

Standing the Test of Time.

Trees and shrubs planted 50 years or so ago are able to provide inspiration and an insight into species which can persevere through all conditions.

John Carr Rokewood.

The three row plantations established by John Carr's mother in 1953 consist of one row of cypress with the other two rows a mixture of several eucalyptus species. The species that have grown the best and are surviving well are Yellow Gum and Grey Box. There are also several smaller trees which have been identified as a Coarse leaved Mallee and one of the Yates.

Rokewood Township.

The township of Rokewood with its wide range of tree and shrub species is the result of one man's foresight. Gordon Carr lived in Rokewood and during the thirty years that he worked on the Council from 1946 he planted hundreds and hundreds of plants.

Before his efforts the trees in the town consisted only of a few River Red Gums, some boxthorns and a creek which was narrow, shallow and had a sandy bottom. Gordon started planting species from seed he had collected and grown himself.

His first planting encircled the football ground. After this he planted around the lagoon which later became the swimming pool. He continued along the creek in the town area and the last planting he did was along the road leading into Rokewood.

Gordon collected seed or was given it by local farmers and town folk providing a varied species list and collected from far afield.

The first planting Gordon undertook in the autumn but it was not at all successful so he then changed to planting in

the springtime. This proved to be much more successful. He used wire netting guards to protect the seedlings from the rabbits and would cover the plants with a hessian bag in their first year if they were frost tender.

There is a large number of species growing in the area. Along the road leading into Rokewood the main species are Swamp Mallets and Melaleucas.

In the town area near the River the Cootamundra Wattle, River Shoaks, Bracelet Honey Myrtle, Moonah, Sugar Gums, Lemon



In Rokewood township beside the Creek.

Scented Gum, Angophora, Hakeas, Kurrajong, Spotted Gum, Manna Gum, Yellow Gum, Flowering Gum, Tuarts, Yellow Box, Grey Box, Peppermint Gum have all grown, persisted and are looking well. The few Silky Oaks that have been planted appear not to be suited to this area.

Gordon has several favourite trees, one of them being the Lemon Scented Gum with its magnificent pale trunk. The vegetation has provided good cover and food for lots of birds and in some instances nesting spots especially for parrots.

The variety of species provides the town folk with an appreciation of plants that they may not have had previously. This amenity planting that Gordon has left is a wonderful gift to the township.



Looking west towards Rokewood township.



Ferrars Street from Bridge, Rokewood Vic. (1909)

Photo of Rokewood 1909 courtesy Leigh and District Historical Society.

The information and opinions expressed in Fact Sheets represent actual experiences as described by those interviewed and are not to be interpreted as recommended treatments of Alcoa World Alumina Australia or Greening Australia and may not be appropriate for all situations. Seek local area advice. Compiled by C. Dennis.

Some of the species used are not indigenous to the Woody Yaloak catchment and may be environmental weeds. It is recommended to follow the species guidelines in the Corangamite Native Vegetation Plan and use indigenous species of the ecological vegetation class occurring in that area.

