



# Tree Audits for Schools



# working with schools

Assured Tree Care is building a strong reputation in the education sector as we work with a number of schools and colleges each year. We provide audits and professional tree care for universities, colleges, schools and pre-schools. This ensures the trees on the grounds are maintained in a safe and healthy condition. We assess and undertake regular maintenance to manage the risks associated with trees in the urban environment. Costings for recommended works is then estimated to assist in budget forecasting. By undertaking remedial maintenance work we help to reduce potential hazards ensuring your kids are safe.

Some of the schools we visit are as follows

- The University of Melbourne
- Trinity College, Parkville
- Princes Hill Primary School, Carlton North
- Spensley Street Primary School, Clifton Hill
- Bell Primary School, Preston
- Ivanhoe Primary School, Ivanhoe
- Salesian College, Chadstone
- Banyule Primary School, Rosanna
- Knox Gardens Primary School, Wantirna South
- Korowa Anglican Girls School, Glen Iris



# overview

All schools have a duty of care to provide a safe environment for their students, staff and parents inside and outside the classroom. Over the last couple of years the risk of injury from falling branches and dead trees has been under investigation after the death of a student in Sydney and other injuries occurring around the country.

As many of the trees were planted around the time the school buildings were built we have an aging tree population. With so many mature species their integrity may be called into question. If these older trees are in stress or decline, it is more likely for them to have limb failure, which as documented could become deadly. Unless a thorough assessment is undertaken, we cannot always see the conditions that may lead to failure and the potential damage that can be caused during and after storms and strong wind events.

Schools should engage with a Consulting Arborist (AQF Level 5 or higher) to review the trees on site. Especially those that are overhanging playgrounds and buildings, aging or showing signs of failure. A tree inspection by a consulting arborist should be a part of all OHS policies for schools. Many schools don't undertake regular inspections or have any documentation in place. By having a thorough tree audit, routine inspections and maintenance, the management of the health and safety of the trees may just save a life.



# procedures

If your school has made the first step you would have contacted one of our consulting arborists to discuss concerns related to the trees and arranged a time to have a walk through.

Once specific trees and concerns have been raised the arborist will inspect and record all relevant data related to the health and safety of the trees. This will include detail on the health and structure, canopy size and condition of the trees as well as looking at any disease or pests that may be present.

Our arborists will provide a report that will document all of the data collected and offer recommendations for those trees that may need extensive pruning, treatment or removal. Our aim is to provide you with the level of risk you are willing to accept while retaining as many trees as practicable.

Once costing has been approved, a tree management program will be put in place and trees which prove to be the most hazardous will be attended to first. If trees are to be removed we can also offer a suitable replacement tree and replant for you.



# procedures

Below is a break down of procedures over 3 years:

## 1st year

Initial audit and provide report

- Review all trees
- Prioritise - high, medium and low priority action
- Medium action to be undertaken in 12 months
- Plan for 2 years long term/low priority
- Undertake high priority items

## 2nd year

Review and provide quotation

- Review all trees
- Undertake medium priority items

## 3rd year

Review, audit and provide report

- Review all trees
- Prioritise - high, medium and low priority action
- Undertake high priority items

\* Please note:

All work can be carried out during the school holidays or if the work is urgent the unsafe areas can be safely secured and sectioned off if students are present.



# about us

Assured Tree Care is owned and operated by Russell Shepherd who has over 18 years experience in the tree industry. He is a diploma qualified arborist and is passionate about all things trees. Russell's knowledge extends from teaching arboriculture at the TAFE level, his vast climbing background and industry experience. He also volunteers his time as the Vice President of the Victorian Tree Industry Organisation (VTIO) and on the Executive Committee of Arboriculture Australia.

Assured Tree Care offers a wide variety of Arborist Services across Melbourne. Including audits and reports, plant health care, specialist pruning and large tree removal, no job is too big or too small for us to take on. We take pride in giving our clients the best level of professional Arboricultural services and quality to meet their needs.

Our team are committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy workplace for all. We work within the guidelines of OH&S legislation and all our staff having Working with Children Checks.

We have a holistic approach to the value and care of trees, and their addition to the landscape. With the highest quality workmanship and a qualified professional and dedicated team, our clients can rest assured they are in good hands.



# contact us

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**Thank you for considering Assured Tree Care  
to assess the health and care of your trees.**