

# BARRABOOL HILLS LANDCARE

Barrabool Hills Landcare Group Newsletter. June 2024.

## Memories of the Barrabool Hills.

John Read's wonderful recollection of the Barrabool Hills in the 1850's. by Christa Jones.



John Read was our speaker at our 1st Quarterly Community Meeting held at the Ceres Cricket Club. John was a long time resident of Gnarwarre. His family settled here in the 1850's.

He has a prodigious memory and we learnt where many of the families settled and worked. Some anecdotes are that:

- Some of the allotments were 25 acres where they milked cows and

had the cream collected once a week.  
- That White Gums were the dominant trees all but 1 cut down for fire wood.

- Produce was taken to Geelong by horse and dray and supplies bought lthis was a days journey.

- All roads were gravel and he spoke of the many gravel pits in the area, providing gravel for roads and the construction of a tennis court.

### WHAT'S ON IN 2024?

#### JULY

**National Tree Day Events.**  
Community Planting Day.  
270 Georges Rd Barrabool.  
Date: Sunday 28th July 2024.  
Venue: TBC. Contact Jim Seager for information. 0409 935 700.

#### AUGUST

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Barrabool Hills Landcare Group AGM.**  
Date: 7th August 2024.  
Venue: Gnarwarre Hall  
Guest Speaker: Amber Clarke, CEO of CCMA.

#### OCTOBER

**2ND BHLG Quarterly meeting**  
Date: 26th October 2024.  
Venue: Gnarwarre Hall  
Topic: Weeds & Pastures  
Further details TBC.

John spoke for over an hour and he tells me he still has more

Thanks everyone for your attendance. It was a fabulous evening and a great success. Johnny Read is 93 and his memory of the history of the Barrabool Hills and surrounding areas is remarkable.

This talk was recorded and hopefully we can get it transcribed for future reference and keepsake.

# More history on the Barrabool Hills

by Jim Seager.

At the time of European settlement the 'Wautharong people' were the traditional inhabitants.

It was noted as a grassy woodland area.

In the late 1930's pastoralists settled the area. Progressively wheat was grown which gave way to livestock grazing over time.

Wine grape growing was prominent between 1842-1882 when Phylloxera devastated the industry. It wasn't until the 1970's that it made a comeback.

Early 1800's Gorse was introduced as a hedging plant, along with many other plants for gardens which subsequently escaped, originally from Europe.

In 1847 the first school in Barrabool was built.

1850's - Community buildings and houses began in Ceres (Named after the Roman Goddess of Agriculture).

1851 - Wild fires blackened most of the Barrabool Hills region.

1854 - Serrated Tussock established in Victoria from an outbreak at Yass

in NSW 1835 originally from South America.

By 1980 Serrated Tussock infested 30,000 Hectares.

By 1998 it was estimated to have spread to 130,000 Ha of land in Victoria.

1859 - The Pollocksford Bridge was built.

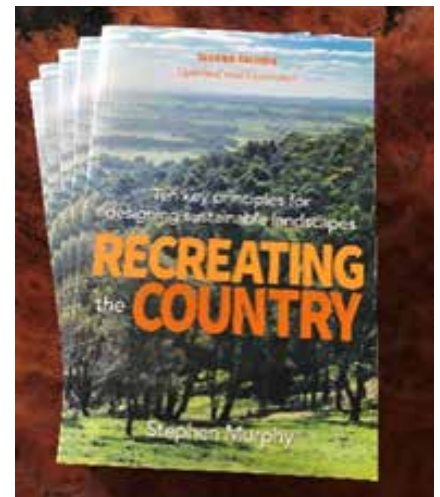
1859 - Rabbits introduced to Australia at Winchelsea.

By 1880 there were an estimated 1 billion rabbits in Australia.

1875 Ceres Primary School was opened. Celebrations are planned for their 150 years in 2025.

Today the Barrabool Hills is vastly different, supporting a mixture of some larger and many small lifestyle farms. There has been a significant amount of revegetation for stock shelter, biodiversity and aesthetic value across the Hills.

There has been a deliberate plan not to allow urban housing development, keeping the Barrabool Hills as a rural environment.



## RECREATING the COUNTRY

Ten key principles for designing sustainable landscapes. Second edition.

Fully updated and expanded with three new chapters: - 6 case studies; Biodiversity and profit = biorich; Landscape corridors and connectivity.

An index has been added for quick referencing.

\$35.00 plus postage. Discount prices are available. Visit [recreatingthecountry.com.au](http://recreatingthecountry.com.au) to order.

### What the experts are saying.

'Writing with passion, commitment and insight, Stephen Murphy emphasises the need to mimic nature and that working with nature requires a long-term perspective. It's an important reminder that the actions we take today will shape the country that future generations will inherit.'

Andrew Bennett, Emeritus professor in Ecology, La Trobe University.

'The sustainable biorich model is a way of 'breaking down the fence' between farmers and foresters.'

Geraint Richards, Head Forester for King Charles III.



Charles Norton's 1846 view from Ceres showing scattered sheoaks in the foreground.

# Dry Stone Walling Workshop.



Below: Peter Spear & Stuart McCaullum presenting at the GLN Celebration Dinner.

The Leigh & District Landcare Group held an introductory workshop on the art of Dry Stone Walling on Saturday, April 13.

The event was well attended and attendees learnt much from David Long, Master Waller.

A great day was had by all and we were well looked after with morning tea and lunch. We enjoyed learning how rock walls are built - the craft of a bygone era.

“It certainly gave us a new appreciation of all the work that went into the rock walls around the district. I look forward to putting my new found skills into practice! Thanks to all involved.”

Mauritzio.



Community  
Grants Hub  
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## New grant opportunity!



### Climate-Smart Agriculture Program Small Grants Round 1

This grant opportunity is being provided by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

The Small Grants will support farmers and land holders to adopt sustainable agriculture best practices, as well as facilitate and implement practice change. The grants will improve management of our natural resources and increase sustainable on-farm productivity and resilience to climate change.

Applications are now open and close 9:00 pm AEST on 4 June 2024.

Find out more on [GrantConnect](#).



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# Paddock trees need companion plants.

By Stephen Murphy.

Improving the habitat under and around old paddock trees is critical. It makes an enormous difference to their health and to the diversity of wildlife that they support. Studies of insects living in paddock trees in WA and NSW revealed 1,600 unique species. An additional 340 birds, marsupials, reptiles and amphibians depend on the hollows in old paddock trees.

Planting small indigenous shrub species & grasses under a tree's canopy, with taller indigenous understorey trees beyond the canopy, adds important layers of vegetation essential for the majority of wildlife. It is important that taller understorey trees are planted

beyond a paddock tree's canopy. For example, the taller species of wattle, sheoak, paperbark and banksia, because they will stress old paddock trees by competing for moisture, light and soil nutrients.

Planting small indigenous shrub species & grasses under a tree's canopy, with taller indigenous understorey trees beyond the canopy improves the health of the paddock tree

The extra birds and insects attracted by these 'companion plants' help to control insects that defoliate the paddock trees and that also attack nearby crops and pastures. Including some nectar-producing

understorey plants brings in a greater variety of all species. This added diversity also helps to support the many insect-eating birds, lizards, mammals, parasitic wasps, flies and spiders, which are necessary to keep defoliating insects under control.

'A healthy bird community removes between 50% & 70% of the leaf-feeding insects from patches of farm trees and so plays a valuable role in keeping those trees alive.' (Barrett R. (2000), Birds on Farms, Birdlife Australia)

To read more about paddock trees, their beauty, their values, and how to restore them, [please click here.](#)



Planting small indigenous shrub species & grasses under a tree's canopy, with taller indigenous understorey trees beyond the canopy improves the health of the paddock tree.

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# National Tree Day

by Judy Cohn

National Tree day is on the 28th July this year and Barrabool Hills Landcare is joining with the Friends of the Waurm Ponds Creek in a promotion at the Waurm Ponds shopping centre.

The Friends are providing plants for people to pot up and take home to

plant and we will be helping them man the stall and helping the public to pot up the plants.

Also we will be putting on a display showing how Barrabool Hills Landcare Group has encouraged and planted trees throughout the Barrabool Hills.

The display will be for 3 days, probably the Thursday, Friday and Saturday leading up to the National Tree day.

If you would like to help manning the stall, please ring Judy Cohn on 0414835833.

Before and after tree planting in Ballanlea Road.



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## \* MEMBERSHIP REMINDER \*

by Heike Dunn

It is that time of the year when subscriptions are due for FY 24/25.

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 or difficulties with paying online please don't hesitate to contact our Treasurer Heike: 0417 020 012 or emailing [barraboolhillslandcare@gmail.com](mailto:barraboolhillslandcare@gmail.com)

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# Message from the President.

June 2024. By Jim Seager.

Welcome to Winter

This little dung beetle is one of many I have seen this Season



Above: Dung beetle.

By now, revegetation and new pasture programs are well under way for this season. Tree orders should be in and fencing completed for project areas.

Seasonal conditions have continued to be erratic, following some good early rain we are again looking for some moisture to grow pastures and provide the opportunity to plant trees in the coming months.

Early weed control for new trees will be critical to ensure they get established, given the current soil moisture conditions.

I recently attended our annual film night at 'Waterlands'. The film, Rachel's Farm, was a great insight into sustainable farming. Members

enjoyed the opportunity to catch up over a cup of tea and cake afterwards. Thanks to Rick & Sheila for running this event.

The Landcare group ran a great evening in April at the Barrabool Cricket Club, with about 50 people attending, looking at the history of the Barrabool Hills. Guest speaker, Johnny Read recalled many stories from his life growing up in the Gnarwarre area and how farming and the community has changed over the past 80 + years.

To celebrate National tree day on Sunday 28th of July, the Landcare group are planning to run a tree planting day at Peter George and Catherine Murphy's property in the Barrabool Hills. This year they have been fencing off 1100m of Barwon River frontage and plan to plant 4000 trees, shrubs and grasses to protect and enhance the existing native vegetation along the river.

Ceres Primary School are also planning some native tree planting around the school to celebrate National Schools tree day on the Friday 26th of July 2024.

On August 7th this year we look forward to seeing our members come along to the Barrabool Hills Landcare groups AGM. This is an opportunity to meet other members

and to be a part of the future for our great Landcare group. See this newsletter for details.

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 for her great work.

We are planning our website upgrade this year, thanks to funding provided by the Surf Coast Shire, so keep an eye out for changes to the website later in 2024.

Thank you to our executive committee for their continued support and contribution.

Heike our treasurer, Christa - Secretary, Leah - newsletter & website, Jennifer- Instagram & Facebook and all those members who contribute to the running of the Barrabool Hills Landcare Group.

If you would like to ask a question, make a comment or send us a letter with photos of what you have been doing, Email us at [barraboolhillslandcare@gmail.com](mailto:barraboolhillslandcare@gmail.com)

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

Cheers Jim

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## CALLING VOLUNTEERS!

Opportunities to get more involved with Barrabool Hills Landcare Group



Barrabool Hills Landcare Group (BHLG) is a Not-for-Profit organisation within the Surf Coast Shire, run entirely by volunteers. The BHLG committee conducts

informative and interesting events, committed to working towards positive environmental outcomes. We are always looking for new members. If you would like to

get involved, please email us at [barraboolhillslandcare@gmail.com](mailto:barraboolhillslandcare@gmail.com)

We would love to hear from you!





Victorian Gorse Taskforce

## VGT Community Grants 2024/25 NOW OPEN



### Do you have gorse ?

The Victorian Gorse Taskforce (VGT) is calling for grant applications for their 2024/2025 Community Grants Program.

The VGT are interested in supporting groups of landholders, looking to control gorse on their properties, that are supported by a community group organisation.



For more information visit: [www.vicgorsetaskforce.com.au](http://www.vicgorsetaskforce.com.au)

Send your inquiry to: [info@vicgorsetaskforce.com.au](mailto:info@vicgorsetaskforce.com.au)

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## 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](http://www.barraboolhillslandcare.org.au) or email us at [barraboolhillslandcare@gmail.com](mailto:barraboolhillslandcare@gmail.com)

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## 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](mailto:barraboolhillslandcare@gmail.com). Deadline for next issue is 16/07/24.

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/](http://www.facebook.com/BarraboolHillsLandcare/)

**Website:** [www.barraboolhillslandcare.org.au](http://www.barraboolhillslandcare.org.au)

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

# 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](http://www.barraboolhillslandcare.org.au) or email us at [barraboolhillslandcare@gmail.com](mailto:barraboolhillslandcare@gmail.com)