

## Master Tree Growers – Fully Funded

The main objective of the Master Tree Growers course is to support strategies to help secure sustainable farms in which much of our community is so dependent upon, and to educate farmers from the Gippsland region regarding best practice agroforestry/biodiversity tree planting.

Throughout the program, farmers learn about marketing, economics, silviculture, measurement, and overall management of plantations. The program also looks at multi-storey farming and how to integrate farm forestry and biodiverse plantings into the overall operation of running a farm, with a major aim of making farms more diverse and sustainable. Another aim is to create Master Tree Growing mentors within the community, who then can go out and teach other farmers about being a Master Tree Grower. Participants from the program are encouraged to share their learnings with their neighbours and other Landcare members, creating a community of knowledgeable land managers.

This course ultimately results in more trees being planted in our region which sequester carbon, increase habitat, reduce erosion and nutrient and sediment runoff into our waterways, and the graduates of this program can help empower local farmers to have the confidence to buy their own trees and manage them into the future. See below some comments from course graduates.

*"Brilliantly organised, a definite alumni formed, inspired by the range and depth of experience and talent of the organisers, presenters and participants. Learnt so much from all."*

*"I will never look at trees the same way again"*

*"Diverse selection of speakers and site visits covering multiple themes. Links wonderfully with ethics of diversification and local communities"*

