

BARRABOOL HILLS LANDCARE

Barrabool Hills Landcare Group Newsletter. August 2023.

FORMAL NOTICE OF THE BARRABOOL HILLS LANDCARE GROUP AGM.

The BHLG AGM will be held on Wednesday 9th August 2023, 7.30 pm at the Gnarwarre Tennis Pavilion.

Barrabool Hills Landcare community, family and friends are invited to attend the traditional free networking event of wine and cheese commencing at 6pm.

Our guest speaker is Peter Shaw, who in 1995 established Ocean Road Landscaping in Anglesea with his wife Simone. Peter's book *Soulscape: Connecting Gardens to Landscape* explains his passion for the local landscape and how it has fashioned his approach to innovative and beautiful landscape design around the Surf Coast area.

Features of the designs are how they fit into their local environment and his use of indigenous and native plants to build spaces that are a joy to be in. He has featured in



Above: Peter Shaw's book *Soulscape* - connecting gardens to nature.

many articles on innovative design and has appeared on Gardening Australia.

Nominations:

As part of the formal part of the evening 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

RSVP's are essential to barraboolhillstandcare@gmail.com so we can send you the Agenda, a copy of last year's Minutes, the BHLG Audit and Financials and a ZOOM Invite for anyone not able to attend in person.

WHATS ON IN 2023?

JULY 2023

GLN Small Block, Big Dreams Project Launch.

Common Ground Project.
Freshwater Creek.
Sunday July 30, 3.30-6pm.

<https://ccma.vic.gov.au/projects/small-blocks-big-dreams/>

GLN National Tree Day Events

Sunday July 30 at various locations. Register via Tree Day Site:

<https://treeday.planetark.org/find-a-site/>

AUGUST 2023

BHLG AGM

Wednesday August 9, 2023.

RSVP essential.

Meet and Greet - Wine & Cheese at 6pm. AGM at 7.30pm.

Nesting Box Workshop.

By Christa Jones.

The BHLG Nesting Box Workshop held 28th May was well attended by many enthusiastic participants including some very excited children.

20 Nesting Boxes were made, which will be future homes for Parrots, Pardalotes and Micro bats.

We would like to thank Grant Baverstock from Bruce Creek Landcare Group for his informative talk on the benefits of bats. How wonderful to know they consume a vast number of mosquitoes every night!

We would also like to thank Bronwyn, our GLN facilitator, for her hard work and organisation to make this happen.



Thank you to all Landcarers young and older for supporting our event and we hope that your nesting boxes will soon have some inhabitants.



Great News!

By Heike Dunn, Treasurer,
Barrabool Hills Landcare Group.

Donations to BHLG are now easier.

Donating to Barrabool Hills Landcare Group has now become easier through the Landcare Victoria Fund AND all gifts of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Payment processing is secure.

Please enter "Barrabool Hills Landcare Group" under 'I would like to support a particular group' on the first page of the donation form at: <https://landcarevictoria.org.au/donate>.

This ensures any funds received can be passed along to us in accordance with the Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Fund procedures.

BushBank

Restoring native vegetation on private land.

Article and photo published with permission from Landcare Victoria.



The Victorian Government's \$77 million BushBank program is addressing climate change and supporting wildlife as it restores more than 20,000 hectares of land across Victoria. Millions of native trees and shrubs will be planted to capture carbon and create healthy habitat for native wildlife.

Most of the work is taking place through partnerships with private landowners, providing an opportunity to participate in the most ambitious restoration program in Victoria's history.

Cassinia Environmental

Cassinia Environmental is the Victorian Government's delivery partner for the private land stream of BushBank. Cassinia Environmental is a land management company with

proven results in environmental protection, ecological restoration, regenerative agriculture, and social investment.

They will manage projects in partnership with landowners for the duration of the program. Significant co-funding is required to deliver native vegetation plantings across degraded and marginal private land. Cassinia Environmental will source and secure co-funding from various partners, including from carbon markets and philanthropic biodiversity-focused partners.

Opportunities for Landowners

The BushBank program provides a unique opportunity for private landowners to play a meaningful role in addressing climate change and supporting wildlife, leaving a

legacy for generations to come. Landowners will be supported to undertake restoration projects and access carbon markets with financial incentives paid over several years.

Landowner recruitment has commenced, and projects for the initial phase will be selected from expressions of interest received before 31 July 2023. Any expressions of interest received after this date will be considered in future recruitment rounds.

For more information including Landowner project guidelines, and help with submitting your expression of interest copy & paste the following link into your browser:

<https://cassinia.com/bushbank/>

Tree hollows and old stags

By Stephen Murphy. Sustainable Biorich Landscapes.

Kaye Rodden once sent me a photo of her favourite tree on Belvedere at Gnarwarre, which she described as 'full of life' – surprisingly, it was an ancient weather-worn stag. Kaye recognised that although the tree appeared lifeless and hadn't grown leaves for more than a decade, many insects, birds and mammals relied on its hollows and cracks for a secure and cosy home.

Tree hollows make excellent, temperature controlled, dark shelters for wildlife, and these are essential features for getting a good night's sleep as you would know. A total of 346 different animal species use hollows - that's 15% of Australia's fauna.

Just to complete the picture, those hollow-using animals are represented by 37 species of frog, 93 species of reptile, 101 species of mammal and 115 species of bird, including 95% of our parrots.

If you add the countless species of insect like native bees, native wasps, spiders and beetles, you have a big chunk of Australia's fauna.

There is some controversy about how long it takes tree hollows to form. The usual figure for small hollows in eucalypts is 100 years. This size would be used by a small animal like a Feathertail Glider. Bigger hollows suitable for parrots, possums and owls can take over 200 years to form.

There is now some anecdotal evidence to suggest that hollows can form faster where large branches have broken in a storm.

Cockatoos for instance can use their powerful beak to tear away the splintered wood and engineer



their own hollow. It makes their job easier if the heartwood has begun to decay, though this process could take a decade.

Street appeal is also important when choosing a tree hollow. Though animals looking for a new home aren't too fussed about the colour or design of the front door. For them size does matter, and sometimes they also like a welcome mat – a perch to land on.

If you have ever pondered the designs of fauna boxes for birds and mammals, you will know how particular wildlife are about the size and shape of their entrance. Most animals prefer a small opening, usually less than 15cm, just big

enough to squeeze comfortably through.

Incorporating 'full of life' stag trees into new revegetation projects provides animals with important connectivity. For example, gliders need another tree within 30m if they want to avoid landing on the ground and becoming dinner for a feral cat.

Birds living in isolated stags aren't so fussy. They only need another tree within a few hundred meters, or within their 'line-of-site.' Therefore in a possum's ideal world, there would be some other trees and shrubs close to an old stag like Kaye's, to provide them with safe passage for a twilight dinner of gum leaves, nectar, beetles and moths.

Message from the President.

By Jim Seager.

This year is looking good so far, despite predictions of dryer and warmer than average conditions for the spring and summer ahead. Many members are still planning to plant trees this spring, so good preparation and early planting will give them the best chance to survive through their first year. Check that your fencing is secure as some plantations get eaten by hungry livestock in the first year after planting. Our Landcare group has a variety of equipment to help members with tree planting and weed control. Contact Trevor on 0407009855

I recently returned from a holiday with my family to New Zealand. I was amazed that it seems no hill is too steep to plant trees on. Both biodiversity and forestry plantations are established on very steep country. No doubt dedicated planting contractors are used and I am sure harvesting would also be challenging. If conditions lead to a poor season ahead, uncontrolled

weeds can spread rapidly when rains return, especially when ground cover is low. Manage stock numbers to prevent over grazing.

This spring Geelong is hosting the Nature Forum. Our members will be involved in some of the activities, and we will be displaying Landcare information at some events. Check with Geelong City Council for dates and events.

Thank you to our executive committee for their continued support and contribution. Heike our treasurer, Christa – Secretary, Leah – newsletter & website and all those members who contribute to the running of the Barrabool Hills Landcare Group.

I would like to thank Tim Harte for his contributions, as a member of our executive and for his articles in the newsletter. We wish him success for the future.

I would welcome any members to

join our executive committee, simply come along to our AGM in August and nominate. Let us know what events or workshops you think we should run. Maybe suggest a relevant guest speaker you would like to hear from or send in some photos of any relevant activities. Contact one of our executive members who's contact details are available on the back of this newsletter for more information.

Thanks to all the other contributors and for those who help get the newsletter out every two months and to Geelong City Councils who print our newsletters. Remember we are always looking for new articles. I look forward to seeing you at our AGM on August 9th 2023 at the Gnarwarre pavilion, with guest speaker Peter Shaw from Ocean Road Landscaping discussing his work connecting gardens to landscapes.

Cheers Jim

What Bird Is that?

By Tim Harte.

A number of Hills locals identified the species of bird in the June BHLG newsletter correctly, well done all. The four birds pictured were all Silver Eyes (*Zosterops laterali*). Silver Eyes are native to Australia, New Zealand, and the southwestern Pacific region, are highly adaptable and can be found in a variety of habitats, including forests, woodlands, gardens, and urban areas. Silvereyes are highly social birds and are often seen in small flocks or family groups. They are known for their agile flight and acrobatic manoeuvres.

This is the last newsletter issue in

which Tim Harte will be writing the 'What Bird Is That? (WBIT)' segment. Tim is stepping down from the Barrabool Hills Landcare Group (BHLG) executive committee, having been a member since March 2018 and contributing many Birds for this segment. If you are into birds and would like to contribute to the BHLG team by writing a WBIT segment moving forwards please email our secretary, we are always looking for people to join our great team.

This issues mystery bird is the author's favourite. Do you know what this bird is? Email us with your 'what bird is this?' answer.



Above: The June 2023 mystery birds – four Silver Eyes (*Zosterops laterali*).

Below: This issues mystery bird.



Landcare Membership

By Heike Dunn, Treasurer, Barrabool Hills Landcare Group.

Hard to believe but it is already that time of the year to renew your subscriptions.

For those who are renewing or have already renewed your membership, thank you for your continued support. 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.

Peer to peer learning and hands-on involvement in projects are among the most highly valued elements of Landcare. Studies have shown that people thrive when they are part of a team doing something worthwhile and they thrive when they immerse themselves in nature.

To join or re-new your membership.

Please visit our online shop to make payment at <https://www.barraboolhillslandcare.org.au/shop/>

Or please copy <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 bank transfer, credit card or PayPal.

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



Biodiversity plantings in the Barrabool hills established 10 years ago providing great habitat shelter and linkages to the Barwon River.

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

