



Barrabool Hills Ceres at sunset (Send us your favourite photo for future editions.)

Barrabool Hills Landcare Newsletter

August 2013

Tackling Degraded Escarpments and Gullies to improve water quality in the mid Barwon –Project Update

The role of the Geelong Landcare Network is to assist local landcare groups to achieve their vision for the landscape, and this 12 month project was developed in conjunction with the Barrabool Hills group. The Barrabool Hills group have for some time been trying to get support off stream to deal with degraded gullies and escarpments, so we were very excited to receive the \$40,000 from the Corangamite Landcare Program, funded by the state government in July 2012.

The project has involved five large sites along steep escarpments and gullies along the mid-Barwon catchment area. The project aimed to erect 3 km of fencing and plant 10,000 trees and shrubs and by the end of August this will have been achieved.

Each of the five sites had its challenges, whether steep and north facing or subject to significant gully erosion. The sites are sprawled across the Barrabool Hills catchment

area. The landholders provide half of the fencing costs and all the costs of site preparation and pest plant and animal control, and the trees, shrubs and guards are funded through the grant. The project has helped build positive landscape scale change whilst educating and assisting local landholders achieve their own aims and objectives. Of the six projects, three participants are relatively newcomers to landcare. Each have looked over boundaries fences and been inspired by the results of rehabilitation on highly degraded areas over time.

Completed Planting on Peter Graham's escarpment at Murgheboluc.



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A Letter from Fiji

Mike Shawcross

The local Landcare group is called the Siberia Landcare Group and was founded in November 2012. It is a catchment of 3 rivers all similar in size to the Barwon River and they all meet at the main commercial town on the North Island. The town is Labasa and its main industries are sugar cane and timber although both seem to be in a decline. It is also the main centre for government services in the north. It lies on a flat narrow section of land about 2 mtrs above sea level similar to Moolap or the reedy lakes and has a population of about 25,000 and has an annual rainfall of about 3 mtrs.

I hope your painting a picture in your mind of the size of the floods that they sometimes get here, The upper catchment is massive compared to the discharge area and some times it can be sunny for days and a flash flood arrives without any warning. Hence the need to try and form a community land care group to try and address some of the issues of deforestation and erosion in the upper area that affects the town and cane fields so badly

I have had some great conversations with the facilitator and have agreed to speak at their next group meeting and try to encourage the upper catchment landholders into better land management practices. and visit their demonstration site. The family are all well and the kids love the local school and have settled in really well.

I myself have just secured an assignment with Australian Red Cross as a Disaster Preparedness Coordination Manager working for

Fiji Red Cross helping vulnerable communities plan for and address future cyclones, tsunamis, and floods

Frogs in the Garden

Geoff Anson

and disaster recovery strategies and planning .

This year we have had the pleasure of finding a thriving frog population in an old well near our house in McMullans Road. Not knowing anything about frogs we sent photos to the Melbourne Water frog census. (frogs@melbournewater.com.au) We received some great feedback and are hoping to see our numbers growing in the future. Part of the response was:

“You have a great diversity of frogs on your property, which is a good indication that you must be doing something right with your land management. The stout frog is a pobblebonk or banjo frog ([Limnodynastes dumerili](#)).



Pobblebrook Frog

The frog (in pic 2) is most likely a whistling tree frog ([Litoria verreauxi](#)) by its size, but could possibly be a

southern brown tree frog. It’s a bit hard to tell from the photo.



Whistling Tree Frog (?)

What’s most exciting are the green frogs (Photo 3). These are the endangered growling grass frog ([Litoria raniformis](#)) and a fantastic find for your farm.



Growling Grass Frog on a dead possum (not our drinking water).

I see you’ve attached a plank to the grate above the well, was this for the frogs? It’s definitely a good move, as most new adults would drown without an easy way out of a steep sided well. Surprised you’re not hearing any calls from them, as these species are particularly vocal and loud. I’ve heard the whistling tree frogs from a kilometre away. You’re certain to hear them in spring and summer in any case.”

Let us have other stories and photos to share with members.

Legislative Changes to Roadside Pest Plant and Animal Management

Kate Smallwood
Environment & Open Space
Coordinator
Surf Coast Shire

On 29 May 2013, the State Government introduced its proposed legislative changes regarding responsibility for management of roadside weeds and pests. Under the *Catchment and Land Protection Amendment Bill 2013*, Councils will be responsible for management of regionally prohibited and regionally controlled weeds and established pest animals on municipal roadsides. Councils will also be required to develop a Roadside Weed and Pest Animal Management Plan and submit it to the State Government for approval. The plan must set out a program of reasonable measures to be taken by the council to reduce the adverse impact of identified regionally prohibited and regionally controlled weeds and pest animals on municipal roadsides and

Barwon Ridge Wines

Enjoy award winning wine grown in the Barrabool Hills. Geoff and Joan Anson offer cool climate Marsanne, Pinot Noir, Shiraz, Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon grown on our our property at 50 McMullans Road, Barrabool.

For tasting or orders ring Geoff on 0418324632

For more information go to www.barwonridge.com.au

surrounding land. The program of measures must support weed and pest animal management programs landowners in the municipal district are undertaking and protect the infrastructure and environmental value of roadsides.

Recognising that Council resources and State Government funding for pest plant and animal management are not infinite, the Bill does protect Councils from being issued with an infringement notice under the Catchment and Land Protection Act if the Council has an approved Roadside Weed and Pest Animal Management Plan in place and is implementing the Plan.

Copies of both the Bill and an Explanatory Memorandum about the Bill are available online at http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/domino/W eb_Notes/LDMS/PubPDocs.nsf/ee665e366dc b6cb0ca256da400837f6b/89be5015cb7c4c0a ca257b7900228778!OpenDocument

Barwon Water Community Nursery Trees

Over the last 6-7 months members of the group have sown and nurtured 3500 indigenous trees and shrubs grown from seed collected locally.

Thank you to all those who helped, especially Gordon and Jillian Rough and the staff at the nursery.

Most of these seedlings have now been sown across the Barrabool Hills. There are a few remaining, still too small to plant out. We will notify members by email when these are ready to sow.

Barrabool Hills Gorse Project

There is still some funds left in this budget for incentives for controlling Gorse in the Barrabool Hills.

Any one still interested please contact Jim Seager phone: 0409935700



*BHLG Annual
 Community Tree
 Planting. Sat 27th July.*

Events and group news.

Notice of Annual General Meeting of the Barrabool Hills Landcare Group

Wednesday 21st August, 7.30pm at the Barrabool Hills Uniting Church hall.

Nominations are sought for the positions of:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Up to 4 additional Committee of Management positions

Please bring a plate of refreshments.

AGM Guest Speaker - Productive & Persistent Pastures

Lisa Miller, Southern Farming Systems(SFS)

We are fortunate to have Lisa Miller to present at our next meeting. Lisa will discuss the key factors that are needed to get right (with a focus on the Barrabool Hills) when establishing and managing perennial pastures and giving us a brief insight into the Cutting Edge Pasture Research planned for the Meat and Livestock Association /SFS participatory project.

Upcoming meetings for your diary

15th October – Ordinary meeting

Guest Speaker Mandy Coulson - Project Officer for the Geelong Landcare Network's Biodiversity Grant will be talking about the project and asking for "Expressions of Interest" for planting in 2014

17th December - Christmas Break up

"Wine growing in the Barrabool Hills - then and now " - Geoff Anson from Barwon Ridge Wines followed by wine tasting and BBQ.

Get your newsletter faster and save resources.

Most of us now have email access and so we encourage members to change from paper newsletters to email copies. **From the next newsletter copies will be emailed to all members who have provided an email address.** Confirm your address to Brent Rodden at nidgee@reachnet.com.au.

Rabbit baiting.

We will be gearing up again for another rabbit baiting program within the next couple of months.

Watch out for the "YELLOW notice" with details of how to order your bait and the dates for February 2014.

Barrabool Hills Landcare website

Check out our web site for interesting news items and links. See the most recent upload concerning the salt levels in the Barwon over the last summer. All newsletters and minutes are available on this site. <http://corangamite.landcarevic.net.au/barrabool-hills>

New Barrabool Hills Sprayer

The new sprayer is up and running, housed at Neville Trotter's (phone : 0428811009)

The sprayer has a 400l tank, 4m boom, and 50 m spray line. The trailer has a towball hitch. Neville has made removeable rear lights to enable road travel



Let your fellow members know what is happening in the Barrabool Hills. Contributions to the newsletter are encouraged. Send articles and photos to geoffanson@mac.com.

Advertise your Barrabool Hills business in the newsletter \$30 per issue (space allowing).

The newsletter is printed through the generosity of Andrew Katos, State Member for South Barwon.