

BARRABOOL HILLS LANDCARE

Barrabool Hills Landcare Group Newsletter. February 2024.



Christmas celebrations in the beautiful Barrabool Hills.

Barrabool Hills Landcare Group committee and members would like to thank Pom and Ross MacKenzie for hosting our Christmas Function. Attendees enjoyed the lovely surrounds and views from Berramongo, a lovely sandstone home set in the rolling Barrabool Hills with views over the hills towards Geelong.

We enjoyed good food, wine and company. Jim welcomed members

to this event and gave a brief overview of our proud achievements and events during the year.

Thank you to everyone for coming and celebrating with us.

We look forward to an exciting year of events and hope to see many members getting involved.

Christa Jones, Barrabool Hills Landcare Group.

February community rabbit baiting campaign.

By Heike Dunn.

A reminder that once again Barrabool Hills Landcare Group is coordinating the ordering of rabbit bait for individual landholders throughout the area in a major rabbit control program. The baiting

dates this year are 15th, 19th and 22nd February 2024. We coordinate a bulk order of the fresh bait, which is then packaged for each landholder

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WHAT'S ON IN 2024?

FEBRUARY 2024

Rabbit Baiting.
February 15, 19, & 22. Order form page 7.

Understanding of Carbon on Farms: Agricultural forum.
February 16th. Winchelsea Hub - Eastern Reserve, Winchelsea.
See page 6 for further details

Hamilton Farming & Grazing for Profit
28 February - 5 March 2024.
See page 6 for further details.

MARCH 2024
BHLG Film Night. TBA.

APRIL 2024
History of the Barrabool Hills.
Wednesday 17th April.
Speaker TBA.
Barrabool Cricket Club, Ceres.

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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 this year now is the time. The final date for accepting orders and payment is 9th February 2024.

And of course, as rabbits don't recognise boundary fences, it is best if neighbours join forces to maximise the impact. A copy of the pindone-carrot order form is attached with full instructions on how to order, pay and collect.

Alternative rabbit programs are also being run by other landcare groups:

Batesford, Fyansford and Stonehaven Landcare Group.

Baiting dates: 30th Jan, 2nd & 5th Feb 2024. Deadline for orders: Monday 22nd January 2024. Contact Felicity Spear, Secretary BFS Landcare Secretary on 0402 429 444

Maude Meredith and District Landcare Group.

Baiting dates: 9th, 12th & 15th Feb 2024. Deadline for orders: Friday 2nd February 2024. Contact: Laura Hollingsworth: maudemeredithlandcare@gmail.com or Elaine Johns on 0418 173 730 or 03 52 819395

OR If you want to make your own arrangements with the supplier,

please contact:

RENCON Air & Land
Phone 1300 736 266 / 0438 466 548
brad@reconairland.com.au



Visit to Anam Cara House Geelong.

By Heike Dunn

As some of you may know the annual Barrabool Hills Landcare Group Film Night hosted by Ric & Sheila Walter at Waterland raises funds for Anam Cara House Geelong. Anam Cara House Geelong is a not-for-profit organisation providing support and care for people living with a life-limiting diagnosis.

We were recently offered a tour of their brand new state-of-the art facility at Deakin University in Waurn Ponds, which Kathy McQuillan and I eagerly took up.

What we found was a modern, incredibly well designed, wonderfully calm and welcoming environment with open communal areas and beautiful landscaped



gardens, and to quote their website because I couldn't say it any better: "this new sanctuary has been carefully designed to feel like a home for guests, their families and carers".

A big 'thank you' to Chantelle Hodgson, Philanthropy Manager, for showing us around and we look forward to continuing and building our relationship.

For more information and how you can support Anam Cara House Geelong: <https://www.achg.org.au/>



2023 Surf Coast Shire Natural Environment Grants Program.

by Heike Dunn & Ross Mackenzie

In November 2023 Barrabool Hills Landcare Group (BHLG) was successful in securing funding under the Surf Coast Shire Natural Environment Grants Program for the 'Barrabool Hills Landcare Website Redevelopment Project'.

As a Not-for-Profit organisation within the Surf Coast Shire, run entirely by volunteers, increasing community involvement in activities such as weeding, revegetation and educational field days, enhanced communication through social media and digital newsletter integration and greatly improved administration will enable us to spend more time working towards environmental outcomes.

A huge thank you to the Surf Coast Shire and especially Terri Hannan, Community Projects Officer, and the bearer of glad tidings!

Ross Mackenzie, one of our Executive Committee members, attended the Surf Coast Shire Grants awards ceremony at the council offices on 30th November 2023 on behalf of the Barrabool Hills Landcare Group to receive the grant.

We were one of about 40 groups who applied for a grant and were fortunate to be a recipient of one of the larger grants.

The other grantees came from sporting clubs, local arts and

crafts groups, community gardens, men's sheds, historical groups and many others for various purposes including storage sheds, computer programs, safety equipment, tools & equipment etc.

The awards certificates were presented by local Councillors with the Mayor, Liz Patterson in attendance.

The awards ceremony was followed by a casual gathering allowing us to intermingle.

Once again, thank you to the Surf Coast Shire for their support.



Below: Ross MacKenzie with all attendees at the Surf Coast Shire Grant Awards ceremony.

We have the choice to 'plant and connect'.

By Stephen Murphy.

Is tree planting a once-a-year job squeezed into your already busy work schedule? Is there an unspoken philosophy of plant and forget, with plantations being little more than practical additions to property boundaries, admired from afar but rarely visited?

I can imagine a future Australia, where plantations on farms become much more than practical additions to boundary fences. In this future, plantations provide diverse income streams that generate timber products, cut flowers, seeds, essential oils and honey to name just a few, as well as shelter for livestock, crops and humans. These future plantations will provide the opportunity to 'plant and connect.'

Future plantations will be wider and may occupy as much as 30% of rural properties. They will be frequently visited for harvesting and maintenance as well as for pleasure.

The benefits to human mental health through a closer connection with nature are well documented.

Wider plantations are also very well suited to wildlife. It is a crucial feature needed by most of the iconic Australian animals that are presently spiralling toward extinction. It would be a win-win, where we provide for our own needs and support the recovery of the flora and fauna that make this country unique.

We would be paralleling the First Australians who had an analogous relationship with their lands. They knew their country intimately and they understood its ecology. They managed their land with cool burns for safety and to encourage a balance of plants for food and medicines. After many millennia, their connection with 'Country' became deeply spiritual as well as practical. This deeper connection

with the land is a sentiment that many of us can understand.

A deeper connection with the plants and animals in a diverse natural landscape will help secure our health and provide Australian wildlife with a future. In the words of the American philosopher Aldo Leopold;

'When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.'

If you want to read more about these future landscapes and how to create them, visit www.recreatingthecountry.com.au

Coming soon. The 2nd Edition of Stephen's book - 'Recreating the Country - Ten Key Principles for Designing Sustainable Landscapes.'



Farm planning check list, January 2024.

By Jim Seager.

A barrow of Border Collie puppies on the farm.



Welcome to 2024.

The recent weather highlights the need to plan for changing seasonal conditions and the positive & negative impacts that can affect your livestock and farm operation. 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.

Livestock;

- Monitor sheep to prevent losses from flystrike (in hot humid weather) and pinkeye (from grass seeds) in sheep this summer.

- Drench lambs at weaning and adult sheep at the autumn break to reduce worm build up over wetter months. Make sure you are using an affective drench.

- A clean and reliable water supply is essential for livestock heading into the warmer months. Make sure young lambs can reach water in troughs.

- If grazing stock near waterways, consider moving them to higher ground if there is the risk of flash flooding with summer storms.

- Assess the need for supplementary feed requirements. Feed testing hay or grain will help you determine if stock are getting what they need.

- All sheep in Victoria must be tagged with electronic ear tags. Contact department of Agriculture.

- Consider what you would do with your livestock if there is a fire threat this summer. Moving stock into a paddock or laneway with a water trough, which has been slashed or heavily grazed can prevent losses.

- Prepare ewes and rams for joining, increasing nutrition will result in better conception rates.

- with extra pasture growth this summer, monitor cows prior to calving to avoid them getting too fat.

- Pregtest cows and sell any unproductive cows and fattened steers.

- Drench and vaccinate cows prior to calving.

Pastures;

- Preparing paddocks for re-sowing to new pastures this autumn and order seed and contact contractors if required.

- Soil testing & spreading fertilizer is best done prior to autumn break.

- Check paddocks for Serrated Tussock and Chilean Needle Grass. Treating these weeds while they can be easily identified will reduce the need for control prior to seeding.

- Control summer weeds such as Thistles, Chilean Needle Grass and Bathurst burr to prevent seeding and impact on livestock.

- Plan any spraying which might be required after the autumn break such as capeweed control. Controlling weeds when they are small reduces cost and will significantly improve long term control.

- Spray woody weeds in the warmer months such as Gorse, Blackberries, Boxthorn, Galenia, Horehound etc. Using a selective herbicide will reduce off target damage to pastures which are needed to replace weeds.

General;

- The Barrabool Hills rabbit baiting program follow up. Plan to destroy rabbit warrens after baiting to avoid the same problem next year.

- Are you planning to establish some native plantations or need some replacements for other plantations in 2024? Contact your nursery and order your trees now.

-The Barrabool Hills Landcare spray unit is available for hire, contact Trevor Jones 0352656126. This is a good time to service spray units and other equipment you will need to use when the autumn break comes.

- Check gutters and water tanks regularly to make sure they are catching the water from summer storms.

- It can be a good idea to take photos of storm runoff to use as a reference when doing drainage works later on to improve runoff into dams etc. and away from buildings.

- Organise any contract works such as fencing, sowing and spraying to make sure you don't miss out.

- Fencing off dams and watering stock from troughs will provide better quality water and prevent losses from bogging and toxic algal blooms. Don't forget to put the location of your pipes etc. on a farm map.

- Talk to neighbours about joining Landcare where they can meet other landholders and find answers to land management issues.

- Consider attending a field day, workshop or farm tour to improve your management skills.

Message from the President.

January 2024. By Jim Seager.

A Happy New Year to all! Since our last newsletter we have had a considerable amount of rain. This has been great for growing grass but not so good for the local grain harvest. Those who persisted with winter plantings of trees and shrubs have seen some good establishment and growth.

If you are running sheep, keep a lookout for flystrike and treat early as the hot humid weather continues.

Blue green algal blooms in your dams will continue to be a problem if livestock have direct access and they can also become toxic to pets.

I have noticed a significant number of summer weeds in addition to many noxious spring weeds flowering again following all the rain. Weeds to keep an eye out for include; Bathurst burr, Serrated tussock, Chilean Needle Grass, Horehound, Galenia, Pattersons Curse, Thistles etc. Control early while they are small to avoid problems later in the summer.

Our next big event in 2024 will be

the rabbit baiting program, so don't forget to get your order in asap, go to www.barraboolhillslandcare.org.au. The rabbit numbers are higher this year so make sure you go out at night to help you decide how much and where the best place is to bait.

Our Facebook and Instagram pages are up and running so feel free to make a contribution, comments and photos of the Barrabool Hills would be most welcome. Thanks to Jennifer and Joey for their great work.

If you have projects planned for 2024, make sure you book contractors for fencing and order trees soon. We are still hoping to run our annual film night this autumn at 'Waterlands'. The film is 'Rachel's Farm' with the date to be advised, so don't forget to book as numbers are limited.

The Barrabool Hills Landcare Group is planning to run a landcare community meeting in Autumn 2024 at Ceres. Check the newsletters and website for details including guest speakers.



We are planning our website upgrade this year, thanks to funding provided by the Surf Coast Shire, so we look forward to engaging more with members in 2024 and beyond.

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

We are all volunteers, so any 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.

Take the opportunity to contact members of our executive committee if you have any questions or need more information, we are happy to help.

Cheers Jim.

Take control and master the principles that will:

- Sharpen your **LAND** management skills and maximise your pasture production with time-controlled grazing, calculating grass and rest periods, and matching stocking rate to carrying capacity.
- Improve your **SOIL** health and build your resilience to seasonal variability and drought by working with nature's ecological systems, increasing biological activity and growing soil carbon levels.
- Optimise your **LIVESTOCK** reproduction and nutrition strategy for highest performance.
- Empower your **PEOPLE** by developing stronger time management, communication and decision-making skills, and clarifying your visions & goals to help drive your business forward.
- Increase your **BUSINESS** profit with financial analysis to identify areas for change and opportunities to grow, so you can make informed decisions and plan for success.

Farming & Grazing for Profit
Hamilton VIC: 28 Feb - 5 Mar 2024

\$500 EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT until 31 Dec

RCS | 1800 356 004 | rcsaustralia.com.au

**FROM THE GROUND UP:
BUILDING YOUR SOILS' NATURAL CAPACITY**

**GRANT SIMS
DOWN UNDER COVERS**

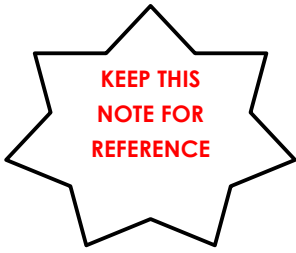
**THURSDAY 22 JUNE
9-3:30 PM**

**CNR BANKS RD 6
SHEPPARDS RD, MANNERIM**

In this workshop Grant Sims will share the practical, innovative, soil-centred approach which has transformed the production capacity on his 8500 acre family farm in North Central Victoria. We'll get out into a paddock sown with his "Down Under Cover" multispecies mix, and check out a second property where Grant's mixes has also been sown. Morning tea and lunch provided.

BOOKINGS HERE, OR SCAN QR CODE
COST \$30 INFO: SOPHIE@RCN.GRD.AU | 0457 333 727

This project is supported by Barrabool Landcare through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.



Rabbit Baiting 2024



**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 2024
15th, 19th and 22nd February 2024

Orders are now being taken for the Barrabool Hills Landcare Group's annual rabbit baiting program. This successful program, now in its 19th 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 ie 5kg x 3, costing a **total of \$109** (incl GST). You will need to estimate the quantity of bait you will need **for each of the three baiting days** eg 5 kg, 10 kg or 20 kg bags. **Please call our Hotline if you need help** estimating or have issues with the website shop/payments.

Orders and payments must be received by **9th February 2024**.
Ⓜ 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 Hendy Main Road, Mt Moriac VIC 3240 Ph 0407 568 292

Depot 2 – Brien & Judy Cohn - 25 Kingsbury Lane, Waurn Ponds VIC 3216 Ph 0414 835 833

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

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
NAME & PHONE NO. OF PERSON COLLECTING BAIT

ORDER – ENTER NUMBER OF BAGS for each of the three baiting days	TOTAL PAYMENT MADE \$
5kg bag for each of the 3 baiting days = \$109 x <input type="text"/> = \$	Direct Credit Reference (ie SURNAME)
10kg bag for each of the 3 baiting days = \$168 x <input type="text"/> = \$	Collection Depot:
20kg bag for each of the 3 baiting days = \$297 x <input type="text"/> = \$	Mt Moriac <input type="radio"/> Waurn Ponds <input type="radio"/>

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 16/03/24.

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: www.facebook.com/BarraboolHillsLandcare/

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