

BARRABOOL HILLS LANDCARE

Barrabool Hills Landcare Group Newsletter. August 2022.

Tour the scenic Barrabool Hills with us!

Barrabool Hills Landcare Group Past Projects Bus Tour

By Geoff Anson & Jim Seager

Come along and see many of the hidden gems of the Barrabool Hills. You might come away inspired to look at the opportunities your property offers in a new light.

BHLG is organising a bus trip on 10th September which will provide a rare opportunity to visit several member's properties to see what can be achieved in building more sustainable landscapes with enthusiasm, assistance and hard work.

During the day we will traverse the Barrabool Hills to look at a diverse range of activities - large and small scale revegetation projects, revegetation of waterways, protecting native grasslands, paddock trees, shelter belts, weed control, improved pastures and composting.

At several places we will have the opportunity to wander through the beautiful landscape.



Above: Sandy Camerons 2022 paddock tree plantings.

BHLG NEWSLETTER IS GOING DIGITAL!

Do we have your email address?

Subscribe, renew or update your contact details online or fill our a membership form in this newsletter. barraboolhillslandcare.org.au

Bookings are essential. Secure your place by purchasing a FREE ticket online through our shop. <https://barraboolhillslandcare.org.au/shop/>

SITE VISITS

Site visits include:

- Direct seeding, Coffee grounds
- Composting, improved pastures and paddock trees

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WHATS ON IN 2022

REMINDER Membership renewal.

AUGUST

BHLG AGM
Wednesday, August 10.

SEPTEMBER

Barrabool Hills Landcare bus trip to visit past projects. Saturday, September 10. Details in this newsletter.

... (continued from page 1)

- Changing property management to combat Serrated Tussock and farm viability at Barwon Leigh
- Large scale landscape change, protecting waterways & establishing paddock trees
- Going off grid
- Managing native Kangaroo grass based pastures,
- CCMA Grassy Eucalypt Woodlands Stewardship Program
- Opportunities for funding assistance

Please find Bus Tour details below. For further information about the day please contact Geoff Anson. Telephone 0418 324 632 or email geoffanson@mac.com

We look forward to seeing you there.

BUS TOUR DETAILS

Date:

10th September 2022. 9.30am-3pm.

Cost:

FREE! Bookings are essential online www.barraboolhillslandcare.org.au and go to the shop. Numbers are limited.

Departing:

Geoff Anson's property 'Barwon Ridge Wines' 50 McMullens Road, Barrabool. Bus leaves at 10 am.

Note:

- Participants may choose to take their own vehicles.
- You must wear a mask on the bus.
- Book online: barraboolhillslandcare.org.au/shop

Ancient paddock trees

By Stephen Murphy. Sustainable Biorich Landscapes.

Ancient paddock trees dot our rural and urban landscapes. They are an iconic feature of our living environment that represents all that remains of the original diverse mix of plants that provided corridors of vegetation, unbroken, from South Australia through Victoria and north into Queensland.

We know that birds and insects depended on these vegetation corridors to make their annual migrations across our nation. The Regent Honeyeater followed the flowering cycle of the box-ironbark woodlands from South Australia, through Victoria, New South Wales, and into Queensland and then returned each year. Their migration distributed pollen across different weather zones, a lesser-known benefit of their annual journey which was critical to the adaption of plants to changes in climate.

Migrating fauna carry with them pollen from plants living in different climates. They literally move genetic material from state to state as they feed on the nectar of a variety of flowering plants. The consequence of this is that plants from damper regions receive DNA from plants of the same species growing in drier or windier or colder regions.

The offspring of these migration events then carry these valuable genetic variables, which have helped each plant species adapt to past climate changes and they will need them to adapt to climate changes in the future.

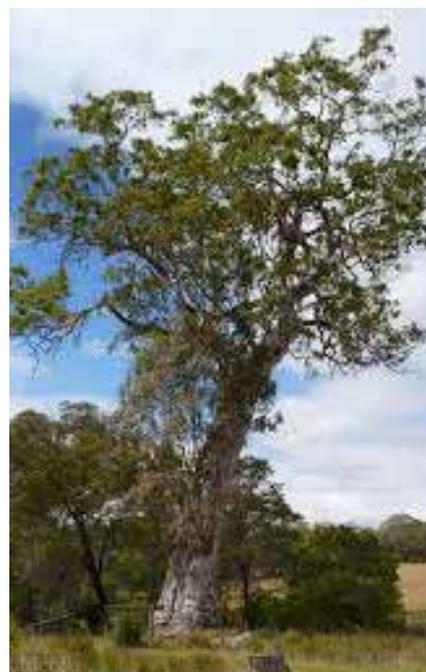
Biologists describe old paddock trees as a keystone feature in the landscape. Like keystones supporting the stone arches in a centuries-old cathedral, they are understated but they are vital. Take the paddock trees away and

the diverse web of life that they have supported for centuries will wither and collapse. The dependent ecology comprising of insects, birds, mammals, and other plants will break down.

Resting grazed paddocks for three or more months in spring is enough time for paddock tree seeds to germinate. Small trees can then be guarded or temporarily fenced-off until they establish.

Spraying in this zone with glyphosate in early spring will also be effective. Spraying would ideally be 1m wide spots every 3 meters or 1m wide strips to maximise tree growth in spring.

An extract from a new chapter from Stephen Murphy's soon-to-be-published updated 'Recreating the Country - a blueprint for the design of sustainable landscapes.'



Bilston's Tree near Casterton is an 800-year-old River Red Gum.

FORMAL NOTICE OF THE THE BARRABOOL HILLS LANDCARE GROUP AGM



Dear Member,

The BHLG AGM will be held on Wednesday 10th August 2022, at 7.30 pm at the Gnarwarre Tennis Pavilion

Before the formalities of the AGM and commencing at 6pm, we plan to hold our traditional free networking event of wine and cheese, followed by a guest speaker.

We will however continue to monitor the Covid-19 situation in Victoria, including restrictions on public gatherings. We may need to change to a Zoom meeting format at short notice so please check your emails regularly.

Nominations.

All positions on the executive will be declared vacant at the AGM and we are now calling for nominations for

the following positions:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Newsletter Editor
- 2 nominees to represent our group on the Geelong Landcare Network Board
- Up to 6 ordinary committee members.

The current incumbents of these positions are:

- President- Jim Seager
- Vice President- Ian Kelly
- Secretary- Christa Jones
- Treasurer- Heike Dunn

- Newsletter Editor – Leah Carr
- GLN Reps- Tim Harte, Christa Jones
- Committee Members – Trevor Jones, Judy Cohn, Geoff Anson

Attendance.

Barrabool Hills Landcare community, family and friends are invited to attend. Thank you in anticipation and all being well we look forward to seeing you for a chat and nibble on the 10th Aug 22 at 6pm.

RSVP's are essential to barraboolhillslandcare@gmail.com so we can send you the Agenda, a copy of last year's Minutes, and the BHLG Audit and Financials.

AGM Guest Speaker: Sandy Cameron.

Sandy Cameron and his partner Talitha Becker are the co-founders of Sass Clothing, a women's wholesale fashion apparel business which supplies their 3 brands to over 1,000 independent boutiques, online retailers and major department stores throughout Australia and New Zealand. They also own and manage a commercial property portfolio based in Collingwood.

Before starting Sass, Sandy spent four years as CEO of the South Australian Farmers Federation and started his career working as a Rural Finance Manager with NAB. He is also a graduate of Marcus Oldham Farm Management College and the Australian Rural Leadership Program.

Sandy and Talitha also own "The Hermitage" a property on the banks of the Barwon at Murgheboluc on which his family have spent the last 10 years restoring native vegetation.

Farm planning check list - July / August 2022.

Jim Seager Agricultural Consultant. Telephone:0409935700

If you have a small hobby/lifestyle farm or run a larger farming operation there are many issues to consider at this time of year.

Planning for the months ahead can help prevent some problems while

ensuring those important jobs aren't left to the last minute or forgotten.

LIVESTOCK

- Annual 6 in 1 vaccination and pre-lambing Drench.

- monitor ewe condition scores to ensure ewes are in good condition prior to lambing but not to fat. Heavily pregnant ewes can get cast especially in full wool.

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Investing in the Short Term for Long Term Benefits.

By Geoff Anson

Why go to the time, effort and cost of revegetating parts of our property? I think a walk through the many special places where landowners have invested in restorative works will quickly answer that question.

In our case, at Barwon Ridge, the protection of remnant vegetation and restoration of denuded areas has been integral to our whole farm planning. Since 2000 remnant vegetation have been fenced off, shelter belts expanded, and areas with bog plants and fresh water crayfish protected from livestock. Joan and I then decided that rather than leaving a couple of unproductive paddocks for the sheep and weeds that we would create something more sustainable.

In 2015 we started the revegetation of 4.5 hectares of denuded paddock on the north side of the ridge. We didn't have to do this alone. Help is always at hand through Landcare, neighbours and local networks – it was just a matter of asking. In our case we relied heavily on Steven Murphy, BHLG and Otway Agroforestry Network.

We focused primarily on species indigenous to the Barrabool Hills, to recreate something close to the natural bushland that once covered the area. Seed was sourced locally to ensure its provenance and around 25 species were planted.

Species were grouped in clumps of varying size depending on their natural form. However, rather than being “pure” in plant selection, we did introduce non-indigenous Pin Cushion Hakeas because we loved their flowers. It turned out to a fortuitous choice, as well as producing magnificent flowers their seeds are also a major attractor for the Black Cockatoos who spend times of the year enjoying a noisy feed.



Figure 1. Preparing the site in 2015.

Site design and detailed planning were important to ensure long term management was simplified. A corridor of lower growing species was planted under a power line that crossed the area so we wouldn't need to trim trees in the future and a small number of rarer plants selected for potential seed collection (Lightwood and Silver Banksia) were planted along the access tracks, together with Spotted Gum, White Cypress Pine and Red Ironbark that could be logged.

Barrabool Hills Landcare Group, Geelong Landcare Network, family, friends, volunteer groups and Gordon TAFE students all helped with planting, with the TAFE also using the site in its training.

As the habitat has developed wildlife has returned. Blue Tongue lizards are breeding, Kangaroos and Wallabies rest in the shade of the trees and the bird life has exploded, Quail can pop out of the grass as you walk along. The bee hotel has native bee and native wasp lodgers. Something is flowering all year round for the European honey bees. Trimming of the logging trees has started to maintain their shape and to produce potentially saleable logs.

Life for young plants can be tough, with average rainfall of 480mm and dry, sandy soil over shallow limestone bedrock. Even with ripping and weed control, losses in some areas were high.

Over the years several replants have been necessary and the location of some species has been modified to reflect their preferred location.

Ongoing maintenance is essential but is decreasing over time. Old pasture grasses, weeds – such as phalaris and sand rocket – and snails are ongoing challenges. Some weeds are being sprayed and over time the growing trees are starting to keep many weeds under control while native grasses are expanding.



Figure 2. After 7 years, trimmed Spotted Gum and bee hives.

Message from the President.

By Jim Seager.

Welcome to the new financial year

While we are all still enduring the cold and wet winter months, there are still many things you can be working on heading into spring.

Preparing for tree planting, fencing and weed control are a few that come to mind. We are also getting ready for lambing so I have been busy drenching and vaccinating our ewes.

For those who are thinking about small revegetation and protection projects or weed control, there are opportunities to submit expressions of interest to the Barrabool Hills Landcare Group and the Geelong landcare Network, who can provide

financial assistance and support. Funding is usually available each year so if you are not successful this time, apply again next year.

Applications forms can be accessed on our website at www.barraboolhillslandcare.org.au

Or www.geelonglandcarenetwork.org.au

The Barrabool Hills Landcare Group AGM is coming up on Wednesday August 10th. It will be a great opportunity to hear from one of our members about how he has transformed his farm. You can catch up with other members and get involved with the running of the group by nominating for a position

on our executive committee.

Memberships were due on the 1st of July so please check that you are financial and that your details are correct, so you can use our equipment and we can keep you updated.

In September we look forward to seeing many of you on our catchment bus tour, looking at past projects to inspire and inform landholders about what can be achieved in Landcare.

Thank you to all our members for your ongoing support. Please contact one of our executive members if you would like to contribute an idea or make a comment.

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Farm planning check list - July / August 2022.

- pregnancy testing breeding stock will help identify dry stock which can be sold earlier.

- Check sheep for lice and foot problems as these are best treated before ewes have lambs at foot.

Consider making a biosecurity plan for your farm.

- Lamb ewes in sheltered paddocks to reduce chill factor which can kill new born lambs.

- Feeding good quality hay to cows with calves at foot will prevent losses in cold weather and improve conception rates for cows joined for autumn calving.

- When you own livestock you will need a Property Identification Code (PIC) number. Contact the Government Agriculture Department

PASTURES

-Spreading Fertilizer, maintaining a healthy pasture will improve productivity and prevent weed invasion.

- Soil testing can help determine fertilizer requirements. Alternatively leaf tissue testing can pick up deficiencies in your pasture which can effect livestock production.

-Noxious weed control; check paddocks for Serrated Tussock and Chilean Needle Grass, spray or remove now and plan to check paddocks again in early spring.

- Check areas where you have fed purchased fodder and control weeds which could spread.

- Monitor new and other pastures for Red legged earth mite, slugs etc

and treat if required to prevent the risk of clover damage.

-Pasture spraying requirements, eg. broadleaf and grass weeds. Getting on to weeds early will require less chemical and allow desirable plants to establish. Remove problem weeds this season if planning to re-sow pastures in 2023.

- Make sure you check chemical labels and record all chemical use on your farm. Date of application, paddock, why you were spraying and rates.

- Keep a farm diary of all events and contacts for the farm as this will help with planning and allow you to keep all the information in the one place.

-Check Gorse control areas and treat as required to prevent re-establishment.

Membership Reminder FY22-23

By Heike Dunn.

It is that time of the year when subscriptions are due for FY 22/23.

For those who are renewing, thank you for your continued support, and for those who would like to join, or re-join, welcome to our community.

Our organisation is entirely volunteer based. Your subscription goes towards keeping our organisation viable and will not only help us to support our community in Landcare activities such as pest animal and plant control and revegetation advice, but also fund insurance cover for you when we are conducting field activities and participating in community events.

Other benefits of Membership include:

- Front gate sign
- Flora Book
- Barrabool Hills – Changing Landscapes booklet
- Bimonthly newsletter
- All Group announcements via email (if you wish)
- Access to hire of Group equipment
- Advice on revegetation and weed management
- Access to and assistance in applying for on-ground work grants

So, to re-new your membership please visit our online shop to make payment at <https://www.barraboolhillslandcare.org.au/shop/>

NB Please copy and paste <https://www.barraboolhillslandcare.org.au/shop/> into your browser if the link above does not work for you.

When you visit our 'Shop' you have the option of paying by one of the following methods:

- * Bank Transfer
- * Credit Card
- * PayPal

Most importantly: If you are unsure of your membership status or have any questions/difficulties with paying online please don't hesitate to contact our Treasurer Heike by phone (0417 020 012) or emailing barraboolhillslandcare@gmail.com

What Bird Is that?

By Tim Harte.

The birds in the June BHLG newsletter were Tawny frogmouths (*Podargus strigoides*). Tawny frogmouths are known for perching in trees camouflaged as branches during the daytime. Tawny Frogmouths are nocturnal animals with a diet primarily comprised of insects, annelids (earthworms), terrestrial molluscs (slugs & snails) and to a lesser extent reptiles, small mammals, frogs, and birds.

This issues mystery bird has proven to be very illusive and difficult to photograph. Unlike it's 'Pied' black plumaged cousin this species is very cautious, far less curious and seldom ventures down from the treetops in wooded areas when humans are present and trying to photograph them. Email us with your 'what bird is this?' answer, the first person to answer correctly will have their name published in the next newsletter.



Above: This issues mystery bird.



Right: The June 2022 mystery birds - Tawny frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*).



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://www.barraboolhillslandcare.org.au/shop/>

Payment options are bank transfer, credit card or PayPal.

OR

2/ Mailing your cheque & completed paper form to
1133 Hamilton Hwy, Stonehaven, VIC 3218

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

If you have **ANY** questions please contact the treasurer Heike Dunn:

0417 020 012 or barraboolhillslandcare@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 16/09/22.

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

Facebook: [barraboolhillslandcare](https://www.facebook.com/barraboolhillslandcare)

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. But you can join at any time. Group memberships are just \$15.

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