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These photographs show quite dramatically some of the history of land 'management' as recorded on glass plates earlier this century by the cameras of the Soil Conservation Authority (now part of the Department of Conservation and Environment). Drainage of swamps and wetlands, clearing of forests and woodlands, building homes and towns and the erosion that resulted from these practices and others has devastated the natural environment. Clearing was necessary but in many areas the value of native vegetation and wildlife was overlooked.



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In contrast to the photographs over, the photographs below show the positive changes that are occurring in many parts of Victoria thanks to the efforts of some forward-thinking landholders.

Bruce and Lyn Milne of 'Helm View', which is located south-east of the Grampians (a Potter Farmland property and member of Land for Wildlife), have extensively revegetated their land over the last two decades. The property photographs are taken from the same location. In the upper photograph, which was taken in the late 1960's, many ringbarked Red Gums and erosion along a stream (centre) are evident. The former Red Gum woodland habitat and its wildlife had almost completely disappeared. The lower photograph was taken in 1991 and demonstrates the positive changes that have occurred on the property, including provision of shade and shelter for stock, erosion control, water supply, improved pasture composition, and wildlife habitat. It is a more pleasant and productive place in which to work and live. The Milnes have successfully employed a Whole Farm Plan approach to incorporating wildlife habitat into their property. Inset, Bruce Milne proudly displays his Land for Wildlife sign. Further reading: Land for Wildlife Note 2; Campbell, A., (1991), *Planning for Sustainable Farming, The Potter Farmland Plan Story*, Lothian.

