

BARRABOOL HILLS LANDCARE

Barrabool Hills Landcare Group Newsletter. October 2023.

Geelong Nature Festival Market.

By Joey Harte. Photo credit: Joey Harte.



Barrabool Hills Landcare hosted a stall at the Waurm Ponds Shopping Centre for the Geelong Nature Festival Market this week. It was an excellent opportunity to be seen by community members with our volunteers engaging in many conversations with community members, the main topics being weed management and rabbit baiting.

It also provided an opportunity to spend time with other environmental

groups: Friends of Waurm Ponds Creek, Beachcare, and Geelong Field Naturalist Club with plans for future events at the Waurm Ponds Shopping Centre with these groups.

Thank you, Judy Cohn, for your work organising and manning our stall, and to Heike, Christa, and Joey for volunteering their time.

We appreciate the Geelong Field Naturalists and the City of Greater Geelong for hosting the festival.

Attention all landholders!

By Heike Dunn.

I know you're probably already thinking about Christmas but what

else is just around the corner????? The next Barrabool Hills annual rabbit baiting program of course!!

This will be the 19th year that the Barrabool Hills Landcare Group has assisted the community and coordinated the ordering of rabbit

WHATS ON IN 2023?

OCTOBER 2023

Fire Planning Workshop
Saturday 14th October. 10am-2pm. See page 3.

GLN Nesting box workshop: Maude.
Sunday October 29. 10am-12pm.

<https://events.humanitix.com/nesting-box-building-workshop-maude>

NOVEMBER 2023

Waurm Ponds War Memorial Remembrance Day Service.
Sunday 12th November, 2023.
10:30am for 10:45am. See page 5.

DECEMBER 2023

BHLG Christmas breakup. Friday 8th December. See page 7.

FEBRUARY 2024

BHLG Film Night.
SAVE THE DATE: February 14.
Details to come.

Rabbit Baiting.
February 15, 19, & 22. Details to come.

 **BHLG IS NOW ON INSTAGRAM!**

Find us on Instagram and follow us:
[@barraboolhillslandcare.org.au](https://www.instagram.com/barraboolhillslandcare.org.au)

bait for individual landholders throughout the area in a major rabbit control program.

The 2024 baiting dates are **15th, 19th and 22nd February 2024** so save the date!

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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, rabbits need to ingest the Pindone carrots on three separate occasions over a one-week period.

Some tips for achieving the best possible results when using Pindone carrots include:

1. Identify the areas where rabbits are feeding by using a spotlight at night to see how many rabbits there are and where they are feeding.
2. Estimate the density of your rabbit population and order the right amount of Pindone carrots. Each rabbit needs to consume between 15-30 gr. For example: for a three-to-five-acre property you

would need 15 kg of bait in total. You would need to collect one 5 kg bag on each delivery day.

3. Collect one bag of bait on each of the three delivery days and lay the bait along the feeding areas (or within 25m of burrows) on the same evening, in shallow trenches if possible as rabbits seem to like freshly turned earth. Feeding at dusk ensures baits don't dry out in the sun.

4. Make sure rabbits can feed undisturbed on your bait (do not shoot or hunt during baiting).

5. Check and dispose of dead rabbits every day while baiting and remove or cover any remaining bait each morning after laying bait the night before.

For more information about best practice rabbit management please

visit the Victorian Rabbit Action Network (VRAN) website www.vran.com.au or <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/pest-animals/invasive-animal-management/integrated-rabbit-control>

We will publish and email the Rabbit Bait Order Form as soon as we have the prices from the supplier.

As per normal we will coordinate a bulk order of the fresh bait, which is then packaged for each landholder and made available for collection at one of the two separate depots on each of the three dates.

And don't forget to encourage your neighbours to take part in the program - rabbits don't respect boundaries so they are everyone's rabbits!



Landcare Victoria Inc.

Donate now to support landcare in your region

www.landcarevictoria.org.au/donate

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.



BARRABOOL HILLS

DO YOU KNOW YOUR FIRE RISK?

FIRE PLANNING WORKSHOP

Gnarwarre Fire Brigade along with Barrabool Hills Landcare Group & CFA South West invite you to discuss your fire plan and help answer your questions about how to be best prepared this fire season.

Fires happen every year. Spending time now and learn how you can keep you, your family and your friends safe from fire this season.

Gnarwarre Hall
33 Gnarwarre Road, Gnarwarre
Date: Saturday 14th October 2023
Time: 10am - 2pm
Light lunch supplied



For further information on how to prepare your property for fire scan QR code or visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au

Participants outcomes:

- **Refresh of Fire Safety Essentials**
- **an increased understanding of their local fire risk**
- **a basic understanding of fire behaviour relevant to their context/environment**
- **begun to identify their personal limitations and barriers to bushfire preparedness**
- **an understanding of what a plan is and what it should contain**
- **reassessed their intentions and decisions and started a written plan**
- **an awareness of available resources and tools to further assist bushfire preparedness**
- **increased skills and knowledge to develop a plan.**

RSVP: Christa Jones. Phone 0408 342 403 OR barraboolhillslandcare@gmail.com

Butterflies & moths - a measure of success.

By Stephen Murphy. Sustainable Biorich Landscapes.

Butterflies and moths are excellent indicators of a healthy ecosystem and provide a useful measure of the success of revegetation. They interact with plants and animals in many ways and affect the health of ecosystems through pollination and pest control. They are also food for birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and other insects like spiders. Revegetation will attract butterflies and moths when a diverse mix of flowering native shrubs (butterfly & moth food plants), and native grasses (caterpillar host plants) are included.

A recent study in the United Kingdom suggested that moths are important pollinators of crops and wildflowers, though they are undervalued because they are only active at night. Using 'trail' cameras they observed more moth pollination activity than common daylight insects like honeybees, hoverflies. (Mathews & Anderson, 2023)

One family of moth, the Micropteridae, has been pollinating flowers for millions of years and is likely to be one of a few insects that pollinated the first flowers. This most ancient moth has been found preserved in amber from 125 million years ago. That makes moths twice as old as butterflies. Today they use their mouth parts to eat flower



Photo above: *Heteronympha merope*. A Common Brown Butterfly, from the Australian Museum.

pollen. This suggests these ancient moths contributed to the success of the first flowering plants.

Butterflies and moths make up the Family Lepidoptera. There are 408 species of butterfly in Australia, half of which are only found here. Australia also has around 22,000 species of moth, half are yet to be scientifically named. Butterflies and moths occur in all environments, from deserts to rainforests, in cities and on farms. They are most

numerous in the rainforests of tropical northern Australia.

A simple guide to identifying butterflies and moths is whether they are active during the day or at night. When you're next taking the kelpie for wander through your revegetation, keep a watchful eye out for movement. Anything you see flying during the day is very likely to be a butterfly. Moths are only active at night.



National Tree Day at Ceres Primary School.

On Friday 28th of July 2023 Ceres Primary School students, teachers and parents planted a mixture of native plants at the school to celebrate National tree Day, adding to the many native plants already established from previous years.

Message from the President.

By Jim Seager.

Welcome all Landcarers, I would firstly like to welcome Joey Harte and Ross Mackenzie to our executive committee and look forward to their future contribution to the running of the landcare group.

I hope you are all doing well. The lack of good rainfall in recent months has questioned the decision to plant trees this season. Native trees and shrubs often do well in poor seasons if established early, so maybe look to water them a few times, maintain guards and control weeds to give them the best chance.

It looks like a challenging summer ahead so I would encourage you to be prepared. Check livestock regularly for water supply, secure supplementary feed supplies early, decide how you would manage livestock if fire was threatening, consider selling livestock rather than feeding through a drought and service pumps required for water supply and fire fighting now.

If you have projects planned for 2024, make sure you book contractors for fencing and order trees soon. Don't forget to sign up for the February 2024 rabbit baiting,

go to www.barraboolhillslandcare.org.au.

Our landcare group is planning to run a few more general meetings and social functions over the next 12 months, so keep an eye out for opportunities to improve your knowledge or get involved.

There has been interest in establishing a local tree propagation project on a local farm to help provide plants for group projects. We will let members know when we organise setting up days for this project. It is hoped that plants can be grown at cost, for those prepared to volunteer their time.

Thank you to our executive committee for their continued support and contribution. Heike our treasurer, Christa – Secretary and Leah – newsletter & website.

Thanks to Judy and others who contributed their time for the recent Geelong Nature Festival and all those members who contribute to the running of the Barrabool Hills Landcare Group.

We are all volunteers, so any



Above: Found this in the paddock today. This is a juvenile Black Shouldered Kite.

contribution to running the group would be appreciated. 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. Email us at barraboolhillslandcare@gmail.com

Thanks to all the other contributors and for those who help get the newsletter out every two months.

Thanks to Geelong City Councils who print our newsletters. Remember we are always looking for new articles.

Our next group event is 'Preparing the farm for the fire season' workshop on 14th of October.

Look forward to seeing you at our annual Christmas BBQ on Friday 8th December.

Waurn Ponds War Memorial Remembrance Day Service.

"The Waurn Ponds Memorial Reserve Committee cordially invites you (or a nominated representative) to attend the 2023 Remembrance Sunday Day Service to honour all servicemen and servicewomen who have served in our defence force.

The service will be held on Sunday 12th November 2023, (10:30am for a 10:45am commencement) at the Waurn Ponds Memorial Reserve,

- Corner of Cochranes Road and Waurn Ponds Drive, Waurn Ponds. Schools, Community groups and individuals are more than welcome to lay wreaths or floral tributes. Please indicate with your RSVP.

After the service light refreshments and a BBQ will be served. (If able a plate to share would be appreciated). Please Note: Parking will not be available at the Waurn Ponds Hall and be mindful of traffic along

Waurn Ponds Drive and Colac Road. Feel free to share this invitation with family and friends. Remembrance Sunday is observed in the UK on the second Sunday of November to honour the contribution of British and Commonwealth servicemen and servicewomen.

RSVP Friday 4th November 2023 Jeff Harriott- 0401 465 075 or junr101@hotmail.com"

Farm planning check list - October 2023.

By Jim Seager Agricultural Consultant. Telephone: 0409 935 700.

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

- Consider worm testing livestock to monitor infestations, 1st summer worm drench for sheep once feed dries off.
- 6 in 1 Vaccine for spring lambs/calves twice 4-6 weeks apart to prevent deaths
- Prevention and monitoring for flystrike in sheep
- Vaccinate spring calves
- Pregtesting cows so dry cows can be sold
- New ram/bull purchases
- Consider any feed purchases required for the dry season ahead
- Service windmills and other pumps etc. for the stock water system.
- A clean and reliable water supply is essential for livestock, make sure lambs can reach troughs. Consider fencing off dams to maintain good quality water especially when dams get low.
- Selling off prime or excess sheep or cattle to reduce numbers over summer.
- All landholders running livestock are required to have a property identification code (PIC). Contact the Department of Agriculture for further details. You will also need a Vendor declaration book for selling livestock and National livestock identification scheme (NLIS) electronic eartags.

PASTURES

- Spray topping or slashing options for annual grasses to stop seed set
- Conserving feed as hay or silage is a good idea in a good season. Make sure you fertilize hay paddocks as you will be significantly reducing soil fertility for next years pasture.
- Preparations of paddocks for re-sowing to new pastures in 2024
- Soil testing and Fertilizer

requirements for 2024

- Noxious weed control, spraying hard to identify weeds such as Chilean Needle grass & Serrated tussock and mapping of weed infestations so you can implement control programs next autumn.
- Spray woody weeds such as Boxthorn, Gorse and Blackberries using a selective herbicide and is best done in warmer months.

GENERAL

- Check rabbit numbers and submit baiting orders for the Barrabool Hills baiting program in February 2024. Talk to your neighbours about getting involved as well. Go to barraboolhillslandcare.org.au for dates and to order
- Organise any fencing and tree planting projects, contact contractors, order trees etc
- The Barrabool Hills Landcare Group has equipment for hire

available such as spray units, rabbit warren smoker and tree planters. Contact Trevor Jones 0352656126

- Cleaning up excess grass around buildings by slashing, grazing or spraying and service pumps etc for fire prevention.
- Make sure you have a safe area for your livestock if a fire occurs
- Talk to your neighbours as many issues on farms are not confined by a boundary fence. Encourage them to join the Landcare group where they can meet other landholders and find answers for many land management issues.
- Farm chemicals need to be stored in a secure area and records kept of their use. Check the Agriculture Victoria website for more information.
- Consider attending a field day, workshop or farm tour to improve your management skills.

Below: 2023 Suffolk lambs in woolshed.





- INVITATION-

END OF YEAR BREAK UP & CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION.

PLACE: "BERRAMONGO"
100 Crooks Road, Ceres. (Driveway at the end of the road)

Date: Friday 8th December, 6.30.

Let's have a wonderful celebration of all our Landcare achievements on Friday 8th December at Pom and Ross' lovely farm.

Our farm is based around a renovated sandstone house overlooking the Barwon River. Work done includes extensive weed eradication, refencing, pasture regeneration and establishing shelter belts.

Invite your family and neighbors and join us for a wonderful celebration of the year to come, with lots of new Landcare initiatives planned in 2024.

BYO Meat, Drinks and Chair

SALAD or DESSERT to share

BHLG will provide pre- dinner nibbles, cheese, and wine.

Our event will be COVID COMPLIANT. DO NOT COME if you are UNWELL.

RSVP CHRISTA JONES barraboolhillslandcare@gmail.com
Mob: 0408 342 403 by MONDAY 4TH DECEMBER.



BECOME A MEMBER.

Join our vibrant Barrabool Hills Landcare community and help support our projects and events? Only \$30 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 16/11/23.

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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Website: www.barraboolhillslandcare.org.au

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

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.

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