



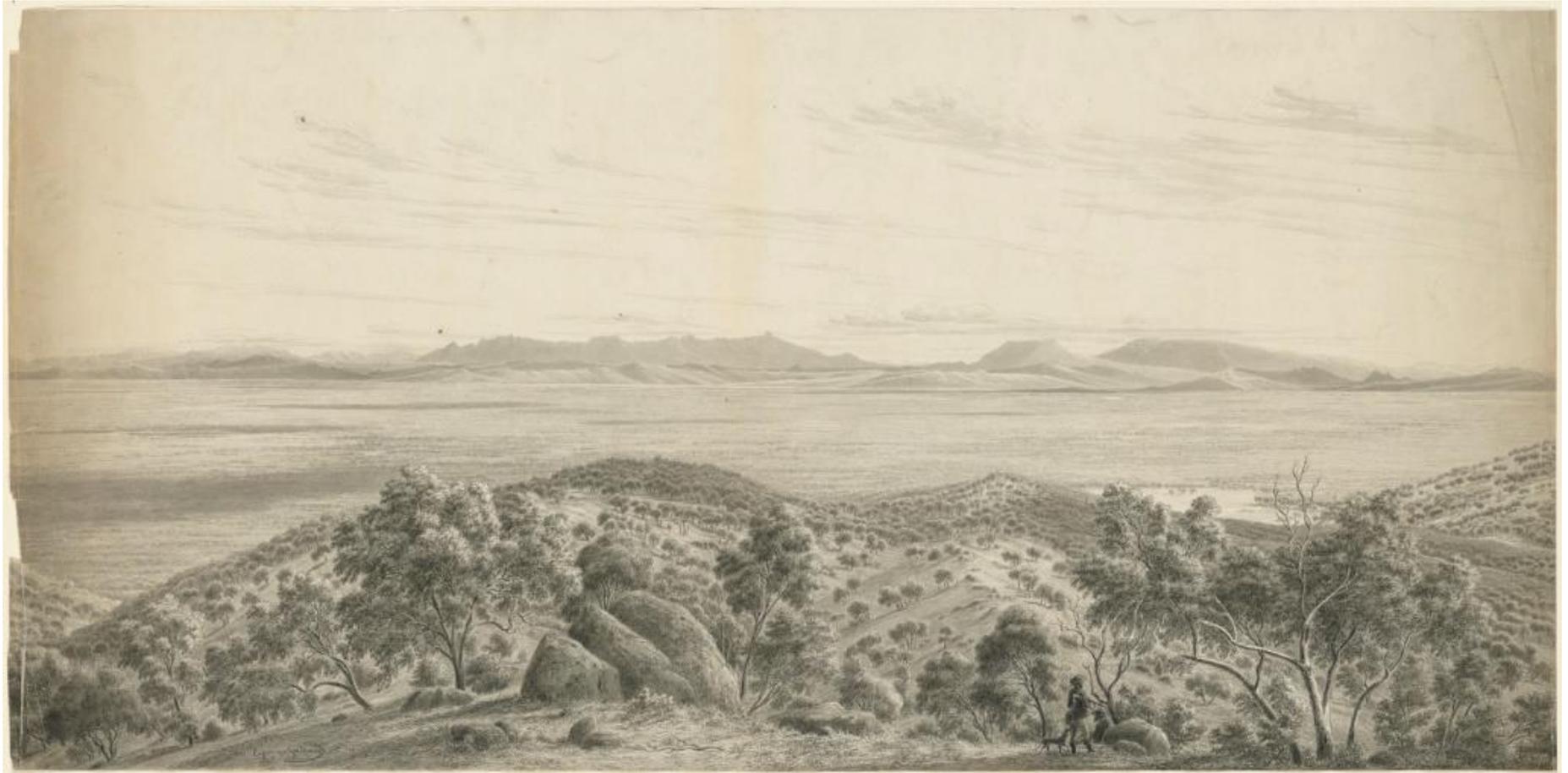
Greta Valley  
**Landcare**  
Group

# Planning where and how to integrate paddock trees on farms

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Sally Day





View from Warby Ranges - Eugene Von Guerard 1862





Cultural heritage

Habitat





*Vulnerable*



*Endangered*



*Near Threatened*



*Vulnerable*

**Hollow dependent  
threatened species**

Food



# Shade and shelter for stock



# Carbon storage



A large, leafy tree stands prominently in a grassy field under a blue sky with white clouds. The tree is the central focus, with its branches spreading out. The field is filled with tall, golden-brown grasses. In the background, several other trees of varying sizes are scattered across the landscape. The sky is a vibrant blue, dotted with fluffy white clouds. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

How can we help protect  
paddock trees?



Protect the  
old guys



Encourage regeneration

Plant more trees



**2016 – 22 sites, 54 trees  
protected with \$20k**



# Protecting natural recruitment

## Pros

- Adapted to local conditions (only the strong survive)
- Growth rates better, more robust
- Cheaper and less work than planting

## Cons

- Shape may be compromised if grazed (coppicing)
- May need to thin out over time

→ Be selective, choose the locations and the individuals to protect that work for your property



**Take the initiative to establish new patches of shade when opportunities arise**

# Planting new paddock trees

## Pros

- Can bring back species that may be in low numbers
- Plant exactly where you need shade (e.g. troughs)

## Cons

- Not all species can handle stock access
  - Greater cost & time (purchase, planting, watering)
- Better control of location and species,  
but comes at a monetary and time cost

**Greta Valley has  
planted over 1500  
new paddock trees in  
guards supplied by  
the group since 2016,  
plus lots of home  
made guards as well!**



# Things to consider first

- Type of stock (cattle/sheep, age, breed)
- Grazing regime - set stock vs rotational
- Other scratching areas/presence of lice
- Your capacity as a landholder to install the guards
  - This will inform what type and size of guard you choose to install
  - Every property will be different and some trial and error might be required

# Guard options

- **Homemade** - old tanks, reo mesh sheets (F52 or F62), 44 gal drums, temp fencing panels
- **Prefabricated** – prerolled mesh sheets, various options on market

*We use Whites Rural Welded Mesh Tree Guards ~ \$75 each  
750mm diam, 1.8m high, 5mm wire, opening 160x100*

→ Prefabricated guards are simple to install & have been a successful engagement tool

# Objectives for planting new trees

- What do you want to achieve?
  - Shade for stock
  - Connectivity (if so, what species are you targeting?)
  - Plant missing species in landscape (large scale)
- It may be possible to achieve all of these objectives with your planting, if thought out first
- Farm planning is beneficial - use an aerial photo to help identify shade needs

# Notes on species selection

- Look to use native and indigenous trees
- Identify what you have and what works in your paddocks at the moment
- Look at what grows naturally in your local area
- Consider climate change, shift in species ranges and seed provenance from warmer drier areas (nurseries over the border)
- Ask for assistance – Nurseries/Landcare



**Planting singles – small guard for added protection**



**Planting triangles - 3 trees, 10-15m apart**



**Planting clumps - 11 trees**

# Arrangement in the paddock

- Tie this back to your project aim, what do you need?
- To maximise shade benefits:
  - consider near troughs
  - on western or northern sides of paddock
- To maximise biodiversity:
  - Consider how to improve connectivity across property
  - Plant species to provide habitat for specific fauna



Narrow guards +  
large mesh openings  
= munching



**Excessive compaction if set stocked**



**Constant grazing pressure**



**Bigger diameter = more successful,  
less compaction and grazing of trees**



**Use strong tie wire & tie in multiple places**



Once stock can open the guards, failure soon follows



Site preparation and mulching

# Where do I start?

- Identify locations where paddock trees are needed
- Look for opportunities to help with funding
- Make a commitment to your property
  - e.g. 10 new paddock trees per year
- Protect emerging recruitment as priority

# Helpful resources

Video resources to help you with your planning and a step-by-step guide to planting a new paddock tree can be found on the Greta Valley YouTube channel at

[www.tinyurl.com/GVLGYouTube](http://www.tinyurl.com/GVLGYouTube)



Take home message

***The best tree is the one you planted yesterday***

