



Trees on Farms for Conservation and Profit

220510 Farm Trees and Agroforestry

This subject covers the principles and practices of integrating trees into the rural agricultural landscape for both conservation and profit. The farming community require trees and shrubs for shade and shelter, soil conservation, salinity control and aesthetics. Farmers can also produce commercial tree products such as timber, fuel, fodder, essential oils and food. Because farmers manage the majority of the Australian landscape governments, community groups and industry are increasingly working in partnership with them to grow trees for environmental services including carbon sequestration, biodiversity and downstream water quality.

Topics covered

Over two weeks of intensive teaching, practicals and field tours students will develop:

- A working knowledge of farm planning and agroforestry diagnosis and design as tools for developing farm revegetation plans;
- An understanding of the role of trees in providing for landowner, community and industry needs and aspirations;
- Technical design criteria for effective revegetation for resource conservation, agricultural production and commercial purposes;
- The ability to measure and monitor the growth, productivity and environmental impact of forests on farms.
- An understanding of various extension and development approaches for promotion of revegetation and forest management on farms; and,
- An insight into multipurpose tree research methodologies and economic evaluation.

2009 study dates, locations and assessment

- Intensive teaching over 10 days from 20th April to 1st May. The first set of lectures and practicals to be held at the Creswick Campus, followed by a three day field trip to the Otway region in southern Victoria, with the final block of teaching at the Burnley Campus in Melbourne.
- Study materials available from mid-March via the Learning Management System (LMS).
- Final assignment due on the 30th May. Take-home exam paper due 12th June.





Teaching plan

Monday 20th – Tuesday 21st Creswick Campus

Two days of intensive teaching and practical exercises

Wednesday 22nd – Friday 24th Field tour

Travel to the Otway Ranges to visit farms and forests.

Monday 27th – Friday 1st Burnley Campus

Lectures, short field trips and self study.

Student costs

Estimated accommodation costs (not including food) are \$50 at Creswick. In the Otways students will be provided with an indoor facility but will need to provide their own camp bed, bedding and food. Commercial accommodation available. Students to arrange their own accommodation in Melbourne.

Enrolment options

- This subject is normally offered through the Master of Forest Ecosystem Science but is available to students from other courses subject to their Course Coordinator's approval.
- The subject may also be taken as an individual subject through the University's Community Access Program (CAP). This may be in assessed or non-assessed mode. For further information see: <http://www.unimelb.edu.au/community/access/> or contact forests-info@unimelb.edu.au

Subject coordinator

Rowan Reid (rowan.reid@unimelb.edu.au)

In 1985 Rowan co-authored the book *Agroforestry in Australia and New Zealand*. He has since become a leader in the development of agroforestry education and extension in Australia having developed the first undergraduate and post graduate subjects in agroforestry and the Eureka Award winning Australian Master TreeGrower Program. In 2007, he extended the MTG program to include the training for Peer Group Mentors, a concept first introduced by the Otway Agroforestry Network of which he is a founding member.

Rowan has worked in many countries including New Zealand, Thailand, Vietnam, India, Kenya and Fiji and has travelled to many more to learn from their experience. He has shared his knowledge in hundreds of articles in newspapers and magazines, in his presentations at numerous conferences and field days, and through hosting thousands of visitors on a tour of this farm.

For more details about Rowan's work see www.mtg.unimelb.edu.au

