

BARRABOOL HILLS LANDCARE

Barrabool Hills Landcare Group Newsletter. February 2023.



BHLG Christmas function - DECEMBER 2022 -

BHLG Christmas Function was held on December 9th 2022. Jim, our President welcomed 40+ people to our end of year celebration.

Thank you to our hosts Ken Wharton and Francis Dunn for so generously making available their beautiful property Warrawee.

Some Landcare members had the opportunity to view the extensive planting conducted by Koala Clancy. Wetlands were also created by massive earthworks and placement of large rocks. Already frogs are enjoying this habitat. Some nights

the frog chorus can be heard far and wide. The birds are coming too and hopefully eventually also the koalas.

We were able to sit in the shed at beautifully appointed tables, beautifully decorated by Margaret.

The two fire pits were wonderful to congregate around as the night got cooler.

Thank you to the hosts and all the helpers who made this event such a happy and joyous one.

It was wonderful to catch up with all

WHATS ON?

FEBRUARY 2023

BOOK NOW! SOME SEATS LEFT.
BHLG Film Night, February 15.
Details page 3.

LAST CHANCE:
Rabbit Baiting Program
February 16, 20 & 23. Form on
page 7 or buy online.

APRIL 2023

Nesting Box Workshop.
Gnarwarre Hall. April 23, 2023.
See page 2 for details.

Landcare Projects Bus Tour.
May 7, 2023. Details to come.

BHLG NEWSLETTER IS GOING DIGITAL!

Do we have your email address?

Subscribe, renew or update your
contact details online at:

www.barraboolhillslandcare.org.au

members who care for the wonderful
Barrabool Hills and surrounds.



CONTROLLING RABBITS IN THE BARRABOOL HILLS – BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY BAITING CAMPAIGN – FEBRUARY 2023.

Reprinted from December newsletter.

The next Barrabool Hills annual rabbit baiting program is scheduled for February 2023 which will be the 18th year that the Barrabool Hills Landcare Group have assisted the community and coordinated the ordering of rabbit bait for individual landholders throughout the area in a major rabbit control program.

The baiting program uses the poison Pindone, which is mixed with fresh chopped carrots. Whilst all care should be taken in handling the poisoned carrots, you do not require

a specific license to do so. Pindone is a cumulative poison and to be effective it needs to be ingested by rabbits on three separate occasions.

The 2023 baiting dates are 16th, 20th and 23rd February 2023.

The Barrabool Hills Landcare Group will coordinate a bulk order of the fresh bait, which is then packaged for each landholder and made available for collection at two separate depots on each of the three dates.

If you would like to be part of the baiting program all the details are in the attached pindone – carrot order form. Please note the final date for accepting orders and payment is 7th February 2023.

OTHER RABBIT BAITING PROGRAMS

Surf Coast Rabbit Action Network.

-Order form available on FB page.

Freshwater Creek – 21, 24 & 28 February. Pick up Freshwater Creek Hall.

Modewarre – 3, 7 & 10 March. Pick up at Scout Hall.

Year of the **RABBIT!**

Barrabool Hills Landcare Group Rabbit Recipe Book 'FERAL FEAST'

In 2016 the Barrabool Hills Landcare community came up with a unique way to celebrate their 21st birthday and support their annual rabbit management programs.

We produced a colourful rabbit recipe book, Feral Feast. Featuring twenty one rabbit recipes, superbly illustrated with photographs of the dishes and the Barrabool Hills landscape, together with snippets of history and bespoke cartoons by a renowned local artist.

This is a beautifully presented book, an ideal gift for friends or family, with all profits going towards the efforts of the community to control rabbits. Books cost \$25 which includes GST and postage in a padded bag within Australia.



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



**SAVE THE DATE:
Sunday 23rd APRIL.**

For our
**NESTING BOX
WORKSHOP**

PLACE: GNARWARRE HALL

LUNCH provided by CWA.

**BOOK early
PLACES limited!**

**CONTACT: Christa Jones
barraboolhillslandcare@gmail.com**

PH: 0408 342 403

Pasture walk

Jim Seager

On the evening of November 23rd 2022 the group conducted a pasture walk to look at Native grasslands at Spence Wines, Murgheboluc.

This continues on from the recent 'Past Projects' bus tour supported by funding from the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA)

The small but enthusiastic group was keen to improve their native grassland knowledge and enjoy another opportunity to catch up with other landcare members.

At this time of year the predominantly C4 grasses are seeding, making identification easier. We also looked at the longer term management strategies to maintain and improve this endangered grassland, including identifying threats from noxious weeds such as Serrated Tussock & Chilean Needle Grass and land degradation from Rabbits.

The dominant species of Kangaroo grass was flowering along with Wallaby and Spear grasses, plus a range of native orchids and ground covers. The management of this grassland area is supported by funding from the CCMA through the Grassy Eucalypt Woodlands Stewardship Program to help



Photo; Sun dews (Jennifer Hollowes)

protect and enhance remnant grassland vegetation.

The group also discussed other management strategies including spot spraying of broadleaf weeds such as Thistles, Gorse and Wild mignonette plus cool burning of patches of introduced annual grasses. Other threats include weed & pest invasion from neighboring properties and poorly managed local roadside areas.

Harvesting of the Kangaroo grass seed has been done using a bandicoot brush harvester. This seed will be used to propagate seedlings and spread to degraded sites on farm.

With some good weather prevailing the group enjoyed some cheese and local wine to end a successful evening.



Photo; Feather heads (Jim Seager)

BHLG MOVIE NIGHT

FILM : The Duke

PLACE: Waterland, 1285 Barrabool Rd
Barrabool.

DATE: 15th February 2023. TIME: 7pm.

COST: \$10 Donation to Anam Cara.

Bookings: Christa 0408 342 403.
Theatre holds a Maximum of 25 pax.

Georges Hill, Barrabool

Excursion report, 21 August 2022. Leaders: Stephen Murphy and Ross George. Barry Lingham

Land at Georges Hill has been owned by various branches of the George families for six generations. Ross and Lyn George welcomed us to their property of around 180 acres that they purchased from a family member in 2001. Perched high above the Barwon River on the Barrabool Hills escarpment, this site has always interested the Geelong Field Naturalists due to the interesting geology, aboriginal history, flora and fauna. The site was visited by GFNC members in October 1978 and the excursion report by Valda Dedman was published in the May 1979 issue of the Geelong Naturalist.

When the Ross family moved to the site in 2005, the hillside was mostly barren with many weeds. They did not intend to undertake agricultural uses for the land so they enlisted the services of Stephen Murphy who was an expert on developing shelter belt vegetation in the Geelong area.

Stephen developed a planned revegetation program to create a low-maintenance habitat that would enhance biodiversity and the amenity of the property. He suggested a wide range of tree and shrub species that would be planted across the site, mostly indigenous to the area but some planted for future firewood or potential timber harvesting. The family planted around 5000 plants per year for 15 years with the resulting forest greatly enhancing the habitat value of the site.

After meeting and hearing some of the history of the property from Ross and Stephen, our group walked off to explore the plantation area. The variety of trees was extensive and we noted that many were naturally regenerating so no further planting would be needed. The moist moss

beds covering most of the surface had developed as the plantation grew. Many small indigenous herbs and grasses were also beginning to become established.

We emerged from the plantation to the ridge of rock that capped the hill. Here we were shown the old quarry where this unusual rock type was attempted to be mined commercially. Initially, rock drills were unable to penetrate the hard rock to allow blasting. The venture failed when they were unable to find a solid rock face, only individual rocks (floaters). The rock is one of the most ancient rocks found in Victoria. It is a type of greenstone from the Cambrian period, created some 500 million years ago as in igneous intrusion into even older rocks.

The igneous rock cooled slowly to form a type of granite, but later metamorphosis via extreme heat and pressure changed the mineral composition of the rock to form greenstone. The rock is also known as epidiorite or metagabbro. Gabbro is an igneous rock composed mostly of plagioclase and clinopyroxene minerals. It is altered to form metagabbro containing amphibolite during metamorphosis. The area has experienced uplift and erosion, exposing the hard greenstone cap that has resisted the weathering and erosion.

Greenstone are rocks rare in Victoria. A small outcrop of the same rock occurs at the nearby Dog Rocks area. The stone was prized by the Wadawarrung for making axe heads because the hard dense stone could be worked and ground to create a sharp and durable edge.

From our position on top of the hill, we could also view the:

- You Yangs and Dog Rocks—Devonian granite formed deep underground some 365 million years ago
- Barrabool Hills — Cretaceous sandstone deposited into a large shallow lake about 135 million years ago
- Batesford limestone—Miocene sedimentary limestone formed in shallow seas about 14 million years ago
- Volcanic plains—more recent volcanic flows that filled the Barwon River valley several times during the past 5 million years

Morning tea was taken on the deck of the Ross home where we admired a table made from a large slab of polished greenstone. Our repast was interrupted by the appearance of several raptor species including Little Eagles, Wedge-tailed Eagles and Brown Falcons.

We then drove downhill to the south bank of the Barwon River. The murky water was flowing swiftly after recent rains, but the deep-water hole used for swimming usually contained pristine water where platypus were often present. There were many bush birds present and riparian plants grew along the banks. Many small River Redgum saplings were evidence of the high flood level reached in 2011.

Sincere thanks to the Georges for allowing us to visit and to Stephen Murphy for sharing his knowledge. Thanks also to Craig Morley and Graham Possingham for creating eBird lists for the excursion.

... (continued on page 5)

References:

Dedman, V. (1979) 'Barwon River excursion', Geelong Naturalist, vol. 16, no. 1, pp.14-17

Geological references:

Barrabool Hills Landcare Group Flora of 'The Hills': a revegetation and ID guide for the Barrabool Hills.

Birch, W. D. (Ed.) (2003) Geology of Victoria. Geological Society of Australia (Victoria Division).

Cochrane, G. et al. (1995) Introducing Victorian geology. Geological Society of Australia (Victorian Division).

Geological Survey of Victoria map 1:63360: No 857 Zone 7 Geelong, accessed 29 August 2022 <https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Record/7044919>

Museum of Victoria, 600 million Years: Victoria Evolves, accessed 29 August 2022 <https://museums.victoria.com.au/melbournmuseum/resources/600-million-years/>

Further reading about the Barrabool Hills:

Murphy, S. Recreating the country blog, accessed 29 August 2022

1. Barrabool Hills vegetation. Part 1, From ancient rainforests

2. Barrabool Hills vegetation. Part 2, the arrival of Homo sapiens

3. Barrabool Hills vegetation. Part 3, its original & natural condition in 1835. Plant density.

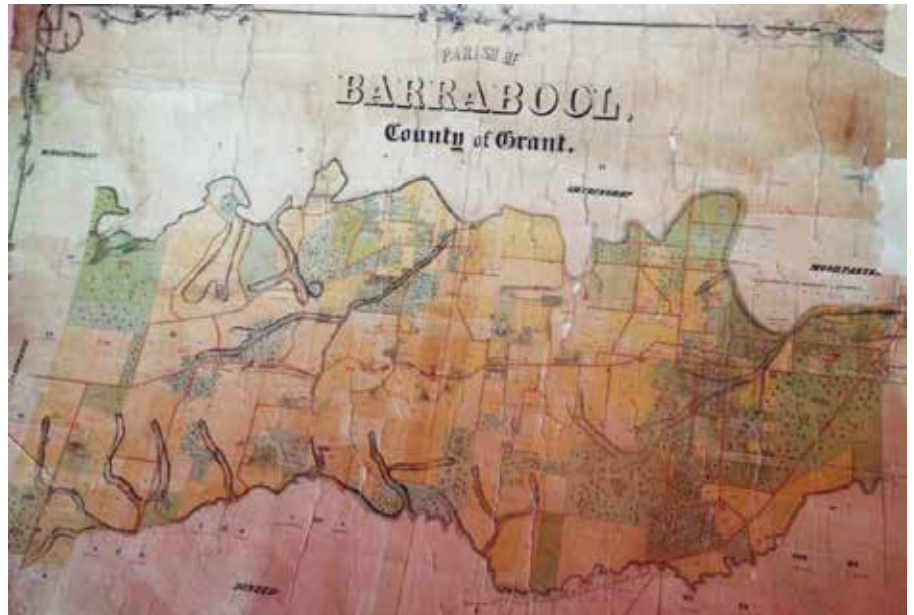
4. Barrabool Hills vegetation, Part 4, plant species. 'Drooping Sheoaks adorned the hills'.

5. Contact Barrabool Hills Landcare for a copy of the excellent publication

Flora of the Hills <https://barraboolhillslandcare.org.au/barrabool-hills-landcare-publications/>

All photos courtesy of [recreatingthecountry.com.au](https://www.recreatingthecountry.com.au)

<https://www.recreatingthecountry.com.au/blog/the-vegetation-of-the-barrabool-hills-part-3-its-original-natural-condition-in-1835-plant-density>



Andrew McWilliams Parish of Barrabool map, 1861



Rocky Spring with Merrawarp Rd in the foreground. Photo courtesy of Campbell Roydhouse. Circa 1900



The same view of Rocky Spring today with Merrawarp Rd in the foreground



Zooming in to show the remnant vegetation in green, adjacent to Merrawarp Rd. Rocky Spring is located in the centre of the map

Message from the President.

FEBRUARY 2023. By Jim Seager.

Welcome and Happy New Year to all Landcare members.

We have finally got some warmer weather and it is great to see the Barrabool Hills at its best.

I hope those of you with increasing rabbit numbers have taken up the opportunity to order some baited carrots and I look forward to catching up with a few of you at the collection depots in February

The 2022 Christmas break up was a great success and well attended. Thankyou to all who contributed to the evening and to Ken & Francis for hosting.

I look forward to seeing some of you at the movie night on 15th February. There may still be a few seats left if you are quick. Thanks to Rick Walter for hosting this annual event.

We have also planned a few other events this autumn, including a nesting box workshop and a catchment bus tour. Please contact

us if you are interested so we can plan catering etc.

For those who are planning to plant native trees, shrubs and grasses, ordering plants early and starting preparation now will improve your success. Don't forget to consider our small grants program if you need some financial assistance and book contactors for fencing etc to make sure you don't miss out.

Let us know if you would like to host a day for members to come and plant some trees this year. Its good fun and a chance to meet some of our other landcare members.

Following some great rain last year and good runoff into dams there are a few reports of blue green algae. This is often due to extra nutrients running into dams with heavy rain. Blue green algae can become toxic to livestock if not controlled. It's a good idea to fence off dams, use troughs to water livestock and establish some vegetation around dams to reduce nutrient runoff.

Thanks to all those members in our groups executive committee. We are working hard to upgrade our website, update the email list and complete some of our current projects. This will help access to website information, improve communication to members and allow us to access funding for future projects.

We will continue to produce the group newsletter and we are always looking for interesting stories from members or maybe you could suggest a topic you would like more information on. Thanks to all those who contribute to getting it out every two months.

Please remember to update us with any changes in your details so we can keep you informed of our coming events.

Hope you all have a great 2023

Cheers Jim.

What Bird Is that?

By Tim Harte.

Ric Walter identified the species of bird in the December BHLG newsletter correctly, well done Ric. The bird was an Australian wood duck (*Chenonetta jubata*). Australian



Above: The December 2022 mystery bird - Australian wood duck (*Chenonetta jubata*).

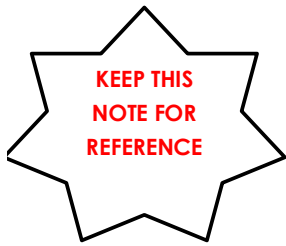
wood ducks are found over much of Australia, with the exception of the far north and extremely arid areas, and are a common sight on farm dams in the Barrabool Hills.

Australian wood ducks nest in tree hollows, with the female incubating eggs while the male stand guard.

This issues mystery bird is a fresh-water waterbird, pictured here in full breeding plumage. This bird is known for it's excellent swimming abilities and can be seen on farm dams diving for fish or tadpoles.



Email us with your 'what bird is this?' answer, the first person to answer correctly will have their name published in the next newsletter.



Rabbit Baiting 2023



**EASY PEASY – JUST ORDER VIA OUR WEBSITE instead of filling in this form.
You will be able to pay by direct bank transfer, credit card or PayPal 😊**

www.barraboolhillslandcare.org.au/shop

BAITING DATES FOR 2023
16th, 20th and 23rd February 2023

Orders are now being taken for the Barrabool Hills Landcare Group's annual rabbit baiting program. This successful program, now in its 18th year, is organized by volunteers for the community. Pindone is a cumulative poison. To be effective, rabbits need to ingest the baited carrots on **three** separate occasions over a one-week period.

ORDERING AND PAYMENT

The minimum quantity that can be ordered is 5kg for each of the 3 baiting days, costing \$84 (incl GST) in total. You will need to estimate how much bait you will need **for each of the three baiting days** ie 5 kg, 10 kg or 20 kg as per below. **Please call our Hotline if you need help** estimating or have issues with the website shop/payments.

Options for ordering and payment methods are:
EITHER
1/ Order & pay securely via our website
<https://www.barraboolhillslandcare.org.au/shop/>
Payment options are bank transfer, credit card or PayPal. You do not need to submit this order form but please keep it as a reminder for pick up dates etc.
OR
2/ Pay by cash or cheque at any **Bendigo Bank Branch** (Account No 163791817) using your surname as the Reference. You will however need to scan and email your completed order form to barraboolhillslandcare@gmail.com or mail it to: 1133 Hamilton Hwy STONEHAVEN 3218

Orders and payments must be received by **7th February 2023**.
⊗ Regrettably we are **unable to process any orders or payments received after this date**.
A Tax Invoice/Receipt will be emailed (where possible) after receipt of your payment. A paper copy will be provided upon request.

COLLECTION DEPOTS

Your entire order will comprise **three** separate allocations. These will be available for collection on the above **three** dates from only one of following two depots.

- Depot 1 – Barry & Glenys Harvey - 232 Henty Main Road, Mt Moriac Ph 0407568292**
- Depot 2 – Brien & Judy Cohn - 25 Kingsbury Lane, Waurm Ponds Ph 0414835833**

Please specify on the order form from which depot you will be collecting your baited carrot and it is essential you include a contact phone number below for the person collecting the bait. Orders need to be collected from the depot between **4pm** and **6pm** on the specified dates

HOTLINE
For more information, contact
Jim – President (0409 935 700) or Heike – Treasurer (0417 020 012)

It is the legal obligation of landholders to control rabbits on their property. One pair of rabbits can produce 180 offspring in 18 months and 12 rabbits eat as much as one sheep! Baiting, warren destruction and removal of areas where rabbits can hide are recognized as being essential components of an integrated rabbit control program

NAME
ADDRESS
EMAIL **PHONE NO. OF PERSON COLLECTING BAIT**

ORDER – ENTER NUMBER OF BAGS on **each** of the three baiting days

5kg bag for each of the 3 baiting days = \$84 x <input type="text"/>	= \$	TOTAL PAYMENT MADE \$
10kg bag for each of the 3 baiting days = \$129 x <input type="text"/>	= \$	Direct Credit Reference (ie SURNAME)
20kg bag for each of the 3 baiting days = \$228 x <input type="text"/>	= \$	Collection Depot:

Waurm Ponds Mt Moriac



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 16/03/23.

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 and the COGG for kindly printing this edition.

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