

BARRABOOL HILLS LANDCARE

Barrabool Hills Landcare Group Newsletter. April 2022.



Above: Paddock Aerial Sprayed with Fluprofenate at 1.5L/ha in September 2021. Having been fenced, this area will be planted out with indigenous trees and shrubs. Enquiries: Jim Seager 0409 935 700.

Aerial Spraying Noxious Weeds.

By Jim Seager.

While most landholders have relatively accessible land, there are many areas which are steep or rocky making it difficult to control noxious weeds. Uncontrolled weeds can spread rapidly onto other properties. ie Serrated tussock seed can move up to 30km in one season.

Aerial spraying using helicopters and selective herbicides has been co-ordinated by group members over many years, helping to control weeds such as Serrated Tussock, Chilean Needle grass, Pattersons Curse and Thistles.

When this spraying is done over

several properties the cost is significantly less and the benefits much greater across the catchment.

It is important to consider that chemical control can be part of a long term plan to replace weeds with other vegetation, reducing the need for ongoing broad acre spraying.

While most landholders control their weeds, there are still some who allow these weeds to spread across the catchment.

Getting some good management advice and working with local control programs will help stop the spread of these weeds.

BHLG NEWSLETTER IS GOING DIGITAL!

Do we have your email address?

Subscribe, renew or update your contact details now. Information and membership form on page 6.

WHATS ON

APRIL 2022

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)

Message from the President.

By Jim Seager.

Welcome to Autumn 2022.

Once again the Barrabool Hills Landcare Group co-ordinated a successful rabbit baiting program during February. Don't forget follow up rabbit control. A big thank you to our two depots Cohan's and Harvey's for their continued good work. Thanks to our treasurer Heike for managing the financial logistics of the rabbit baiting program.

We are hoping to organise a group tree planting day on a local property in July/August and run a past projects bus tour later this year. We have had a good start to the year

with some early rain so keep an eye out for weeds.

If you are planning tree planting projects for this year, make sure you order plants early and start preparing sites as it has been difficult to get fencing and other contract work done due to high demand.

Thank you to our executive committee which has been meeting bi-monthly, mostly via zoom, to plan activities and manage the groups newsletter, website and finances.

We hope to have more face to face meetings this year and catch up with our members at planned activities.

We welcome any members who would like to contribute to the running of our landcare group or provide photos or stories for the newsletter.

This Autumn we farewell Kaye & Brent Rodden who are moving to South Gippsland. They have made a great contribution to the group since it began. We wish them all the best.

What Bird Is that?

By Tim Harte.

Harry Mackenzie and Ric Walter identified the species of bird in the February BHLG newsletter correctly, well done Harry and Ric. The birds were Little corellas (*Cacatua sanguinea*). Little corellas feed primarily on grains and grass seeds, and nest in tree hollows lined with shaved wood. Little corellas are often playful and larrikinish in their behaviour and are known for sitting on the blades of windmills and spinning around on the blades.

As the largest king fisher species in the world, this issues mystery bird, is one of the most well-known birds in Australia. Recently this bird and its group of raucous palls have been heard cackling around Gnarwarre.

For the last 20 years it has been rare to see these birds in the higher, dryer part of the hills but in the past 8 months these birds have been seen and heard regularly up on the ridges of the Hills much to the enjoyment of locals. Email us with your 'what bird is this?' answer, the first person to answer correctly will have their name published in the next newsletter.



Changing lives in the Highlands of Uganda.

Email to BHLG - By Jimmy Musiime, Chairman, Kabale Agroforestry Network

When I last wrote a short update on my work in Uganda in your wonderful Newsletter, which I continue to receive regularly (courtesy of Brent and Kaye Rodden), I tried to report how Kabale Agroforestry Network is struggling to change lives and to mend landscapes. This was a few years back and I remember narrating a few milestones registered since my visit to Australia in 2015. Every issue of this newsletter I receive rekindles fond memories of the love and care extended to me during the visit and then I feel indebted.

A belated Happy New Year to all members of Barrabool Hills Landcare Group! The last 2 years have been extremely hectic and challenging with constant lockdowns and halting of every activity due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Before that I read about the bush fires that ravaged parts of Australia. In Uganda all schools remained closed all this time until early this year when they were allowed to

open. Most of our land care work was greatly affected especially junior land care in the schools. A small grant we had received to pilot community gardens in Uganda failed to make any impact.

“ Every issue of this newsletter I receive rekindles fond memories of the love and care extended to me during the visit and then I feel indebted. ”

This year Kabale Agroforestry Network received AUD 500 from Global Landcare of Australia to support a partner Women group here in Kabale to assist them grow vegetables in their backyard gardens.

The women are very excited and have set up nurseries where they

have raised seedlings ready to plant in February and March this year. The group has 52 women and the project is expected to improve their household food security and nutrition. I have been encouraged by their enthusiasm and cohesion.

They also have a Savings and Credit component in the group that keeps them together. They have bought a few goats from their savings, which revolve among members and help them generate organic manure.

We intend to document our experiences working with this women group and will share them with Global land care partners.

Of course we are faced with a challenge to rehabilitate the school gardens in our junior land care partner schools, which had grown into bushes. However we remain grateful for the bonds of friendship between our countries that have continued to grow and flourish.



Members of Kashaki Forward Women Group in their vegetable Nursery

Lightwood. *Acacia implexa*

By Stephen Murphy. Sustainable Biorich Landscapes.

Lightwood, *Acacia implexa*

About thirty five years ago I set off to collect my first Lightwood seed. I had been tipped-off by a local farmer who said that it grew alongside a shrubby form of Blackwood growing on the heavy clay soils near Lethbridge. I remember driving up and down the gravel road several times wondering if I had been sent on a wild goose chase. The trees on the roadside all looked the same through my open window.

At this stage of my nursery career I had only read about Lightwood and didn't know about the subtle features to look for. Though a walk amongst the roadside trees soon revealed that there were two very similar species growing side by side.

On the basalt plains and in the Barrabool Hills the Blackwood's and the Lightwoods do look very similar. Though now that I know them quite well, I think the Lightwood is a more handsome tree.

The Lightwood is a hardy, drought tolerant and upright small tree that grows to 5-10 m tall. Though very like a Blackwood, its leaves are greener and are distinctly sickle shaped.

The differences between these two wattles becomes very clear when they set seed. The glossy black seed of the Lightwood has a small bone coloured aril (connects the seed to the pod) at the end of the seed, whereas the Blackwood has a large orange aril that surrounds the whole seed.

The Lightwood is long lived thriving beyond 50 years. It still can be found on roadsides and on stony barriers, though it is becoming rarer. It's more adaptable than the Blackwood



because it will thrive in dry, exposed locations. It will adapt to most well drained soils.

It has a rough attractive trunk

that can provide useful timber for furniture making. The lemon coloured pompom flowers in late summer provide good quality protein rich pollen for bees.

... (continued from page 4)

The seed pods and seeds are eaten by parrots and silvereyes. The trees are prone to attack from borers and gall forming wasps like many of the acacias.

Its botanical name, 'A. implexa' hints at another distinguishing feature. It's dry seed pods spiral and become tangled, looking like untidy bird's nests hanging from the branches. Implexus is Latin for entangled.

Its potential to sucker when its roots are disturbed makes me cautious about recommending it for small gardens. Though it is often used as a street tree and occasionally they do sucker some distance from the main trunk creating unwanted challenges for home owners nearby.



Above: Lightwood seed.



Above: Blackwood seed.



2022 Rabbit Baiting Program taken to a whole new level!

By Heike Dunn.

Thank you to all those members who participated in this year's Barrabool Hills Landcare Group rabbit baiting program and to all involved in making it a success.

As I'm sure you are aware this is a "not-for profit" program run entirely by volunteers for the community. 57 landholders participated this year in an area stretching from Inverleigh through to Waurm Ponds, ordering a total of 2,370 kg of bait.

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.

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



BARRABOOL HILLS LANDCARE GROUP NEW MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Subscription is \$15.00 per family per year. Renewal is due on 1 July.

NAME _____

POSTAL ADDRESS _____

PHYSICAL ADDRESS (if different to above)

MOBILE PHONE _____ (useful for SMS alerts)

EMAIL _____
(essential for forwarding of newsletter, minutes of Group meetings etc)

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: ____ I yr \$15.00

Number of people covered by this membership ____



PAYMENT METHODS:

Options for payment are in the following order of preference:

EITHER

1/ Order & pay via our website: <https://barraboolhillslandcare.org.au/shop/>

Payment options are bank transfer, credit card or PayPal.

OR

2/ Mailing your cheque & completed paper form to
1270 Barrabool Road, Gnarwarre VIC 3221

Note: Unfortunately we **cannot accept cash** payments

Our Landcare elders – why it is important to remember.

A couple of weeks ago Geoff Anson invited some of our community's Landcare members to visit his revegetation site, next to his vineyard at Barwon Ridge in the Barrabool Hills

This site was planted by his late wife, Joan, and he about 6 years ago... for multiple reasons, but predominantly to provide an harbor for birds as a form of natural integrated pest management for his vines and to outsmart an insidious crop of sand rocket which covered the area!

As you will see from the photo, the site is looking amazing and the fact that Geoff wanted to share his new landscape with others who are our



“landcare elders” just demonstrates how vital it is for us as a community to document and recognise the contribution our foundation members have made, and continue to make in many instances, to our landcare community and the landscape itself.

The Barrabool Hills Landcare executive are currently developing a protocol for embedding the legacy of our landcare elders into the fabric of our group.

If you wish to contribute to this discussion please contact our secretary, Christa Jones. Email address on the back page.



Landcare elders pictured above. Photo credits: Kaye Rodden.

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 16/05/22.

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.

CONTACT US

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SOCIAL MEDIA

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Instagram: [barraboolhillslandcaregroup](https://www.instagram.com/barraboolhillslandcaregroup)

Website: barraboolhillslandcare.org.au

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

Become a member of BHLG! Join, renew or update your membership now.

Annual memberships are due in July each year. Group memberships are just \$15 per year. See page 6.

If you provide updated details including emails, you will get the latest information on upcoming events, such as community planting days & catchment bus tours. You will also be eligible for our small grants program and be able to access our equipment to

help with vital projects including tree planting, weed and pest control. Additionally there are often larger regional projects which you can benefit from for weed control and re-vegetation. Our members have a broad range of experience and may be able to provide advice

on weed identification and control, preparation for tree planting and indigenous plant lists.

To join, renew or update information:
www.barraboolhillslandcare.org.au
or email us at
barraboolhillslandcare@gmail.com