

BARRABOOL HILLS LANDCARE

Barrabool Hills Landcare Group Newsletter. February 2022.



Above: Members around the fire pit at our Christmas break-up.
Photos: Courtesy of Jennifer Hallows.

BHLG End of Year Celebrations.

By Christa Jones. Secretary, Barrabool Hills Landcare Group.

Friday December 10th was a beautiful calm evening, creating a perfect atmosphere for our celebration. It was wonderful to have 32 Landcare members come together from all over the district to enjoy delicious food, wine, lots of conversation, and a chance to mingle catch up and have some fun.

Being our first face to face event

for the year made it very special and meaningful. We must thank all the people that made this happen. Julie Oatway and Graham Lee who provided their lovely property for the evening and spent many hours decorating and setting up.

We were blessed with perfect calm weather that enabled us to have the plough share fire pit. Lovely to sit

WHATS ON

FEBRUARY 2022

February 17th, 21st & 24th, 2022
Barrabool Hills Rabbit Baiting Program. Details inside. Please order via website.

Date TBC
Barrabool Hills Landcare bus trip to visit past projects.

2022 Dung Beetle Survey.
Joint Geelong Landcare Network, and Upper Barwon Landcare Network project. (See Inside for details)

BHLG End of Year Celebrations.

By Christa Jones

... (continued from page 1)

around enjoying a Christmas Sherry and spinning a few yarns.

Thank you to all the other Landcare members who shopped for food, cheese and wine, made platters and cooked the BBQ and also helped with the preparations and the clean up.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our next Landcare event. Watch out for it in the Newsletter.



What Bird Is that?

By Tim Harte.

Ric Walter identified the bird in the December BHLG newsletter correctly, well done Ric. The bird was a Brown-headed Honeyeater (*Melithreptus brevirostris*). Brown-headed Honeyeaters feed primarily on insects in tree canopies and lower shrubs as well as nectar from flowers in mature trees. The consumption of insects from branches, bark and leaves by birds such as Brown-headed Honeyeaters is an example of a behavioural ecosystem service, ecosystem services performed by birds include pollination, predation, seed predation and seed dispersal.

This issues mystery birds were noticed when they were making squeaking noises to each other and grooming in a River red gum. Do you know what this bird is? A tip to these



birds' identity can be found in the bare area around their eyes which is mentioned in one of the common names of this species. Email us with your 'what bird is this?' answer, the

first person to answer correctly will have their name published in the next newsletter.

Design to bring back native wildlife.

By Stephen Murphy. Sustainable Biorich Landscapes.

Bringing back endangered wildlife.

Bringing back endangered wildlife to rural and urban areas is one of the significant challenges of this decade. Australia's wildlife is the 'canary in the coal mine' and an indication of the health of our living environment. We need to reverse the current trend of species extinctions to ensure clean air, clean water and a robust biodiversity for future generations.

'Plant it and they will come'.

Native fauna will return if we provide them with what they need. Your garden or back paddock can become part of the solution to the continued loss of habitat Australia wide.

Imagine a plantation that is teeming with wildlife and where the plants spread their seed and regenerate naturally for 200 years and more. What about a plantation that also provides income and useful products for the farm. If we design well, a new plantation will continue into perpetuity providing habitat and income generating resources just as native woodlands and forests did in the past.

Sustainable biorich landscapes.

Sustainable biorich landscapes mimic natural environments and function like natural environments. They provide fauna and flora with all the essential elements that they

need for a sustainable ecology. Like natural environments they are diverse, they are wide enough to provide plentiful protected habitat for wildlife, their structural layers add safety and efficiency of foraging and their links to remnant vegetation and water enable plants and animals to interact and evolve. They provide habitat and food resources for a diversity of wildlife.

To read more about the ten principles for designing sustainable ecologies go to:

<https://www.recreatingthecountry.com.au/main.php.html>



Rabbit baiting programs across the region.

By Bronwyn Merritt, Geelong Landcare Network.

Pindone is a cumulative poison. To be effective, rabbits need to ingest the Pindone carrots on three separate occasions over a one-week period. Each rabbit needs to consume between 15-30 grams. For example: for a three to five acre property you would need 15kg of bait in total. You would collect one 5kg bag on each delivery day and lay the bait on the same evening. The total cost would be 3 x \$28 = \$84 (inc. GST), for three 5kg bags. Please find contact details below.

Barrabool Hills Landcare Group

Dates: 17th, 21st and 24th February 2022. (carrots to be collected between 4pm and 6pm).

Collection points: either 232 Hendy Main Rd, Mt Moriac 0407568292 OR 25 Kingsbury Lane, Waurin Ponds. 0414835833.

For ordering please go to <https://barraboolhillslandcare.org.au/shop/>

Orders due no later than the 8th of February.

Batesford Fyansford Stonehaven Landcare

Dates: 4th Feb, 7th Feb and 10th Feb (carrots to be collected between 4pm and 5pm) Collection point: 29 Cullinan Rd, Batesford.

Orders must be placed with Brad by email b.langdon@renconairland.com.au or phone 0408 154 152 no later than Friday 21 January.

Maude Landcare Group

Dates: Friday 11th, Monday 14th, Thursday 17th February between 2 - 4 pm. The deadline for orders is Thursday 3rd February 2022

Pick up - at Elaine & Graham Johns' shed, 1824 Steiglitz Road, Maude (next to the Maude Tennis Courts) For more information, advice or to put in your order, please email maudeanddistrictlandcare@gmail.com

Surf Coast Rabbit Action Network

15, 18 and 22nd February. Freshwater Creek Hall, Dickins Road. 12-2pm.

25 Feb, 1st and 4th March. Pick up the Scout Hall, Modewarre Reserve, Cape Otway Road 12- 2pm.

See the SCRAN facebook page for ordering details or email ann.bullen165@gmail.com or 0407 353 575.

Remember that the baiting of rabbits is just a small part of managing this pest animal. Removal of harbour, such as gorse and boxthorn, and destruction of warrens is also an essential component of the annual program.

Message from the President.

By Jim Seager.

The response from our broader landcare community to our new Newsletter format has been very positive. Our thanks to Leah Carr for joining the team and adding her artistic flare to our much loved publication.

We saw the year out with a bang. Thank you once again everyone for supporting the landcare group at our traditional Christmas wind up, and thank you to our hosts and the organising committee.

The excellent growing conditions

have been a real boom for our revegetation projects, many of the new seedlings doubling in size in just a few months. Please send in photos of projects so that we can record their progress in the newsletter. It is a great incentive to others to follow suit.

Unfortunately the excellent conditions have also seen an increase in the occurrence of annual and perennial weeds. Contact us if you would like help in identifying and controlling these.

We have a number of activities coming up. First and foremost our annual rabbit baiting program. If you have any rabbits please join with your neighbours and order bait so that we can all be part of the solution.

We are currently planning our "past projects" bus trip for Autumn, so please watch out when we start promoting this. It should be inspirational, with a great BBQ to end the day.

Dung Beetles



The Upper Barwon Landcare Network and Geelong Landcare Network in partnership with Southern Farming Systems are surveying our region throughout 2022 to determine the density and diversity of Dung Beetles in our local farming systems.

We need sites to undertake monitoring for a 12 month period.

10 SFS monthly monitored sites will be distributed evenly across the UBLN and GLN. We would love to add extra sites to our monitoring by training landholders to do their own trapping and monitoring on their properties.



Training for this will be provided.

If you are keen to have a site monitored or get involved by monitoring yourself, we would love to hear from you!

**Please register your interest for a survey site on your property
by December 22nd 2021**

Email: upperbarwonlandcare@gmail.com or phone
0407 552 663 to register in UBLN region

or

Email: geelonglandcarenetwork@gmail.com or phone
Bronwyn 0438525502 to register in GLN region



Message from our CEO. Landcare Victoria Inc. Year in review.

By Andrew Maclean. Abridged version reprinted with permission.

As we approach the end of another year, it is the right time to allow ourselves in the Landcare Victoria Inc. (LVi) community to reflect on our progress and some of our achievements for 2021.

We have completed our Landcare Victoria Strategic Plan, clarifying and communicating our vision and purpose and our goals. The plan is available to download on the LVi website.

Our role in the development of the Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Program has demonstrated the valuable contribution of LVi in the development and delivery of large scale landcare programs, working with Landcare Australia, the National Landcare Network and landcare community groups.

For the first time, DELWP has been able to fund projects to be delivered in the first half of 2022, and recently the R E Ross Trust provided \$50,000 to support a pilot capacity development project. These investments reflect growing confidence in the value and capability of Landcare Victoria Inc.

We have also established Landcare Victoria Inc. as a Deductible Gift Recipient status, so we can now accept tax deductible donations in support of landcare. This facility is accessible to all members of Landcare Victoria Inc.

We migrated our membership data onto a new online database with much greater functionality than its predecessor, which has streamlined the collection, management and reporting of data, bringing benefits



to our members through reduced paperwork.

We also simplified our membership renewals process this year by separating the requirement for provision of Member Group data from the payment of membership fees.

So far, members have responded positively. In renewing our association insurance policy this year, we were able to rationalise our cover through a single broker without an increase in cost.

Next year holds much promise for LVi and its members. Some of our key initiatives for 2022 include:

- A new website to better communicate landcare achievements and to serve as a source of information and resources for our members and partners
- A Members forum to be held in Beechworth in May 2022
- A major engagement project that will establish the basis for a new Landcare Plan for Victoria
- Review and rationalisation of

landcare communications in partnership with DELWP and the Catchment Management Authorities

- Development and implementation of a capacity building program aimed at ensuring our Member Groups have knowledge and resources to operate effectively and efficiently

- Based on a process of consultation, establishment of a knowledge and skills framework for landcare professionals

- Further refinement of risk management arrangements to help ensure our insurance policies remain affordable and relevant to landcare community needs

- An online membership census early in the new year will make the process of providing key information easier for our members, and help build a strong story about the priorities and activities of landcare in Victoria.

I would like to thank the LVi Team - Amanda Grace, Claire Hetzel and Elissa Kasch, who are devoted to the landcare cause and a joy to work with. Thank you also to our Chair - Jane Carney and the other members of the LVi Board - who are all volunteers, for their leadership and guidance.

We must also acknowledge with thanks the continuing support from the Phillipson and Crothers families who through their donations and advice have done so much to underpin our development and growth.

Cheers, Andrew Maclean.

Celebrating Agriculture in Victoria.

By Kaye Rodden.

I was extraordinarily honoured to be invited, as one of around 50 representatives of the agricultural community from across the state, to share Christmas lunch with the Governor of Victoria late last year.

It was a truly festive occasion. My immediate dinner companions were an abalone diver, a bee keeper and a berry grower. We dined of course on beautiful fresh Victorian produce and wines.

The governor, the Honourable Linda Dessau AC, in her welcome speech explained that the event was a gesture of thanks to the farming community for its hard work during the pandemic to keep food on the tables of the Victorian community.



Platypus e-DNA survey results are in!

By Kaye Rodden.

Last week the Geelong Landcare Network/Friends of the Barwon organising committee received the draft results from the extensive survey of platypus e-DNA in the Lower Barwon, Leigh and Moorabool rivers conducted in October last year.

This is the first systematic survey of platypus populations in the lower Barwon Catchment and fills an important gap in contemporary platypus distribution following similar projects in the upper Barwon and Moorabool Regions

Over 60 people were involved in the survey and of the 38 sites sampled 39% indicated definitive positive result. The final results will be presented and explained by Josh Griffiths from EnviroDNA in a webinar in late February.

Please contact Andrea Montgomery if you would like to register to be part of the webinar.

glnplatypus@gmail.com



BECOME A MEMBER.

Join our vibrant Barrabool Hills Landcare community and help support our projects and events? Only \$15 annually per family.

Go to our website for all the details on how to join www.barraboolhillslandcare.org.au or email us at barraboolhillslandcare@gmail.com

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR NEWSLETTER.

Contributions to the newsletter are most welcome. Let your fellow community and members know what is happening in the Barrabool Hills.

Send articles and photos to barraboolhillslandcare@gmail.com, deadline for next issue is 15/03/22.

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.

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Website:

Special thanks goes to the Leigh family for distributing the newsletter.

Barrabool Hills Landcare Group wishes to thank the City of Greater Geelong for printing the newsletter.



If you have any rabbits please join with your neighbours and order bait so that we can all be part of the solution. Details for Rabbit Baiting Programs across the region can be found on page 4 of this newsletter. Photo credit: Julie Oataway.