



The Tree Project

On Saturday 7 February 2009, the State of Victoria, Australia experienced the worst natural disaster in the country's history— a raging fire so fast and so severe that many people were unable to get out of its path.

To remember the people lost to the fires and our brave CFA men and women who battled the elements to protect our towns, the Australian Blacksmiths Association (Victoria) Inc. has invited blacksmiths from across the country and around the world to contribute to The Tree Project. Blacksmiths worldwide are helping us grow a tree from their forges and fires; creating gum leaves from stainless steel or copper to be added to a forged gumtree. This gumtree, estimated to be 9m high when finished and carrying around 3000 hand forged leaves is to be erected in Strathewen, one of the affected townships, as a memorial of these events, for the loss suffered and for the spirit of renewal.

SPONSORS ARE NEEDED TO HELP COMPLETE THE TREE



Follow the creation of the tree on the Tree Project website: www.treeproject.abavic.org.au



Leaves have arrived from over 20 countries including England, the USA, Canada, Germany, Finland, the Ukraine, New Zealand, Ireland, Sweden, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain and Russia as well as from across Australia. Australian blacksmiths will be forging the trunk and branches from stainless steel and welding the leaves to the tree.

Added to this are leaves sponsored by individuals and made by local blacksmiths in Victoria. Over the past 2 years, blacksmiths from the Australian Blacksmiths Association (Victoria) Inc. have travelled to festivals and markets in the fire affected townships to demonstrate leaf forging. The public have been invited to sponsor a leaf to be made for the tree and have their name or a name they nominate stamped into the leaf. This invitation has been welcomed as people heal from the trauma of bushfire. Leaves have been sponsored in the names of loved ones lost to the fire, survivors, friends, dogs, cats, horses and kangaroos that perished in the fires, firefighters, CFA divisions, recovery organisations, Australians overseas, names of properties destroyed in the fire, garden clubs, tennis clubs, local businesses and all those who wish to express their sorrow, compassion and hope for the future.

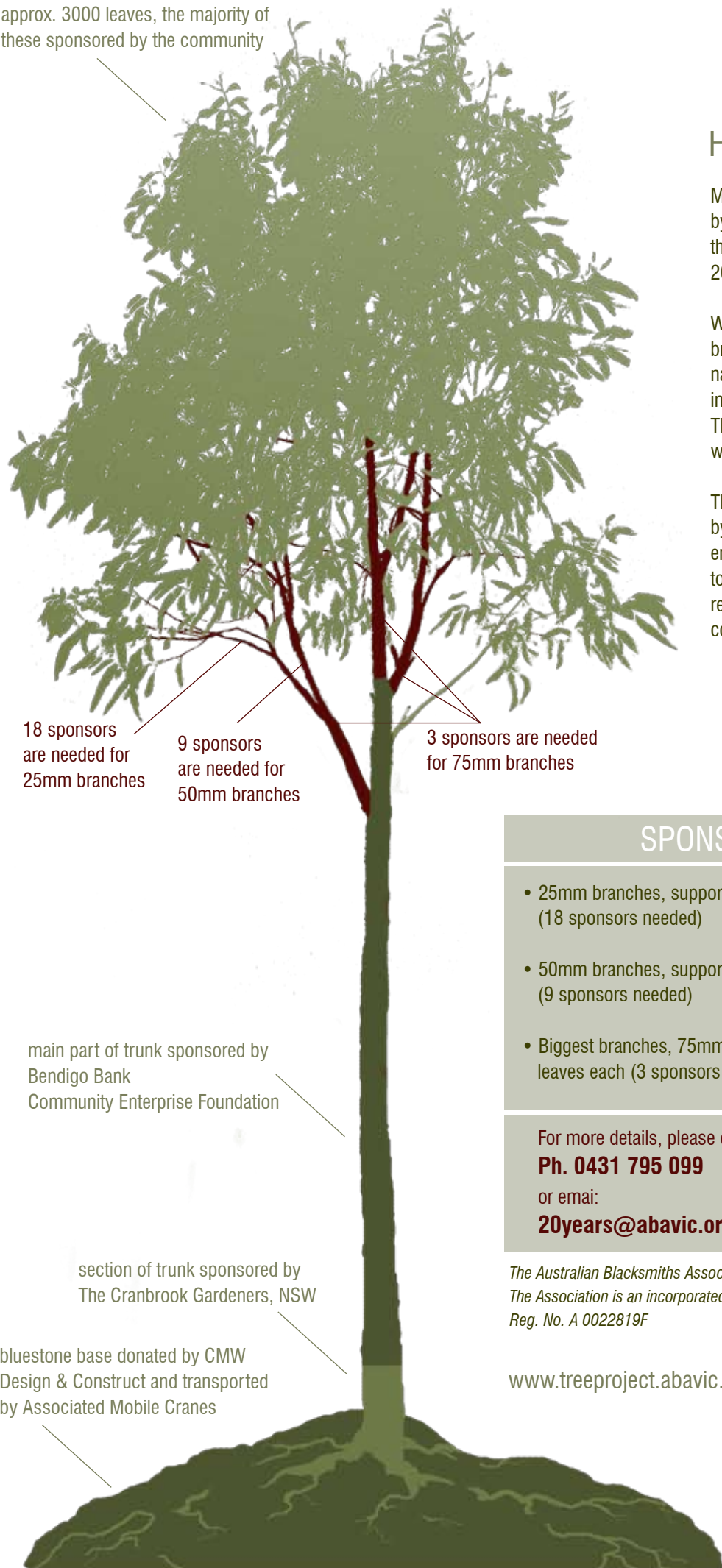
These sponsors, who are mainly individuals from the fire affected area, have helped raise funds to purchase the steel and welding materials to create the leaves and twigs. We are still looking to raise more funds to purchase the steel for the larger branches.

If you would like to help, you can sponsor a branch of the tree and have your company name and a message stamped into the tree. See next page for details.

It is the hope of all participating in the creation of the tree that it will provide a place of reflection and contemplation for those who have suffered terrible loss. The tree is an expression of empathy and solidarity of those in the fire affected communities, across Australia and from around the world and a symbol of admiration and hope for the spirited people who are recovering and rebuilding.



approx. 3000 leaves, the majority of these sponsored by the community



18 sponsors are needed for 25mm branches

9 sponsors are needed for 50mm branches

3 sponsors are needed for 75mm branches

main part of trunk sponsored by Bendigo Bank
Community Enterprise Foundation

section of trunk sponsored by The Cranbrook Gardeners, NSW

bluestone base donated by CMW Design & Construct and transported by Associated Mobile Cranes

HELP US GROW THE TREE

Most leaves of the tree have been sponsored by individuals and made by local blacksmiths, the rest have been made and donated by over 200 blacksmiths from around the world.

We are seeking sponsorship for the supporting branches. Sponsors will have their company name and a message of their choice stamped into the branch or trunk they are sponsoring. Their name will also appear on a bronze plaque which will sit near the tree.

The tree has meant so much to people affected by the Black Saturday fires. It will stand as an enduring symbol of resilience for many years to come. Sponsorship for the tree is gratefully received and we see our sponsors as co-creators of this unique sculpture.

SPONSORSHIP NEEDED

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| • 25mm branches, supporting 150–200 leaves each (18 sponsors needed) | \$500 each |
| • 50mm branches, supporting 300–400 leaves each (9 sponsors needed) | \$1,500 each |
| • Biggest branches, 75mm thick, supporting 1000 leaves each (3 sponsors needed) | \$5,000 each |

For more details, please call our Project Manager; Amanda Gibson:

Ph. 0431 795 099

or email:

20years@abavic.org.au

The Australian Blacksmiths Association (Victoria) Inc. handles the funds for the tree. The Association is an incorporated non-profit organisation, but is not a registered charity. Reg. No. A 0022819F

www.treeproject.abavic.org.au



The Tree Project

BRANCH SPONSORSHIP



SPONSOR DETAILS

| | |
|----------|--|
| 1 | Company Name _____ |
| | Name of Contact Person _____ |
| | Contact Email _____ Contact Phone _____ |
| 2 | BRANCH BEING SPONSORED |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 25mm branch, supporting 150–200 leaves \$500 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 50mm branch, supporting 300–400 leaves \$1,500 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 75mm branch, supporting 1000 leaves \$5,000 |
| | Total Amount \$ _____ |
| 3 | NAME AND MESSAGE TO BE STAMPED INTO BRANCH <i>(please print clearly)</i> |
| | _____ |

PAYMENT DETAILS

| | |
|---|---|
| CREDIT CARD | OR DIRECT DEPOSIT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard | <input type="checkbox"/> A direct deposit has been made for the amount of: \$ _____ |
| Card Number □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ | ACCOUNT NAME Australian Blacksmiths Association (Victoria) Inc. — The Tree Project |
| Total Amount \$ _____ | BSB ACCOUNT NUMBER 063 184 103 056 59 |
| Cardholder Name _____ | OR CHEQUE/ MONEY ORDER |
| Expiry Date _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is a cheque/ money order for the amount of: \$ _____ |
| Signature _____ | made payable to: Australian Blacksmiths Association (Victoria) Inc. — The Tree Project |

*The Australian Blacksmiths Association (Victoria) Inc. handles the funds for the tree. All sponsors will receive a receipt, please note however, the Association is an incorporated non-profit organisation, but is **not** a registered charity. Reg. No. A 0022819F*

POST THIS FORM TO: The Tree Project
PO Box 321 Hurstbridge
Victoria, Australia 3099

For more details call Amanda Gibson, Project Manager: **0431 795 099** Email: 20years@abavic.org.au
Follow the creation of the tree on the website: www.treeproject.abavic.org.au