

40,000 Trees

STATS:

Facebook

views: 227669

Facebook likes: 438

Content views: 946335

Total reach: 233918



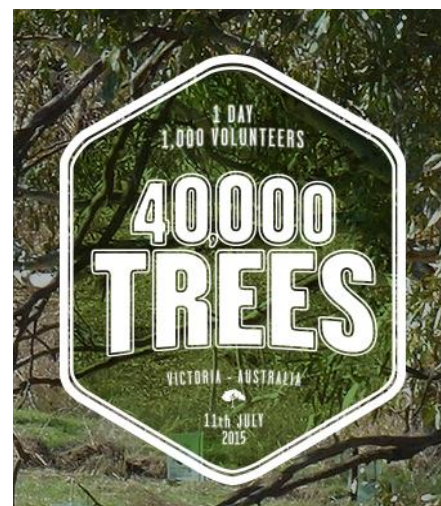
In 6 degrees and 6mm rain over 600 people planted over 30,000 trees and shrubs in one day. That is more than 10 years of local Landcare work. Truly incredible!

Introduction

A grand and somewhat crazy project captured the imagination of the Barkers Creek Landcare Network. The aim was to save 40,000 seedlings with only 8 weeks to make it happen.

40,000 seedlings of local provenance to the Mt Alexander area were propagated by Middleton Prison as part of the Victorian Government's 2 Million trees project. Unfortunately, the proposed projects for these plants did not proceed. To ensure the seedlings weren't wasted, the informal Barkers Creek Landcare Network took up the challenge to get them planted.

Very quickly, the Network steering committee; made up of the presidents of Barkers Creek Landcare and Wildlife, Harcourt Valley and North Harcourt/Sedgwick Landcare groups, went to work. Success hinged on a good team, sponsorship, sound organisation, engaging volunteers and very importantly finding land.



Fortunately, the idea also captured the imagination of sponsors, landholders and the general public.

The team engaged an event manager, a social media consultant and a works coordinator and started networking. Connecting Country offered support and the project became feasible. Landholders were approached and the initial response was good. A timetable was developed and the 40000 tree project was launched.

The aim was 1 day and 1000 volunteers to plant 40,000 seedlings across multiple planting sites within an 8km stretch of Harcourt and Harcourt North.

Background

As we are all aware, land clearing over the last two centuries, has significantly altered the local landscape. The removal of trees and shrubs changes water flow, soil structure and nutrient cycling and also removes structural woody habitat. Many woodland birds have suffered significant decline in their numbers and continue to be at risk as a result of this loss of habitat.

A key component to maintaining ecological health starts with revegetation. Planting 40,000 trees and shrubs offered the opportunity to improve habitat and corridors. This could only enhance the survival and prospering of local species of native birds and fauna and hence species diversity.

