



A view of trees, the living legacy of the Barrabool Hills Landcare Group.

Barrabool Hills Landcare Newsletter

June 2021

barraboolhillslandcare@gmail.com

What's On.

Tuesday June 22nd 7-8pm – Geelong Landcare Network webinar ‘Future proofing your land’ more info page 2

Saturday July 3rd 7pm – Geelong Landcare Network Fundraiser film night premiering a locally produced film about the Moorabool River. Beautifully shot and narrated including an introduction by Elissa Ashton Smith.

Location: Peter Thwaites Theatre at the Deakin University Waurn Ponds Campus.

RSVP: Tim Trottier (0438525502 or geelonglandcarenetwork@gmail.com) to book a seat costs around \$15.

Wednesday August 18th 6pm – Barrabool Hills Landcare Group (BHLG) Annual General Meeting (AGM). Our AGM will include the traditional “Wine and Cheese” before hand and a guest speaker will be announced shortly.

Location: Gnarwarre Tennis Pavilion (CFA Office) corner of Gnarwarre Rd and Barrabool Rd, Gnarwarre

Saturday - Sunday September 25th – 26th – Geelong Nature Forum – Geelong Wool Museum more details soon.

Week commencing August 3rd – 2021 Landcare Week

Wednesday – Friday August 4th-6th – National Landcare Conference will be held at the International Convention Centre, Darling Harbour in Sydney.

Spring 2021 – eDNA platypus detection sampling at various sites along the Barwon River in the Barrabool Hills area.

October 2021 – Possible BHLG Bus trip to showcase previous projects in the region. Details to be announced.

Kindly printed and supported by
Libby Coker MP - Member for Corangamite
Libby.Coker.MP@aph.gov.au
“Funded from Parliamentary Budget”

Webinar

Future Proofing Your Land

A free online forum on practices that improve ecological functions on your farm.

Commodity prices and seasonal conditions have been as good as they will ever get, but we know this won't last. Now is the time to make changes that will take us into a brighter future.

By improving the ecological functions of our farms, we can:

- Sustainably manage our land in an increasingly variable climate
- Reduce our input costs without losing production.

In this forum keynote speaker Dr Wendy Seabrook (author of the 'Ecological Farming Handbook') will guide us through a review of our farming operations to include our ecological bottom line. Essential information for your future, whether you manage your land for primary production or lifestyle.

Tuesday 22nd June @7pm

either with others at

Bannockburn Cultural Centre

High Street Bannockburn (Next to Fire Station)

Supper provided

or online at home

In both instances, please register with Tim Trottier

geelonglandcarenetwork@gmail.com

Dr Wendy Seabrook farms outside Cooktown Qld. and has worked with farmers for over 20 years, supporting the adoption of ecological approaches to regenerative agriculture. Seeing the value of this approach in helping farmers achieve the dual outcome of reducing their costs and caring for country, Wendy featured on ABC Country Hour and Radio National Nights in New Zealand. She was also a finalist in the 2016 Australian Future Agro Challenge.

A free event proudly brought to you by the Geelong Landcare Network



They must be bonkers! Grasslands or art-lands

If you heard a rumour about someone who painted over a priceless Sidney Nolan artwork what would you think? Maybe you'd wonder if they'd gone bonkers. Of course, something like that would never happen.



Above: A roadside grassland near Rokewood.

In my view planting a shelterbelt or a few hectares of forestry trees over a priceless remnant grassland is just as bonkers, but sadly this does happen very often.

A grassland is crafted by nature over tens of thousands of years and each grassland is a unique 'canvas'. The many species of small flowering plants combine in a balance of colour and texture that only a master artist could conceive.

The intricate ecosystem that is woven into the fabric of each plant community is truly remarkable. A walk through a grassland on a dewy morning will reveal thousands of small sparkling lacelike spider webs adorning the small plants. Each web a masterpiece in itself and each web built only to last one night. There begins the web of life. The larger insects,

skinks and small birds feasting on both the spiders and their catch.

These grasslands and grassy woodlands that once covered about one third of Victoria are now almost gone. These priceless and unique works of art have been 'painted' over with new ideas and dreams that

promised profit and progress.

As extremely rare surviving works of art, what value is a native grassland today?

Maybe you have a priceless work of art in your back paddock - what a magnificent asset! Barrabool Hills Landcare can offer advice on its care and protection

Looking after what is left of these irreplaceable natural assets has to become a top priority for our generation. Otherwise, the next generation will only know them as myths and legends, like Ned Kelly in one of Sydney Nolan's famous paintings.

Check out Stephen's blog for more great articles like this.

Stephen Murphy, Sustainable Biorich Landscapes

To read more interesting articles from Stephen Murphy check out his blog at

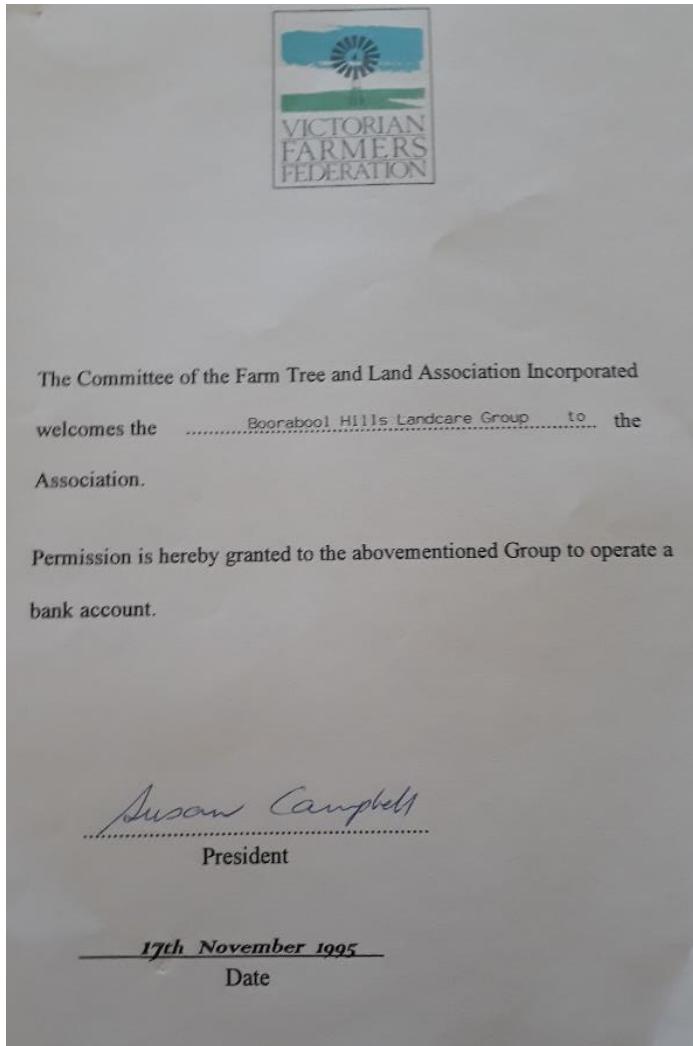
www.recreatingthecountry.com.au/blog

Our 25 year legacy

Twelve months of COVID uncertainty provided a raft of opportunities for many of us to organise our files and go through archives.

Members of the BHLG also took the opportunity to sort through 25 years of the group's historical documents... Yes... it's hard to believe but it was November 1995 when the group became incorporated through the Farm Tree & Landcare Association (a precursor of Landcare Victoria Inc.) and was officially granted permission to hold a bank account.

An example of one of our historical documents, our welcome letter to the Barrabool Hills Landcare Group from the Farm Tree and Land Association in 1995.



Since that time Barrabool Hills Landcare has been led and supported by an extraordinary group of men and women, commencing with the first chair of the group Simon Cole and his able Secretary/Treasurer Hamish Carr. Both Simon and Hamish and their families remain firm supporters of the group and they, and the other 20 office bearers up until now,

have left a lasting legacy in the Hills, not just with regard to the landscape but also the community strength and resilience that is inherent with community Landcare.

Our thanks to these Landcarers and especially the foundation members who back in 1995 had the foresight to establish the group and put out a call for action to repair and restore the Hills landscape.

The executive is looking to develop a process for recognising those who have made a significant contribution to the Barrabool Hills Landcare Group and we hope to bring this to the broader membership for discussion at **the next AGM on 18th August**.... don't forget to save the date for our traditional "Wine and Cheese" celebration..... rather than the flat screened ZOOM affair of the last 12 months!

Article by Kaye Rodden.

Need some trees planted?

Tim Trottier our Geelong Landcare Network facilitator has been contacted by a teacher from Covenant College with an offer of help.... and it would help their students too, to achieve their Cert II in Horticulture.

They are available on Mondays and are in grades 10,11,12.

If you are interested contact Tim Trottier on 0438525502 or geelonglandcarenetwork@gmail.com

BHLG Website Feedback – We need your input!

Recently the Barrabool Hills Landcare Group website has undergone a revamp. It wasn't by choice, our website template crashed, and we lost a lot of what was on our website and members of our executive team, Kaye Rodden in particular have been undertaking the massive job of putting a lot of content that used to be on our website back up on our website. As our website is currently a working progress all feedback is valuable. Please check out our website at the link here

<https://barraboolhillslandcare.org.au>

If you find a link that doesn't work or a picture that isn't showing up properly on our website please let us know. If you have any suggestions for additions to the website or any other feedback related please send it through.

Please contact Kaye Rodden at this email address kathrynminette@gmail.com with your website feedback suggestions.

BHLG Rabbit Baiting Program 2021 Report

Thank you to all those members who participated in this year's Barrabool Hills Landcare Group rabbit baiting program and also to all involved in making it a success. This is a "not-for profit" program run entirely by volunteers for the community.

This year, despite the challenges thrown up by the initial delay and teething problems of the new BHLG website, we had a solid uptake of the program. To those members affected – thank you for your understanding and patience. In all 55 landholders took part in the program and even a last minute Covid-19 lockdown delay to the baiting date was quickly overcome.

Of course, annual baiting of rabbits is only a small part of the process to control these feral animals in the long term. To prevent immigrant rabbits from moving into the old warrens it is best to rip the warrens or fill them in, about two weeks after the last baiting. A perfect example of follow up is Graham Lee ripping the burrows on Ken Wharton's place after the baiting.

Below: Warren ripping happening in the Barrabool Hills. Photo credit – Christa Jones.



It is also best to manage any sites that provide harbor for rabbits above the ground, such as wood piles, low growing trees and shrubs and stone heaps. Those who have been part of the program for a number of years will know that the only way to really eradicate rabbits on your property is to maintain a year-round vigil and, where possible, enlist your neighbours to do the same.

If you need advice or support please contact one of our executive committee team who are available to help.

Article by Heike Dunn.

Equipment for loan to members

The following equipment is owned by the Barrabool Hills Landcare Group and is available for use by members:

400 litre spray unit trailer mounted
2 Kidney tree buckets
1 Potti Putki Tree planters
2 Hamilton Tree planters
1 60 litre motorbike mounted spray unit
1 Rabbit Smoker

Members are requested to return all equipment to Trevor promptly after use.

Contact Trevor Jones on 5265 6126.

BHLG Executive Committee – 10th May.

The members of the BHLG Executive meet every two months to oversee the organisation of the group. The meetings are a great way to catch up on what is happening in the "Hills" over a meal.

At the most recent meeting, the following changes to our group's office bearers occurred:

- Anthony Jones who has served as our treasurer for many years stepped down from the role at our 2020 AGM. Anthony has kindly served our community this year as acting treasurer and will be stepping down completely from this role at the end of the 2020-2021 financial year.
- Heike Dunn, our current secretary, has agreed to fill the treasurer role in an acting capacity until our AGM in August.
- Christa Jones has agreed to step up into the role of co-secretary undertaking the responsibilities of minutes secretary.
- Our group is currently looking for a co-secretary who can undertake the correspondence aspects of the secretary role.

What Bird Is This (WBIT)?

Ric Walter identified the bird in the April BHLG newsletter correctly, well done Ric. The bird was a Grey Shrike-thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*). Grey Shrike-thrushes search for food on the ground around fallen logs and, on the limbs, and trunks of trees. Their diet primarily consists of insects, spiders, small mammals, frogs and lizards. As their binomial name (*Colluricincla harmonica*) suggests Grey Shrike-thrushes are musical masterpieces with a vocabulary of hundreds of songs.

This issues mystery bird enjoys eating seeds off *Hakea* trees and has a beautiful flight habit as it glides in the air with its magnificent shiny black wings. Email the newsletter editor with your 'what bird is this?' answer, the first person to answer correctly will have their name published in the next newsletter.

Tim Harte



Co-Secretary for BHLG

The BHLG is currently looking for a community member willing to fill the role of co-secretary for our group. Christa Jones has agreed to assume the role of minute secretary after June 2021, with the result that we are now looking for a community member to oversee the official mailbox for the group at barraboolhillslandcare@gmail.org

The role will involve checking the BHLG email regularly, replying or forwarding emails when necessary and attending BHLG executive committee meetings. Please contact Heike Dunn if you have any questions and/or are willing to assist us to fill this vital role within our group.

Newsletter Editor Upcoming Vacancy

The BHLG's current Newsletter Editor, Tim Harte, will be stepping down from the role at our 2021 AGM in August. Hence, we are looking for a member of the community to join our executive team in this vital role. The BHLG newsletter goes to 350+ households through the Barrabool Hills and is a vital part of our community. The Newsletter Editor formats the various newsletter segments into a template and does a little bit of spell checking before sending the newsletter off to a local MPs office for printing. The newsletters are then picked up, folded so they can fit in mailboxes (by either the newsletter editor or a willing member of the BHLG executive team) and passed on to the Leigh family who deliver them through the goodness of their hearts for free to the households through the Hills. The BHLG newsletter is published every second month and is prepared in the last two weeks of odd calendar months and delivered in the first week of the even calendar months. This role would be great for a young person who wants to improve their writing skills and add to their CV or any community member who has computer skills and would like to be more involved in the community. Please contact the current Newsletter Editor if you have any questions or would like to discuss the role.

Contact us.

President	Jim Seager	0409 935 700
	ejimseager@bigpond.com	
Vice President	Ian Kelly	0427 577 601
	kellyian1951@gmail.com	
Secretary	Heike Dunn	0417 020 012
	barraboolhillslandcare@gmail.com	
Treasurer	Position currently vacant	
Newsletter	Tim Harte	0431 601 529
	balletcadet@gmail.com	
GIS mapping	Geoff Anson	0418 324 632
	geoffanson@mac.com	
Equipment	Trevor Jones	0407 009 855
	Email: barraboolhillslandcare@gmail.com	
Facebook:	barraboolhillslandcare	
Instagram:	barraboolhillslandcaregroup	
Website:	www.barraboolhillslandcare.org.au	

Let your fellow members know what is happening in the Barrabool Hills. Contributions to the newsletter are welcomed. Send articles and photos to Tim Harte (balletcadet@gmail.com), deadline for next issue is 16/07/21

Members are able to advertise their Barrabool Hills business in the newsletter @ \$30 per issue (space allowing). Ads. are approximately 50 mm x 70 mm, and will be printed provided there is space

A special thanks goes to the Leigh family for distributing the newsletter.