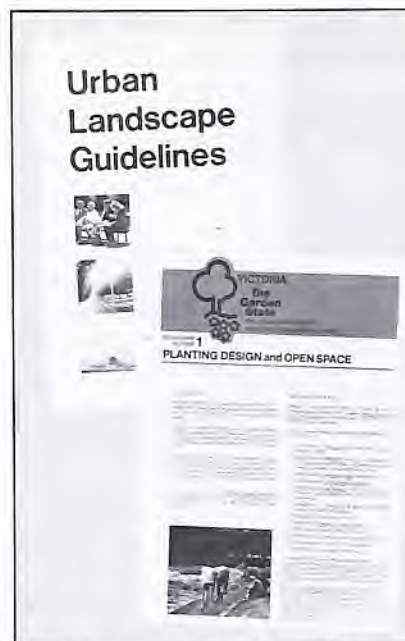
Gardening in the Community

Traditionally gardening evokes the image of cutting the lawn on weekends and relaxing with the garden hose watering the flower beds.

The real picture is much wider than that and gardening is increasingly becoming an enjoyable recreational pursuit for people without their private open space.

Gardening is making an increasingly important contribution to our recreation, leisure and community environment.

Community gardens have become increasingly popular over the last few years. Residents can grow flowers or vegetables to take home and most importantly enjoy the company of other people interested in the same pursuit. A good start would be to contact the Nunawading City Council about their experience in the initiation of the Nunawading Community Garden. This Garden, established in 1977, was the recipient of a Garden State Innovative Community Projects Award and is still



Guidelines for municipal councils and community groups.



There is an increasing appreciation by commercial developers that good landscape design can be economically

operating successfully today. Other community gardens have been established at Balwyn, Essendon, Fitzroy, Hawthorn, North Richmond, St. Kilda and Brunswick. The Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria in 1982 launched a program to train a team of volunteer community workers who work with Victorian communities in broadening and



Reaching out into the community.

local contacts.

Contacts and publications for further information:

□ **Urban Landscape Guidelines** Garden State Committee, Melbourne, Victoria, 1979.

□ **Planting Design and Open Space** Garden State Committee Broadsheet No. 1, 1980.

□ **Darebin Parklands** (A study of land reclamation and conservation project at Ivanhoe and Alphington, Victoria). Published by the Rockbeare Park Conservation Group. (Copy available for loan from the Garden State Committee.)

□ **Environmental Design Section** This section is within the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, 240 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002., 651 4011, and can give advice and information on landscape design.

□ **A Planting Guide for Merri Creek Valley.** Merri Creek Co-ordinating Committee, Melbourne, Victoria 3000. (Copy available for loan from the Garden State Committee Office.)

profitable and provide the customer with much more conducive conditions for shopping.

Evidence of this comes from the proliferation of malls, redevelopment of existing shopping centres and increased use of vegetation and better design for pedestrian access and comfort in new development.

Similarly, industrial and office developers are realising the opportunities for image improvement and better staff conditions. The Garden State Landscape Awards for industrial development in 1979 and the commercial sector in 1982 identified a number of good examples and again we would be pleased to give you locations and local contacts.

Publication for further information: □ **Landscape improvement guidelines for existing commercial development.** Garden State Committee Broadsheet No. 6, 1983.

developing peoples' capacity to enjoy gardening as a rewarding social activity. This was done in conjunction with the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation, to introduce gardening into the Statewide network of recreational programs.

The voluntary field officers are involved in working mainly with unemployed, elderly, children and community centres (e.g. neighbourhood houses), in such horticultural activities as community gardens, growing indoor plants, container grown vegetables, window boxes and classes on gardening.

Gardening is also well recognised as a therapeutic activity with application to occupational therapy, physiotherapy, geriatrics and other professional activities involved with therapy or rehabilitation as commonly encountered in hospitals and other institutions.

Contact for further information: □ **Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria** for information on the Voluntary Field Officers Program (03) 898 7646.

Public Corridors



Our scenic corridors.

There is a growing appreciation of the value of our highways as windows to the State. We need to develop this appreciation.

Highways provide a cross-section through the State. They reveal a sequence of landscapes from urban to agricultural to areas set aside for the conservation of outstanding natural features and land types.

These landscapes tell us about aspects of our history, our natural environment and the development of our State.

In 1979 the Garden State Committee initiated a pilot study for the visual corridor of Hume Highway to prepare landscape guidelines designed to assist land owners and managers whether they be private individuals, State or Local Governments, to maintain and enhance the scenic quality and intrinsic Australian character of our highway landscapes.

The major recommendations from the pilot study deal with the regeneration of the tree cover, creating visual interest, minimising intrusion of new development and improving facilities for the traveller.

The guidelines identify and recommend action that can be taken to safeguard and develop the best aspects of our Australian highway landscape.

The need for an interpretative guide for travellers was also highlighted. Motorists travelling our highways at present lack information about the many man-made and natural features readily observed and experienced along the journey.

Attention to this aspect would help make a journey, often perceived as boring, an experience that broadens peoples' understanding and enjoyment of the landscape of Victoria.

Good examples of this approach are the "ECOTOURS" for the major Canadian Highways. The Garden State Committee has obtained their brochures and would be happy to make them available for you to look at.

This pilot study provides municipal councils with a practical approach to developing a planning strategy that will improve and maintain and, where necessary, enhance the scenic quality of their visual corridors and most importantly increase the enjoyment and appreciation of our countryside for locals and tourists alike.

Publication for further information:
☐ Scenic Highway Landscape Guidelines (The Hume Highway) Report. Garden State Committee, Melbourne, Victoria, 1981. Copy available for loan from the Garden State Committee Office.

The Rural Environment



Revegetating rural Victoria

The loss of trees in our rural areas is probably a far more serious issue than many people yet realise. Unless increased action is taken to reverse this vegetation loss with its accelerating land degradation problem, the economic and social future for farmers and the rural community is under threat in many parts of Victoria. (Strategy to Reverse Tree Decline in Victoria, 1984.)

Redressing land degradation in our rural areas is now widely recognised by rural landholders and conservationists alike as probably our single most important environmental issue for sustaining productivity and maintaining the quality of our Australian landscape.

In Victoria the loss of production from land for grazing or cropping because of high salt levels in the soil is one of the most evident results of tree decline. The extensive clearing of trees from the recharge area located in our catchments has led to increased run-off and infiltration of water and consequently high water tables that bring the salt to the surface. The spread and extent of the salinity problem are well documented in the progressive findings of the State Parliamentary Salinity Inquiry Committee.

A similar picture exists for soil erosion, again a major Victorian and Australia-wide problem that has been



Land degradation

greatly accelerated by overclearing of vegetation.

Stock losses through reduction of shelter have been widely recognised as the most evident direct consequence for the farmer in day to day management.

Wildlife on private land is receiving

increasing attention but more is tending to be made at the moment of problems, such as the eating of crops by birds, than major potential benefits for pest control.

In Victoria, private landholders manage some 64% of our rural area and their farm management practices are the key to redressing land degradation.

In 1978 the Garden State Committee set about developing a program aimed at working with farmers in getting back trees and associated vegetation as part of everyday farm management.

The first step was to demonstrate to farmers the practicability of re-establishing trees and in the process how to go about it.

Project Treecover



Farmer addresses field day at 'Joel Joel' Project Treecover site.

A number of demonstration sites were established in lower rainfall areas (see map below) on hilly areas made available by landowners themselves.

The demonstration projects were chosen to be highly visible from main roads and signs were erected to identify the individual sites.

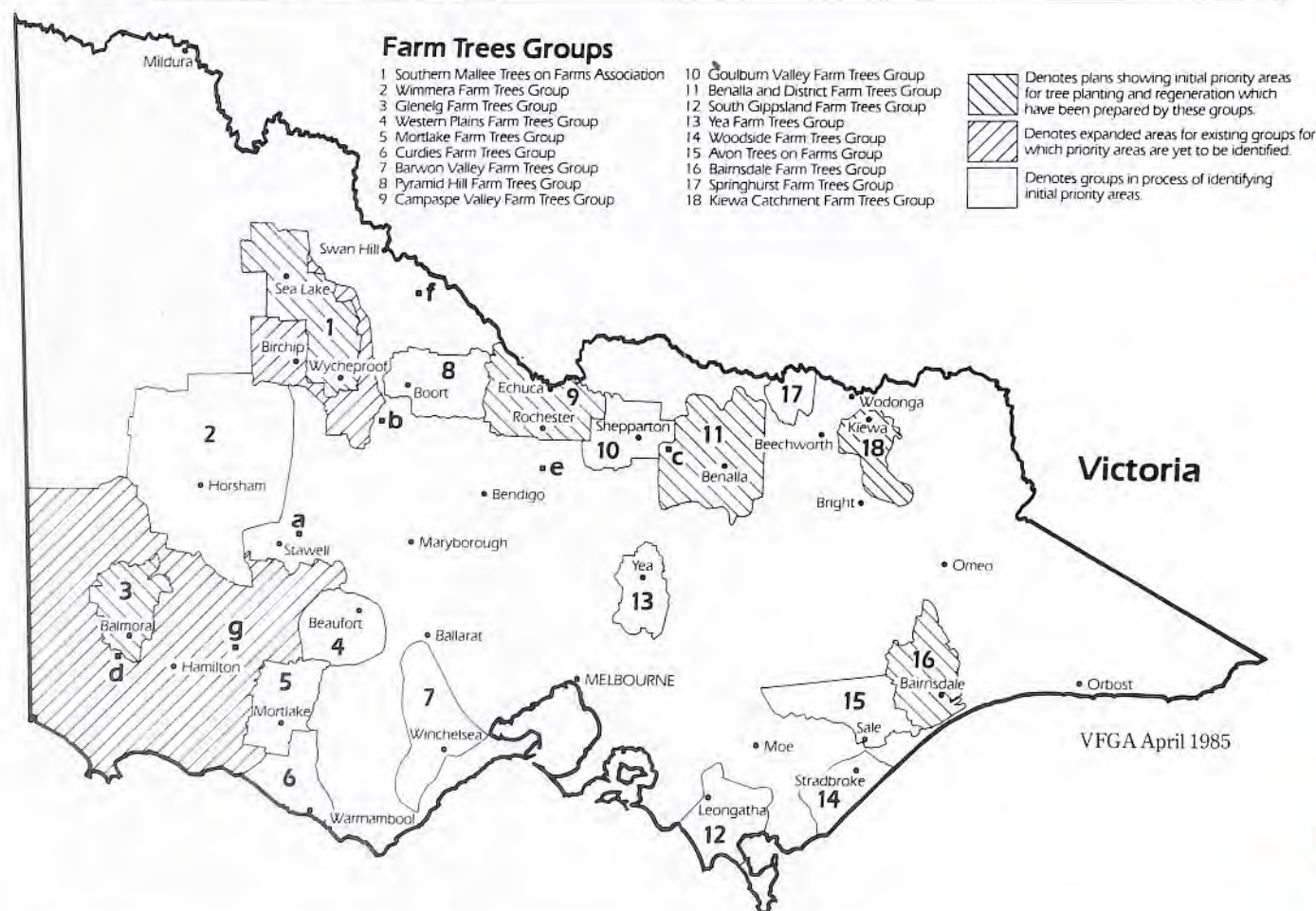
Farmers at subsequent field days have discussed vermin control, species selection, time and method of planting and weed control.

Garden State Broadsheet No. 7, provides a summary of Project Treecover.

Project Treecover sites (see map below)

Major on-farm demonstration projects	Year of planting
a Joel Joel	1979
b Bald Hill	1979
c Caniambo	1980
d Red Bluff	1981
e Colbinabbin	1982
f Mystic Park	1984
g Wickliffe	1984

Project Treecover sites and Farm Trees Group map



Kiewa Catchment Farm Trees Group, Dederang Project Area – planting on one of twelve properties.

Farmers

In 1979 the Committee approached the Victorian Farmers and Graziers Association, as the major representative body for the farming community in Victoria, to discuss tree planting and management on private land. At the same time the Committee participated in the organisation of the first National Focus on Farm Trees Conference.

The National Conference clearly identified the need to address tree decline on the local level. Different locations with different site conditions and land uses require different approaches to revegetation. The re-establishment of trees as a measure to help tackle land degradation must be addressed on a farm by farm basis and most importantly relate to productive farm management.

In 1981 the Garden State Committee in conjunction with the Victorian Farmers and Graziers Association set up four farm trees groups.

These farm trees groups were to look at the use of trees as an integral part of farm management. Today we talk about trees and whole farm planning.

As the late Miles Bourke, former President of the VFGA, put it in a paper to the National Focus on Farm Trees Conference in 1980, "the management of farms requires a whole farm approach – specific problems cannot be dealt with in isolation without looking at the entire farm management program".

The role of woody vegetation is linked to both redressing land degradation, as discussed earlier, and direct benefits to agricultural output.

Vegetation layout, and what, when and how to plant are all local decisions for individual landholders which should be based on the best information available.

The farm trees groups are a way of assisting sound decisions through immediate interaction between the local farmers and regional government officers with technical information on land degradation, revegetation practices and productive agriculture.

Farmers chair the groups and form the majority of groups composition with technical expertise and administrative support being provided through regional and local government.

The use of woody vegetation as part of whole farm management is not well understood and the groups are identifying local issues and needs to encourage adoption of this overall approach. An irrigation farm will be quite different to a pastoral concern and the same principle applies for other farm types and locations.

The work of the groups can probably be usefully divided into:

1. Local technical concerns (e.g. wind, frost, soil characteristics, salting, plant species selection).
2. Wider State or National needs (e.g. incentives for revegetation such as the much discussed issue of tax incentives) and
3. Guidance in the planning and implementation of initiatives

complementary to tackling tree decline. (e.g. see map of initial priority areas for Bairnsdale Farm Trees Group.)

The State and National level issues are currently being closely looked at as part of the Potter Farmland Plan (see next page).

There are now eighteen farm trees groups (see map on previous page). An Executive Committee was formed in 1984 with support staff provided by the VFGA which co-ordinates the work of the different groups across the State.

Further information and contacts:

- **Farm Trees Groups.** Garden State Committee Broadsheet No. 8, 1984.
- **Focus on Farm Trees.** A National Conference on the Decline of Trees in the Rural Landscape. Proceedings of the National Conference, Melbourne 23-26 November, 1980. (Available from the

Natural Resources Conservation League, P.O. Box 105, Springvale, Victoria. Price \$8 posted.)

□ **Strategy to Reverse Tree Decline.** Position Paper. Garden State Committee. Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, Melbourne, Victoria, 1984.

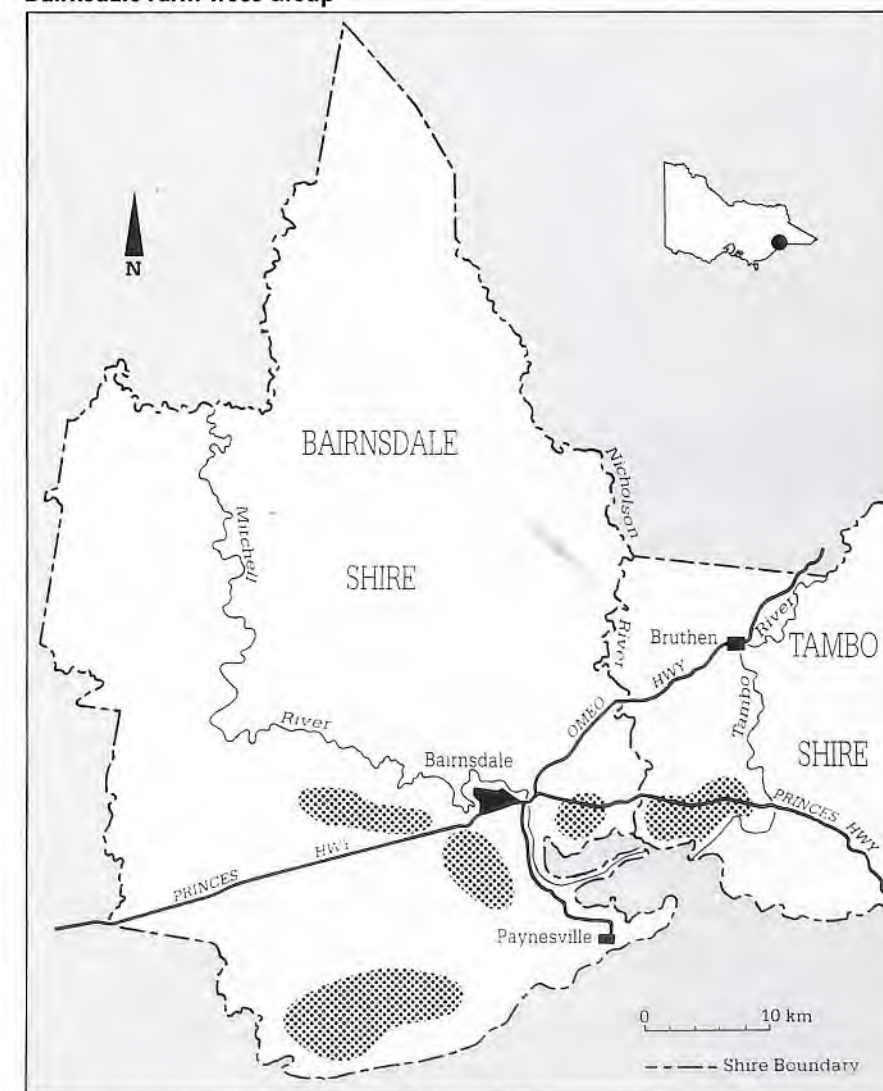
□ **Causes, Extent and Effects of Salinity in Victoria.** A report prepared for the Salinity Committee of the Victorian Parliament, Melbourne, Victoria, 1983 and The Application of Salinity Control Techniques in Victoria (as above).

□ **The Role of the Garden State Committee in Victoria.** Thatcher A.C. Garden State Committee, Melbourne, Victoria, 1984.

□ **Financial Benefits of Farm Trees.** Victorian Farmers and Graziers Association, Melbourne, Victoria, 1983.

□ **Tax and Farm Trees.** Victorian Farmers and Graziers Association, Melbourne, Victoria 1984.

Bairnsdale Farm Trees Group



Initial priority areas for tree planting and regeneration

Bare coastal plains landscape with severe tree decline. Restoration of trees will provide shade and shelter for stock, improve landscape quality and help control pasture and tree pests by providing habitat for insect eating birds.

Demonstration Farms

There are a number of demonstration farms being set up to show farmers an approach to re-establishing vegetation as an integral part of property development and management.

These initial demonstration farms, are being established under the Potter Farmland Plan, a major new initiative funded by the Ian Potter Foundation and operating under the auspices of the Garden State Committee.

The Ian Potter Foundation is providing 'pump priming' funding working in conjunction with the community and government to address the problems of

farmers in combating continuing and increasing loss of productive land on their farms.

The aim of the project is to accelerate acceptance of the need to address land degradation problems through more appropriate land management and by including woody vegetation as an important part of 'whole farm planning'.

The farms will show the practical application of tree re-establishment to assist in the control of land degradation and increasing agricultural productivity. These farms are predominantly grazing properties. The whole farm planning approach is applicable to any type of farming practice and we will be looking

to the introduction of the approach across the State in cropping as well as grazing areas.

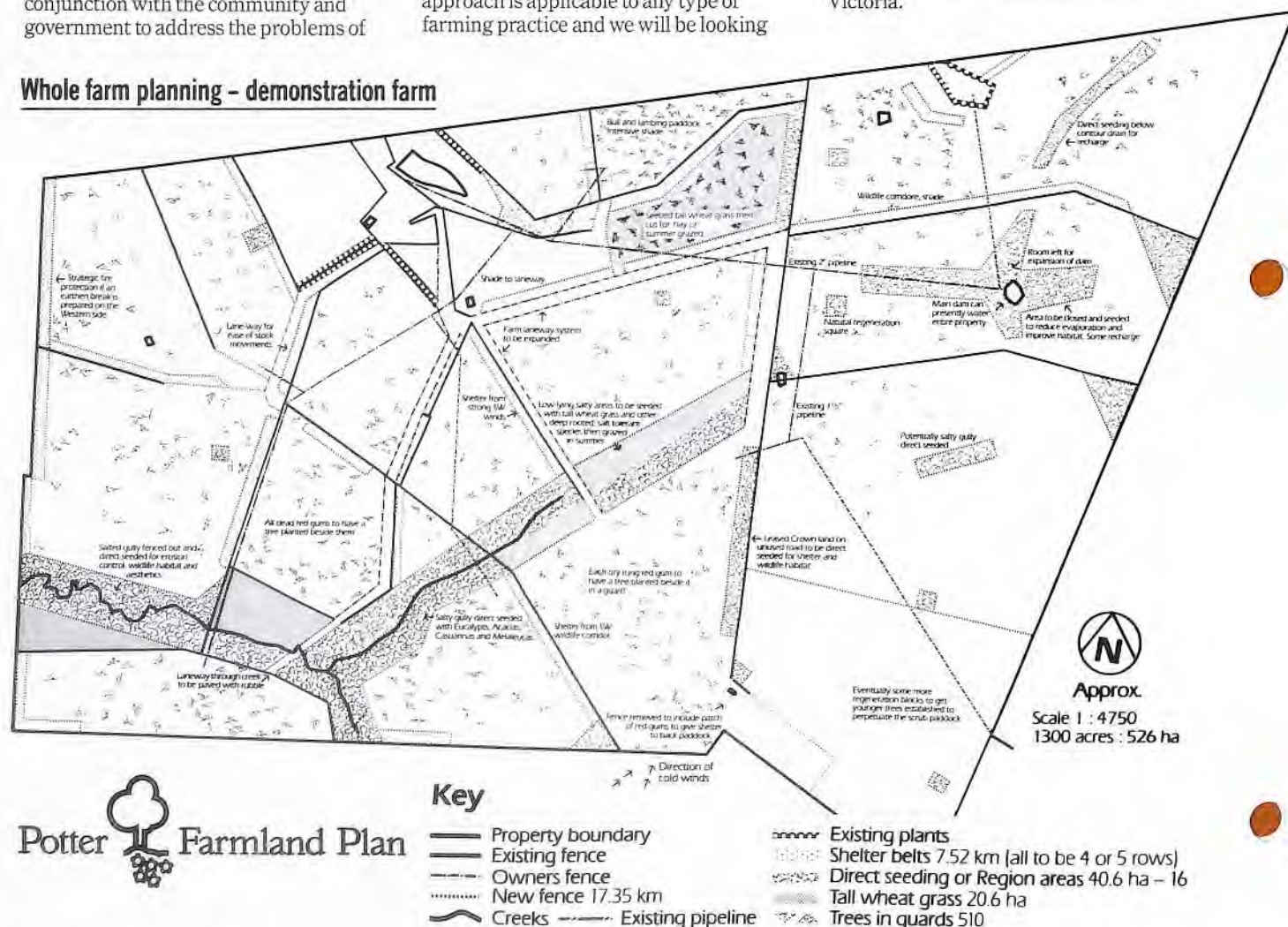
The Potter Farmland Plan is both an innovative and practical program for farmers and the Garden State Committee will be pleased to give you further details.

Further information and contacts:

□ Potter Farmland Plan - Program Report. (Available from Garden State Committee Office.)

□ Information on the demonstration farms. Ring the Project Manager, Mr Andrew Campbell on (055) 72 2777 or write to 62 Thompson Street, Hamilton, Victoria.

Whole farm planning - demonstration farm



Community support and involvement

Rural tree decline and land degradation have been both highlighted as environmental issues of primary importance.

The thrust to get trees back in the ground in rural Victoria must be on farms where the major problems need immediate attention. This is something that will primarily be done by landholders as part of their farm management.

The urban community can, and are, assisting by undertaking or supporting projects that lead to the successful retention or re-establishment of vegetation.

There are many examples where municipal councils and community groups are doing practical projects to get trees back in the ground.

In recent times, community revegetation projects have received a boost with funding being made available through such avenues as the State Government's 150th Anniversary Program, The Commonwealth Government Community Employment Program (CEP) and other initiatives such as the National Tree Program and National Soil Conservation Program. Private sponsorship is also becoming increasingly a source that should be pursued by project proponents. (See page 15 for summary of current Committee projects.)

For successful project delivery, in the experience of the Garden State Committee, it is primarily sound planning that is the issue and not funding. The Committee would be pleased to discuss rural revegetation projects with you and give you local contacts for people practically involved with successful projects.

Further information and contacts:

□ A Revegetation Strategy for the Loddon Campaspe Region. Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, Victoria 1985. (This report is available from Mr Graeme David, Ministry for Planning and Environment, 391 Hargreaves St., Bendigo 3550. Ph. (054) 42 1511, for \$2 plus \$1.50 postage and handling.)

□ Australian Trust of Conservation Volunteers. Information on organisation of volunteers, brochures, etc. available from National Headquarters, P.O. Box 412, Ballarat, Victoria.

□ National Tree Program Demonstration Projects. These community projects funded under the National Tree Program are spread across Victoria and details are available from the Garden State Committee Office.

Garden State Committee

Constitution

Role

The Garden State Committee is a consultative body to the Government through the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands. Its role is to identify community needs and act as a catalyst to bring individuals and groups together to use plants to make the urban environment a better place in which to live and to maintain the productivity and quality of the rural Victorian landscape.

Terms of Reference

Initiate and co-ordinate action from the public and private sectors to develop support and where needed new policies to:

- Increase peoples' enjoyment and appreciation of the natural attributes of the State.
- Improve the social wellbeing and physical surroundings of people in urban areas by the informed use of vegetation.
- Improve the visual and functional application of landscape planning, design and management in urban and rural Victoria.
- Maintain and enhance the environmental and productive assets of Victoria, the Garden State, in line with need for sustainable development.
- Redress land degradation, with particular emphasis on farm land, by accelerating revegetation in line with sustainable agricultural productivity and sound ecological land systems management.

Strategies

- Encourage individuals and community groups to initiate and be involved in activities to improve their environment.
- Facilitate wide-ranging consultation of Government Departments with municipal councils, community groups, professional associations and industry in the identification, planning and development of new initiatives towards the concept of the Garden State.
- Advise on the co-ordination of Federal, State and Local Government and private sector initiatives for tree and vegetation related activities.
- Work closely with municipal councils in the development of planning strategies consistent with sound landscape management.
- Advise on public education and training programs.
- Implement pilot projects to show by practical example.
- Build on or extend existing programs.
- Recommend on any changes to existing and new support services.
- Disseminate information on vegetation related events, issues and practical experiences.

Membership

Representatives are appointed by the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands and are selected on the basis of individual merit.

Appointments may be made for a period of three years with option for reappointment at the discretion of the Minister. In order to give the opportunity for new voices and new ideas it is expected that not less than one-third of members will change every three years.

It is considered desirable for the successful operation of the Garden State Committee that the following areas and professional disciplines be represented at the Committee or sub-committee levels: agriculture, forestry, ecology, farmers, community horticulture, commercial nursery industry, municipal councils,

environmental groups, planning, landscape architecture, marketing, public corridors, soil conservation, community service clubs, ethnic groups, unions and education.

Operation The Committee meets on a two monthly basis and at present has two sub-committees: urban landscape and rural sub-committees. In addition, there is a National Tree Program (Vic.) Advisory Task Group. The sub-committees prepare all working documents for consideration at the main Committee meetings and also are scheduled on a two monthly cycle, falling intermediate to main meetings.

Government/non-Government Linkages

(Including urban and rural sub-committees, National Tree Program Advisory Task Group and Potter Farmland Plan Executive.)

Agriculture Department
Australian Conservation Foundation
Australian Farm Trees Regeneration Committee
Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (Victoria)
Botany School - University of Melbourne
Burnley Campus Victorian College of Agriculture and Horticulture
Conservation, Forests and Lands (Department of)
Education Department (State Schools Nursery)
Farm Trees Groups Executive
Ian Potter Foundation
Institute of Foresters of Australia (Victorian Division)
Local Government Engineering Association of Victoria
Media

Men of the Trees
Municipal Association of Victoria
National Trust, Australia (Victoria)
Natural Resources Conservation League
Nursery Industry (Commercial)
Planning and Environment (Ministry for)
Road Construction Authority
Rotarians - Horticultural Fellowship of International Tree Planters
Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria
Royal Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation
Royal Australian Planning Institute
Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (Landscape Section)
School of Environmental Planning - University of Melbourne
United Nations Association of Australia (Victoria)
Victoria Conservation Trust
Victorian Farmers and Graziers Association

Membership

Mr John Jack
Mr Alan Thatcher
Mr Doug Hill
Mr Dennis Cahill
Prof. Carrick Chambers
Mr Jim Davis
Mr Howard Ellis
Mr Peter Game
Mr Kevin Heinze
Mr Frank Keenan
Mr Stuart Margetts
Ms Wendy Morris
Mr Doug Richens
Prof. George Seddon
Cr Leon Trembath
Mr Rob Youl
Mr Evan McDowell
Mr Stephen Farrell

Chairman
Executive Officer
Conservation Groups
Soil Conservation
Botanist (Adviser - Potter Farmland Plan)
Horticultural Education
Public Corridor Management
Media/Marketing
Community Horticulture
Community Horticulture
Agriculture
Planning
Farmers
Environmental Planning/Landscape Architecture
Local Government
Forestry
Secretary
Project Officer

Synopsis of Urban Program (1977-1985)

1977	Decision to initially target municipal councils and their role in managing of urban areas.
1978	Initiation of Urban Landscape Guidelines Program. Formation of Urban Landscape Guidelines Advisory Committee. Preparation of Handbook in conjunction with Centre for Environmental Studies, University of Melbourne.
1979	Landscape Awards for Manufacturing Industry. Launching of Urban Landscape Guidelines Handbook at seminars in Melbourne (2), Traralgon and Bendigo.
1980	Urban Landscape seminars held at Wangaratta, Swan Hill and Hamilton. Professor Bill Havens, visiting Fellow in Landscape Architecture, University of Melbourne, appointed on a half time basis to lead the Urban Landscape Guidelines Program. Landscape Awards for Public Parks. Garden State Committee Broadsheet on "Planting Design and Open Space" distributed to councils and other interested groups.
1981	Landscape Awards for Commercial Development. First Townscape study completed for Seymour by students from the Centre for Environmental Studies, University of Melbourne under the direction of Professor Havens. Garden State Committee Broadsheet No. 5, "Seymour - a case study" published.
1982	Professor Alex Rattray, new visiting Fellow in Landscape Architecture, takes over the lead role in development of the Program, under a half time appointment basis. Townscape Seminars held at Narracan, Bendigo and Geelong, directed by Professor Rattray in conjunction with the Department of Planning and the Garden State Committee. Townscape design studies carried out for Chiltern and Alexandra by students of the Centre for Environmental Studies under the supervision of Professor Rattray. Garden State Committee Broadsheet No. 6 on "Landscape improvement guidelines for existing commercial development" published. Landscape Awards for Streetscapes. Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria initiates Voluntary Field Officers Program.
1983	Arrangements made with the Department of Planning to take on the lead role with the Urban Landscape Guidelines Program through the establishment of a Townscape Advisory Service.
1984	Initiation of Coburg "Suburbanscape" project. Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology students undertake design study for initial overall look.
1985 (to April)	Committee assists with financing of "Townscape Improvement in Victoria" Seminar Proceedings for distribution to all councils in Victoria. Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria Voluntary Field Officers Program expanded to address need for development of horticultural therapy. Coburg Suburbanscape study completed. Task group formed to implement the Coburg Community Urban Improvement Program.

Synopsis of Rural Program (1977-1985)

1977	Initial decision by Garden State Committee to concentrate on rural private land. Clear identification of farmers as prime target audience.
1978	Initiation of Project Treecover: major tree growing demonstration projects.
1979	Establishment of "Bald Hill" and "Joel Joel" Project Treecover sites. Involvement of Victorian Farmers and Graziers Association in the Scenic Highway Guidelines Study for the visual corridor of the Hume Highway.
1980	Involvement as sponsor and participation in organisation of Focus on Farm Trees National Conference in Melbourne. Initiation of formation of pilot Farm Trees Groups.
1981	Formation of four pilot Farm Trees Groups. Establishment of "Red Bluff" Project Treecover site.
1982	Organisation of National Tree Program (NTP) in Victoria and formation of NTP Advisory Task Group. Ongoing work with Farm Trees Group. Establishment "Colbinabbin" Project Treecover site.
1983	Publication and distribution by Victoria Farmers and Graziers Association of "Financial Benefits of Farm Trees" brochure. Victorian Farmers and Graziers Association. Two new Farm Trees Groups formed. Initial revegetation strategies produced for the pilot Farm Trees Groups areas. Development of Strategy to Reverse Tree Decline in Victoria. Garden State Committee approached by National body for Greening Australia to take on the role of developing and co-ordinating Greening Australia in Victoria. NTP Demonstration Projects.
1984	Launch of Strategy to Reverse Tree Decline Position Paper and preparation of accompanying publicity brochure. Victorian Farmers and Graziers Association Executive Officer - Farm Trees Program appointed. Establishment (in part) of Wickliffe Project Treecover site. Formation of eight Farm Trees Groups. (Total 14.) Appoint project team under Community Employment Program (CEP) to co-ordinate activities for revegetation by municipal councils and community groups. Formation of Farm Trees Groups Executive. Injection of \$225,000 by Ian Potter Foundation for year one of a project for the establishment of demonstration farms to demonstrate the benefits and practical implementation of improved farm land management. Project known as "Potter Farmland Plan".
1985 (to April)	Potter Farmland Plan demonstration farms selected and works commenced. Bairnsdale Farm Trees Groups works with Bairnsdale Shire Council in the implementation of a CEP Rural Revegetation Project. Major Potter Farmland Plan consultation held to discuss support needed for farmers. Committee oversees implementation of Commonwealth Government CEP Rural Revegetation Project for Bendigo Region. Four new farm trees groups formed (total 18).

Current Major Urban Program Elements

Program Elements 1985	Urban Landscape Guidelines	Coburg "Suburbanscape" Pilot Project	Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria Voluntary Field Officers Program	Community Employment Program Technical Assessment	Other Urban Issues
Strategic Planning	Garden State Committee (Urban Landscape Sub-committee)				
Operational Planning	Garden State Committee Townscape Advisory Service	Garden State Committee Townscape Advisory Service	Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria Garden State Committee.	Garden State Committee	Garden State Committee
Major Thrusts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot Projects • Seminars/Workshops • Guidelines – material for municipal councils, community groups and other interested organisations 	Pilot project for Metropolitan Melbourne Showing a model for community involvement in environmental improvement	Volunteers working with all sections of the community including gardening for people without their own private open space, disabled and areas of occupational therapy and rehabilitation	Assess and assist in the development of soundly planned urban projects involving the use of vegetation as a design element	Issues raised by Garden State Committee members, Government and non-Government organisations and individuals
Operational Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Townscape Advisory Service • Dept. of Conservation, Forests & Lands (Environmental Design Section) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden State Committee • Townscape Advisory Service • Dept. of Conservation, Forests & Lands (Environmental Design Section) • Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology • Coburg City Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria Voluntary Field Officers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Townscape Advisory Service • Public Works Dept. • State Schools Nursery • Dept. of Conservation, Forests & Lands 	Garden State Committee
Funding 1984/85	• \$5,000 Garden State Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$5,000 Garden State Committee • \$30,000 C E P Project Coburg City Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$15,000 Garden State Committee • \$130,000 C E P Project Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria 		

Current Major Rural Program Elements

Program Elements 1985	Potter Farmland Plan	Farm Trees Groups	National Tree Program Greening Australia Green Australia	Community Employment Program Tree Related Projects Promotion/Assessments	Other Rural Issues
Strategic Planning	Strategy to reverse tree decline				
Operational Planning	Potter Project Executive: Ian Potter Foundation Victoria Conservation Trust Victorian Farmers and Graziers Association Garden State Committee Dept. of Conservation, Forests and Lands	Victorian Farmers and Graziers Association Garden State Committee Farm Tree Groups Executive	Garden State Committee (including National Tree Program Advisory Task Group) Green Australia (Vic.) Committee	Garden State Committee	Garden State Committee Potter Project Executive
Major Thrusts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole farm land management • Demonstration farms • Government technical support services • Incentives/financial implications • Private sector/government consultations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees as an integral part of farm management • Local technical concerns (e.g. species selection and layout) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration projects • Community support activities • Regional employment projects • Rural and project portfolios • Project sponsorship 	A. Application of employment projects to getting trees back in the ground in rural areas. B. Technical assessment of all tree – and vegetation – related projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues raised by Garden State Committee members, Government and non-Government organisations and individuals • State Conservation Strategy • State Salinity Program
Operational Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Team – Melbourne and Hamilton based • Participating Farmers • Dept. of Conservation, Forests and Lands • Dept. of Agriculture • Farm Trees Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers on groups • Victorian Farmers and Graziers Association (Farm Trees Program) • Dept. of Conservation, Forests and Lands • Dept. of Agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden State Committee • Farm Trees Groups • Victorian Farmers and Graziers Association (Farm Trees Program) • State Schools Nursery • Dept. of Conservation, Forests and Lands • Dept. of Agriculture • Community Groups • Municipal Councils 	A. Municipal Councils • Farm Trees Groups B. Dept. of Conservation, Forests and Lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden State Committee
Funding 1984/85 and sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$225,000 Ian Potter Foundation • \$5,000 Garden State Committee • \$5,000 National Tree Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$20,000 Garden State Committee • \$15,000 National Tree Program • \$35,000 Victorian Farmers and Graziers Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$28,000 National Tree Program (for demonstration projects) • 25 Shadehouses Humes Pty. Ltd. • \$430,000 National Tree Program/ Dept. of Employment and Industrial Relations Bendigo Region Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendigo Region Project Shire of Bairnsdale and Bairnsdale Farm Trees Group \$129,329 	