



TREE TALK

A newsletter published by the Upper Barwon Landcare Network

1/58 Main Street
Birregurra 3242

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Successful Grantees of over \$1 Million in Federal Funding - announced at the National Landcare Conference



The Upper Barwon Landcare Network acknowledge the Traditional Custodians having been part of this land for at least sixty-five millennia and that all Australians can learn from their stewardship.

We believe that the descendants of those Traditional Custodians should be consulted respectfully on matters that affect their culture and wellbeing



LANDCARE IN THE UPPER BARWON REGION

Supporting the areas of:

Bambra, Barwon Downs, Birregurra, Deans Marsh, Eurack, Forrest, Gerangamete, Gherang, Irrewarra, Murroon, Ombersley, Pennyroyal, Wurdale, Wensleydale, Winchelsea, Wurdiboluc and Yeodene



UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Multispecies Crop and Seeder Demonstration

Winchelsea

Date to come - early 2026

UBLN Annual Social and Planning Gathering

Location - to come

Date to come - late Feb 2026

Expressions of Interest (EOI) for participating in Climate Smart Project

Watch this space - coming soon !



GROUNDED FESTIVAL

Yan Yan Gurt West Farm

Wed 22 & Thurs 23 April 2026

Billet/Host a GROUNDED Speaker

please register your interest via email:

hello@groundedaustralia.com.au (more info see flyer pg 26)

Volunteers, Food Vendors and Stall Holders at GROUNDED

please register your interest here:

<https://groundedaustralia.com.au/contributors-partners/>

UPPER BARWON LANDCARE NETWORK - Successful grantees of over \$1 Million in Federal Funding

We are excited to announce over \$1 Million in funding awarded to the Upper Barwon Landcare Network (UBLN) as the lead agency from the Australian Government through the Climate Smart Agriculture Program, under the Natural Heritage Trust.

Our project - "Leading farmer adoption of sustainable agriculture for climate resilience" will be delivered in partnership with a number of different Landcare networks including, the Central Otway Landcare Network, (COLN), Heytesbury District Landcare Network (HDLN), Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Network (WCLN); Traditional Owners through the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC); the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA) and with independent not-for-profit organisation - Soils for Life and through a GROUNDED Australia conference festival field day.

Let's Celebrate !!!

The announcement was made by the Hon. Julie Collins Federal Minister for Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry during her presentation at the 2025 National Landcare Conference on the Gold Coast in late September.

Andrea Montgomery, Landcare Facilitator and Kristy Stewart, Project Manager from the UBLN, Karen O'Keefe, Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator with the CCMA and Geoff Rollinson, Senior Landcare Facilitator at WCLN - the main drivers, innovators and brains behind the project were also attending the conference and had the amazing opportunity to chat and get a photo with Julie Collins at the beginning of the National Landcare Awards and Gala dinner on the final night of the conference.

Round 2 of the Capacity Building Grants stream of the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program offered funding to projects that aimed to help farmers more easily understand their emissions and adopt climate-smart practices. The funding is sourced from the Natural Heritage Trust.

Over \$1 million had been awarded to the Upper Barwon Landcare Network towards training and mentoring that will support farmers improve their sustainability by adopting best practice climate-smart agricultural techniques.

The project kicks off with a 2 day GROUNDED Festival in Autumn 2026 at Yan Yan Gurt West Farm where the Stewart family - leaders in sustainable agriculture field practice regenerative farming practices and agro-forestry on their prime lamb producing property in the Otway's region of Victoria. GROUNDED is a hybrid event bringing aspects of a conference, field day and food festival together inspired by Groundswell in the UK.

The remainder of the project will run over the course of 3 years with a selection of farmers and their properties receiving training, workshops, mentorship and an evolving community through a newly developed program that will be the beginnings of the supported transition from traditional to sustainable agriculture in our region.

For more information or to get involved please get in touch.

Andrea Montgomery, the Hon. Julie Collins Federal Minister for Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry and Kristy Stewart meeting and chatting about the successful project



NATIONAL LANDCARE CONFERENCE & AWARDS 2025

Andrea, Kristy and Ellen were fortunate enough to be supported to attend the National Landcare Conference held on the Gold Coast, Queensland in September.

Kristy arrived first and took the time to go out on Country by attending the First Nations Landcare Gathering at Guanaba, an Indigenous Protected Area on Kombumerri Country, home of the Yugambeh language group and part of the wider Bundjalung nation. She said it was really good and that she enjoyed the experience, connecting with Country and others by getting her feet wet, yarning and listening.

The following 2 days were spent attending a diverse array of concurrent stream sessions of which there was around 125 in total. It was an amazing opportunity to hear how other groups in different environments and climates across the whole of Australia explore, achieve and learn through our common goal of caring for the land. A significant highlight was witnessing all the collaborations of different groups and organisations bringing together the right mix of resources to make things happen and the important learnings that came out of what didn't go to plan.

From Wadawarrung, Moorabool Catchment Landcare and QLD University of Technology using AI to help with tracking koala's; to heavy earthmoving machinery repairing the landscape after major landslides in the Hovell's Creek area of NSW likened to filling a tooth cavity; to our very own Andrea Montgomery and Karen O'Keefe (Corangamite CMA) showcasing community driven Landcare by showcasing "Small Blocks, Big Dreams".

Inter-mixed with the stream sessions were plenary sessions and panel discussions in the main area where we were addressed by a range of different notable

people across the agricultural and environment sectors.

Costa Georgiadis was a genuinely enthusiastic, energetic and emotive MC, a great connector, leveller and bringer together, both humbling us and giving us reason to celebrate at the same time! It was a definitely a high point for Ellen (a big Gardening Australia fan) to be in the same room and to see how he brought out the humanness in such a big group of people.

Some of the impactful take-aways were the focus on bringing in and working more closely with the younger generation and First Nations people. As well as the approach that was a strong theme throughout the 3 days of persevering until you find the common ground. That it's ok to meander and criss-cross, and take the time to find the common ground - this is what it means to build relationships based on trust and understanding.

The final day was set aside for field trips. Ellen and Andrea went on a ½ day field trip to the local Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens before flying back to Victoria. Kristy ventured out on a boat for the day.

Interestingly as the National Landcare Conference was ending the National Farmers Federation (NFF) Conference - AgXchange was beginning with a single day cross over - another example of and opportunity for networking and connection across the sectors.

We brought back with us endless inspiration and momentum, new ideas and deeper connections - thank you to the network for enabling us to attend - it really was extremely valuable.

Ellen Whitten, Communications Officer UBLN



Ellen, Karen, Andrea, Kristy and Caity



Gold Coast Botanical Garden



Costa Georgiadis and Panel:
Dr Kate Andrews, Dr Jody Gunn, Samantha Murray, Doug Humann AM



Sophie Small, Fiona Love, Bernie Malone, Beth Ross, Andrea Montgomery, Ellen Whitten, Karen O'Keefe, Andrea Mason, Kristy Stewart - Representing the Corangamite region of Victoria at the National Landcare Conference on the Gold Coast, QLD



Field trip tour of the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens - Rosser Park and morning tea with the Friends of the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens

SMALL BLOCKS BIG DREAMS ON THE NATIONAL STAGE

Andrea (UBLN) and Karen (CCMA) took the "Small Blocks Big Dreams" project on the plane up to the Gold Coast for the National Landcare Conference in September to present as one of the concurrent stream sessions.

The girls thought they had drawn the short straw when they saw the program - they were to present during the last session under the *Community Driven Landcare* banner on the last day - everyone is going to be over it, we're going to be talking to tired people they thought.

The presentation turned out very different, after such an interesting and engaging 2 days everyone was settled in and keen for more, conversation and ideas were flowing and people weren't ready for it to end. The room was full and there were lots of questions with only a few able to be answered due to time constraints. Some delegates from other states who live near or on the fringe of major cities could see how a model like this could really work in their area and were keen to chat with Andrea and Karen afterwards.

The Small Blocks Big Dreams pilot project was a collaboration between the Upper Barwon Landcare Network, Moorabool Catchment Landcare Network,

Central Otway Landcare, Southern Otway Landcare Network and Bellarine Landcare Group and the Corangamite CMA.

It targets the emerging demographic of smaller sized peri-urban properties such as those ran by small producers, lifestyle/bush block owners, and horse owners. Its aim is helping them to view the landscape as a whole at both property and catchment scale.

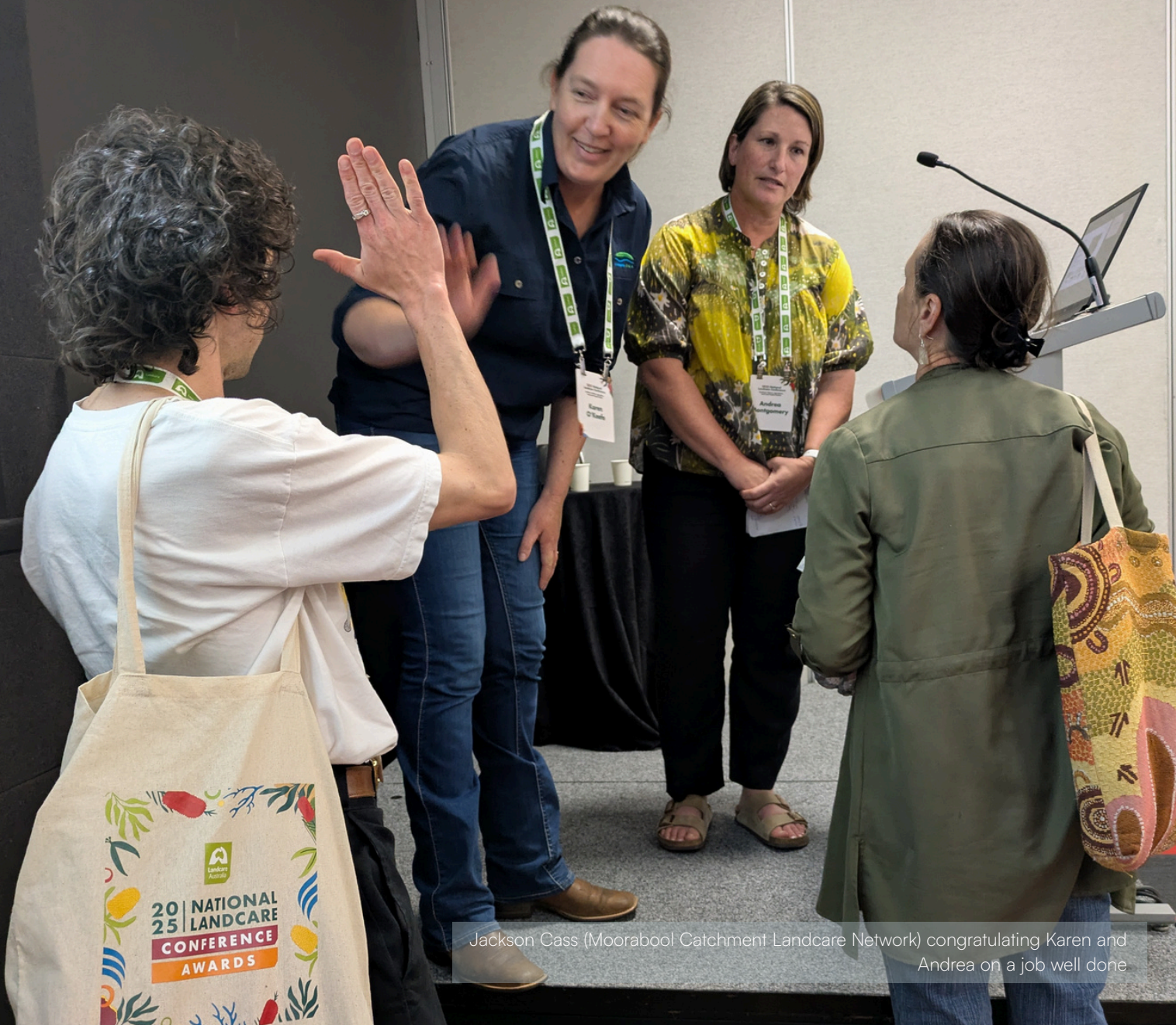
The project supported landholders in increasing skills and knowledge of their property's natural resources through tailored workshops focussing on water, soil, biodiversity and pest weed and animal management unique to their property.

Participants were also able to meet and connect with fellow landholders meeting similar challenges and came away with options and advice of strategies they can implement at a small scale and together will contribute to wider positive landscape change.

After being so successful and popular the Corangamite CMA and Heytesbury District Landcare Network are continuing the project and delivering another Small Blocks Big Dreams workshop series focussing in Heytesbury area at the moment.



Karen O'Keefe and Andrea Montgomery presenting "Small Blocks, Big Dreams" as an example of Community-Driven Landcare at the National Landcare Conference



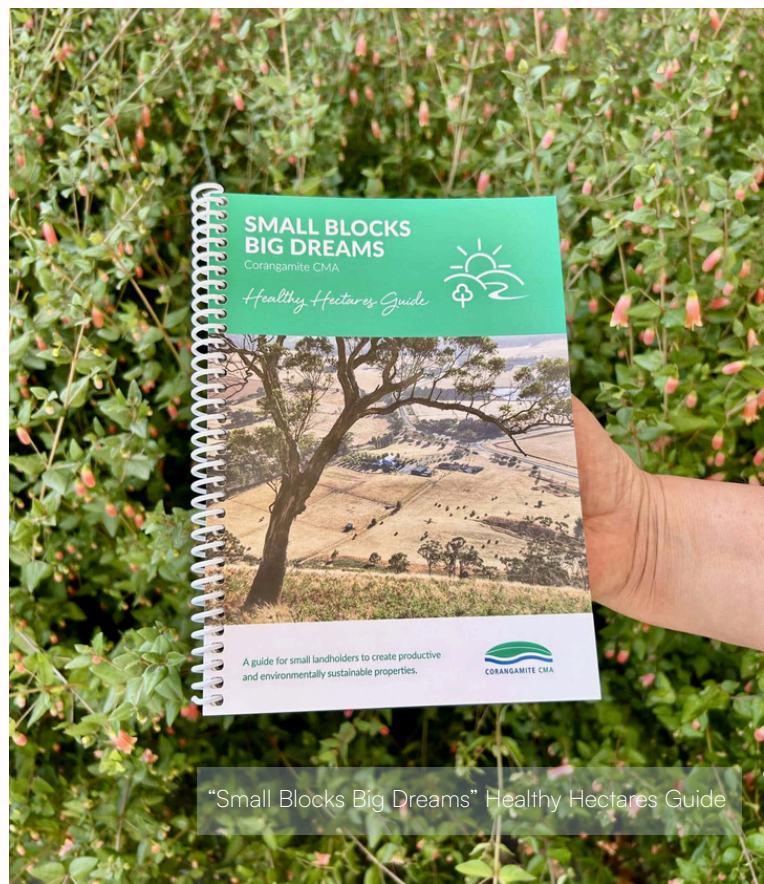
Jackson Cass (Moorabool Catchment Landcare Network) congratulating Karen and Andrea on a job well done

Small Blocks Big Dreams Healthy Hectares Guide

Launched during Landcare Week 2024, this free, easy reference guide helps small landholders in the Corangamite region create productive and environmentally sustainable properties.

The UBLN Office has a number of A5 copies or request a digital version by following the link below.

<https://ccma.vic.gov.au/small-blocks-big-dreams-healthy-hectares-guide-download-request/>



"Small Blocks Big Dreams" Healthy Hectares Guide

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION FORUM

COLAC OTWAY SHIRE, 10 September 2025

Peter Greig

This was the fourth biannual forum run by the shire, with the aim of helping the shire and community groups better understand and collaborate on shared concerns related to climate change.

Thirteen local participants attended in the morning, joined by three representatives from **Geelong Sustainability** after lunch. Groups represented were **Colac Otway Climate Action Team (CAT)**; **Central Otways** and **Upper Barwon Landcare Networks**; and **Colac Otway Sustainability Group (COSG)**.

The shire had three representatives and its facilitator, not including **Dora Novak**, who had hosted the previous forums. Dora was promoted to Manager Sustainable Environments, and her area now also encompasses and specialises in waste management.

Jeff Cooke from CAT (5 representatives) said they were a “critical friend” of the shire, monitoring the drafting and execution of policies and plans — particularly the Colac Climate Action Plan.

Andy Gray from COLN (2 representatives) spoke of working with schools on climate resilience; with CEC (Cape Otway Centre for Conservation Ecology); with OAN (Otway Agroforestry Network) on a “master tree program”; and with Acciona (Gellibrand wind farm) to get tree-planting on farms. A recent initiative is to work with **Cultura**, a community-based migrant assistance service, to involve migrants in Landcare activities.

Andrea Montgomery from UBLN told of educative webinars on “manufactured” (or recycled) water; and on “resilient farming”, as well as on-going tree-planting activities. They also interact regularly with Friends of the Barwon, and the statewide **Concerned Waterways Alliance**.

Peter Greig from COSG said the group was under new leadership, and its main activity now was to auspice the **Colac Repair Café**. It is still very interested in community and individual renewable energy activity.

Trey Spokes from Colac Otway Shire (COS) mentioned the shire’s work on **canopy monitoring and management** (including urban tree planting) as well as water use monitoring (noting that their biggest consumer is the Botanic Gardens). A current big project (\$349,000 from DEECA) is the revegetation of **Barongarook Creek** from the highway to Forest Street. Fourteen schools and some community groups will be involved, and South West TAFE will be monitoring progress.

Adrian Whitehead from COS described an educative tool called **The Adaptation Game**, in the style of “Monopoly”, but with players required to contemplate for a particular region shown on a real map the consequences of alternative climate change scenarios on familiar activities and living conditions. Adrian had used this game in another municipality, and is hoping to get approval for \$10,000 to acquire it for COS, together with a per-game fee of \$300. Each game requires four players and one facilitator.

Geelong Sustainability (GS)

Emilie Flynn described GS as largely volunteer-based and “not-for-profit” organization, but like Landcare, now has paid facilitators, like herself, and colleagues Emma and Paris.

Its *raison d’être* (reason for being) is all about climate action; its focus is on community and households; and its scope includes all the southwest region. The following three programs were described in some detail:

- Electric Homes program,
- Community Power Hub program, and
- Climate Resilience Training program.

Its Electric Homes program has been running for three years, and promotes households converting all appliances to electric. Emilie noted that the financial barriers are high, even though the savings (around

\$5000/year) ultimately cover the initial capital costs. GS helps by finding reliable suppliers, and providing rebates to offset some of the capital costs.

Participants recognize the non-financial benefits too, such as: health benefits from fewer air contaminants from gas and wood-fired heating; and the environmental benefits of fewer greenhouse gas emissions.

The program involves several stages: first, solar panels and maybe a battery; then adding insulation and draft-proofing; then induction cooktops; and possibly an electric vehicle and home-charger; and finally, electric bikes and scooters.

Some old houses need a switchboard upgrade; and a fee (now \$200, not \$1500 earlier) to disconnect the gas supply.

To get started, households need to pay \$350 for an audit of their power bills.

Emma Chessell outlined GS's **Community Power Hub** program, which provides *free* help to community NFPs (like sports clubs, community groups, etc.) to cut energy costs and emissions, through improving efficiency, assessing tariffs, installing solar panels and batteries. Improving efficiency saved on energy costs typically around \$1500/year.

She quoted three examples from around Geelong: one was a local council historical museum; another a community housing establishment; and the YMCA.

Each, like the electric homes program, started with an energy audit (free). In some cases, zero interest loans were provided from the **Community Energy Revolving Fund**. In others, some grant money was made available.

Some participants chose to enter the **Community Energy Revolving Fund** which provides interest-free loans for initial capital costs from donations from community members and philanthropic seed funding (mix of loans, grants and gifts and the interest costs are paid by savings in annual energy bills) of which are typically paid of over five years or so.

GS has helped 66 organizations install 88 systems in this way. The participating organisation would be

responsible for maintaining the assets, not the council owner.

The **Climate Resilience Training** program was elaborated by **Emilie Flynn**, who said the aim was to create "challenge-ready communities", and it involved: four training sessions; to activate communities; and to connect government agencies, corporations and not-for-profits in the endeavor.

"Resilience" in this context includes several dimensions: cultural; economic; natural; built; health/safety and social. The training sessions involve two full days and two half-days, and GS are looking for opportunities in Colac to extend this program.

One particular element in the resilience program is **Climate Safe Rooms** for houses of vulnerable people. One room would be modified to remain "comfortable" during extreme heat events, by improving insulation, drafts, and windows, and sometimes adding air-conditioning. Ten homes in Geelong have been so modified with State government support. The measured improvements in energy savings have been considerable, along with savings in external health costs avoided for vulnerable occupants.

Next Forum

Nicola Mendleson from COS advised that another forum was planned for March next year, and suggested some possible topics:

- Microgrids, and EV bi-directional chargers;
- Farmers resistant to renewable energy;
- Street trees; and
- Adaptation Game (see above).



BIRREGURRA LANDCARE GROUP - Barwon River Green Links Project

Ellen Whitten, UBLN Communications Officer



Community Planting Day - Welcome and briefing before planting begins

You may have noticed some interesting looking tall tree guards down at the river along Barwon Street in Birregurra...

These and some smaller guards are protecting 161 various species of canopy trees including both wattle (*Acacia* species) and gums (*Eucalyptus* species). These along with 144 shrubs and small trees (including species of Sweet Bursaria, Tea-tree and Tree Violet) and 600 grasses (including sedges, rushes and common tussock grass (*Poa labillardierei*)) were planted and mulched on the Green Links Birregurra Community Planting Day on Friday 26 September 2025.

The Community Planting Day was coordinated by the Upper Barwon Landcare Network and the Birregurra Landcare Group with the support of the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority. Special thanks to Ellen Whitten (UBLN), Ian Fox, Claire Dennis (Birregurra Landcare) and Ben Vasic (CCMA) for making the day run smoothly.

Thank you too to The Birregurra General Store for your friendly and accommodating service and our generous morning tea

Birregurra Landcare Group also complemented the community planting day's efforts with another large-scale planting at Bowden Street. The group has planted, guarded and mulched 320 grasses,

100 shrubs and small trees and 94 canopy trees through 3 of their regular Tuesday morning working bees at this site.

In total approximately 1,420 locally indigenous plants were settled into the ground at the Barwon River in Birregurra township as part of the Green Links project. This project focuses on improving the health and amenity of our waterways in urban areas and/or townships and how this in turn provides environmental, cultural, and social benefits.

Funding for this revegetation project was provided by the Victorian Government through the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). It was delivered by the Upper Barwon Landcare Network and the Birregurra Landcare Group in partnership with the Corangamite CMA as part of the Green Links Program. The project — "*Green Links — Connecting Riparian Corridors through Birregurra, Shelford and Meredith to Maude*" aimed to achieve connectivity and revegetation of riparian zones in three specific sections of waterway within the Barwon catchment. The areas revegetated at Birregurra fall into the Barwon River from Yeo Streamside Reserve at Colac-Lorne Road downstream to Conns Lane section.

This successful start to the Green Links project for the Birregurra section will put the area in a positive position over the coming years to re-connect degraded and fragmented sections of the Barwon River riparian zone, in turn providing greater protection and richer, more

supportive habitat for its vulnerable flora and fauna. Participation in this project strengthened community connection to this area and within the community itself.

Thank you to Otway Greening Australian Plant Nursery for supplying the majority of the plants, along with those involved in the propagation and care of River Red Gums, Sweet Bursaria, Woolly Tea tree and River Tea tree within the Birregurra Landcare Group.

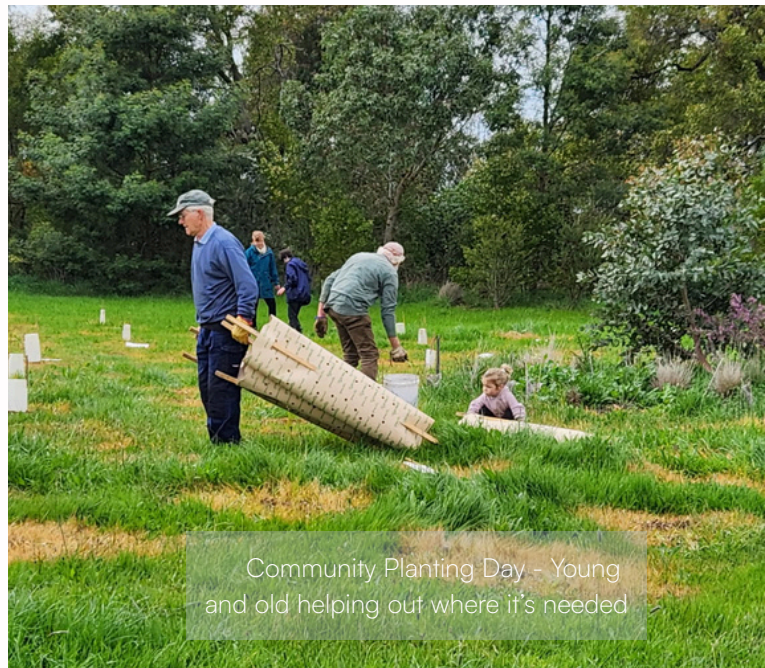
We've had significant rain in weeks of and after the planting took place which has helped water in and

establish the new plants as well as support the spring growth of the grass surrounding them!— so if you are out and about near the river feel free to do some spontaneous weeding if you see any plants looking like they need a bit of breathing space.

Of note is the continuous presence of dedicated members of the Birregurra Landcare Group and wider Birregurra community at the site caring for the new plants with attentive mowing and weeding over the growing season.



Community Planting Day - Sarah Brien and Ben Vasic (CCMA) making tree guards



Community Planting Day - Young and old helping out where it's needed



Community Planting Day - Some plants in the ground and guards up still lots of holes yet to fill



Birregurra Landcare Group Tuesday Working Bee at Bowden Street, Birregurra plants guarded and mulched



12
Birregurra Landcare Group Tuesday Working Bee at Bowden Street, tractor loader bucket helping with the mulching

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN

- Barwon Park, Winchelsea

Ellen Whitten, UBLN Communications Officer



Barwon Park Mansion in her glory welcoming the women in

Corangamite Rural Women's Network

Women on Ag / NRM Boards and Leadership Forum

On a warm spring Thursday 16th of October in 2025 the Corangamite Rural Women's Network brought together women from across the region to Barwon Park, Winchelsea to honour International Rural Women's Day with a Women on Agriculture / Natural Resource Management (NRM) Boards and Leadership Forum.

Melinda Kennedy of Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Corporation welcomed us to Country with a moving smoking ceremony before we walked through the grand main entrance of Barwon Park Mansion. Inside Catherine Jenkins (former chair of the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA) Board and newly appointed Director at Southern Rural Water (SRW) welcomed and facilitated the day and threw in valuable bite sized pieces of advice, wisdom and open questions throughout.

We were graced by the Barwon Park **Her**-story from Claudette Brennan, of the National Trust, Victorian Branch Network - a perspective from Elizabeth Austin, a formidable female pioneer, wife to Thomas Austin who together ran the property and built the mansion now cared for by the National Trust Victoria. The Austin name is often associated with the Duke of Edinburgh visit to Australia, releasing rabbits and founders of the Austin Hospital. According to records it was in fact Elizabeth Austin, one of Victoria's earliest philanthropists that gifted a large sum of money to support the hospital in its beginnings. Elizabeth doing so after her husband Thomas' death.

Elizabeth had to give the donation in Thomas' name, because women didn't have authority for those actions at the time.

A pre-recorded personal video was shown of Claire Braund OAM which gave some background into her life and experience and advocacy for the 40:40:20 concept (40% women, 40% men and 20% either and/ or other genders) for representation on boards and where the Women on Boards organisation, membership and online platform she founded can come in to support women who are interested in stepping into a board and/ or leadership role. Claire was recently awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her service to business, women and the Central Coast (of NSW, where she lives).

Alana Johnson AM encouraged as to look over our shoulder and remember the women before us and what they endured to make it possible for us to have the lives and opportunities we have today, encouraging us to also be brave and creative and re-make what isn't working that suits both women better and also benefits men. Alana is currently Chair of The Victorian Women's Trust — an advocacy body whose vision is a world where full gender equality is recognised. Alana is also a founding member of Australian Women in Agriculture, and she has served on many boards and advisory bodies and has been recognised for her contributions by receiving a Member of the Order of Australia for her outstanding service to women.

Jo Plummer, past Chair of the Barwon Water Group, recently stepping away after 10 years as Chair, currently Board Chair of the Country Fire Authority (CFA),

Board Chair of Boomaroo Nurseries, an AICD (Australian Institute of Company Directors) Fellow & Faculty member and Director of her own company Out of the Box Executive that specialises in board performance and evaluation specialist welcomed us into her life next.

She, shared with us that it was a big surprise to her winning the Geelong Business Leader of the Year at the 2024 Geelong Business Excellence Awards. Jo explained that she is here to unlock the spark of women, she believes the best is yet to come. She sees women as well placed when it comes to building the relationships we need to ensure a promising future, those with Australia's Traditional Owners and the next generation.

One of her poignant take-aways for dealing with difficult situations and decisions is to remind herself and us that we and the person on the other side of the table are human beings first, before any job title or position. With this in mind, we can then ask ourselves "how do I need to be in this moment" and the steps forward will naturally unfold.

A Panel session with Alana Johnson, Andrea Mason, Olivia Lawson, and Ella Credlin facilitated by Cath Jenkins gave us real and human insights into their contrasting experience on different boards, advisory groups and councils across both the agricultural and natural resource management sectors. A common thread they all shared within their journeys was their own unique 'why' - or what motivates them. Understanding their why helped them know what they could individually bring to the table, room or conversation at a high level for decision making that could then filter down to make a difference at grassroots level, giving them motivation to keep showing up.

What might not seem apparent when you look at them and their full CV's now is they each started their journey at community level - putting their hand up at a sporting club or for a school or kinder committee ... most of us have the beginnings of skills required if we are interested and now know who we can reach out to for support along the way.

Thank you to the women elders, matriarch's of our community who reminded us younger folk to remove the 'just' in when we are explaining who we are and what we do, we aren't just women, just mothers, just

working a couple of days a week, just in administration, in these roles we do so much, we are powerful, important and what we do and how we do it matters.

Thank you to the National Trust Australia (Victoria) for the insights and valuable maintenance and treasuring of our **history** and **heritage** across the state and especially with what you do and share of Barwon Mansion an iconic landmark in our region.

The day provided a great opportunity for everyone to meet, connect, network and support each other.

We were very generously fed by Café La Hoot, Winchelsea and Birregurra Grocer, Birregurra, local businesses run by wonderful women.

The day was made possible through The Diverse Farms, Resilient Catchments project, that is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program and through the "Look Over the Farm Gate" community grants program administered by the National Centre for Farmer Health on behalf of the Victorian Government. It was coordinated by the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Upper Barwon Landcare Network and the Corangamite Rural Women's Network members.



Women greeting each other under the Barwon Park Mansion front verandah



Gathered together with Cath Jenkins getting the day started



View of Barwon Park Mansion from the driveway over a healthy crop

Digging Deep: The benefits of dung beetles in Agriculture - ID workshop

Andrea Montgomery, UBLN



In the paddock listening to Grace Evans



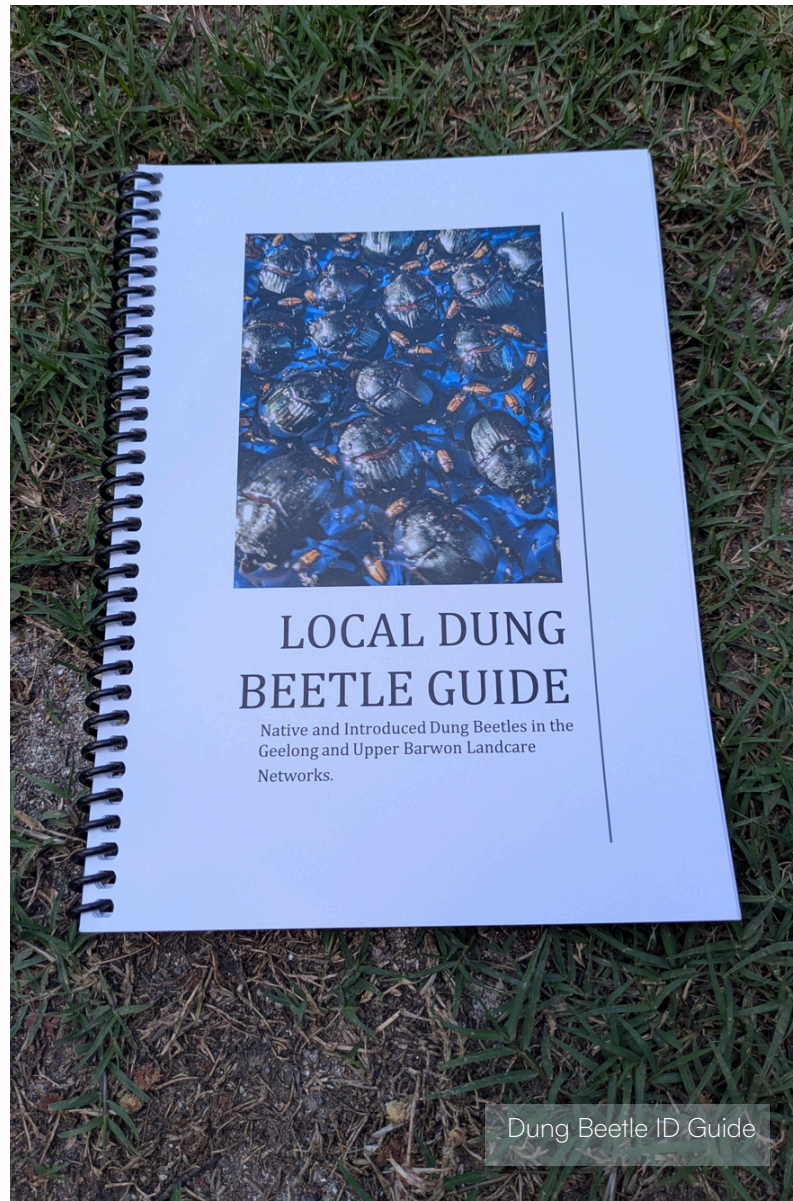
On a cold and windy Monday morning in October, a small group of landholders gathered in Gnarwarre to talk all things dung beetles. Grace Evans from Southern Farming Systems was spending some time across Bass Straight to impart her knowledge in beetle ID after making the move to Tasmania in the past 12 months.

Along with Geelong Landcare Network members and armed with the resources developed from our previous dung beetle surveying projects we were able to look at different identifying features of our local populations before heading out into the field to see what sort of activity was happening out in the paddock.

Thanks to Andrew Donnelly, who has participated in our dung beetle nursery project, for hosting us to discuss his nursery management, the successes and struggles he has had, and to talk about what populations are doing out in his paddock.

If you would like a copy of our dung beetle ID guide to see what might be working away in your paddock, get in touch with us and we can supply one.

Following are some photos taken for the ID component of the workshop and the heading picture above and final picture are taken of the group out in the field with a wild dung beetle that was found.



Learning how to ID a dung beetle



Learning how to ID a dung beetle





Dung beetle found in the field



The Diverse Farms, Resilient Catchment - growing diversity and resilience on-farms, in communities and across landscapes project is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate Smart Agriculture Program and delivered alongside Corangamite CMA a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel by Southern Farming Systems.

MT ROTHWELL SPOTLIGHT TOUR

Ellen Whitten, UBLN



Off the bus walking into the Biodiversity Interpretation Centre at Mt Rothwell

We held our eagerly awaited Mt Rothwell Spotlight Tour on Friday 25 October.

Members of our region jumped on the bus with pickups at Birregurra and Winchelsea, some travelled by car and met us at the Mt Rothwell Biodiversity Interpretation Centre located just northeast of the You Yangs Regional Park in between Geelong and Melbourne.

We cooked up and enjoyed a generous BBQ dinner using the fantastically equipped facilities of the biodiversity interpretation centre, sharing our company with a friendly Southern Brown Bandicoot and listening to the soul-stirring calls of the Bush Stone Curlew. As always, a true testament to the wonderful people that attend these events - thank you for your offers and action in helping set up, prepare, cook, pack up and clean up all the gear in time for us to set off on our tour.

As the sun set and the moon and stars came into view a clear, crisp and still evening gave us the perfect conditions to see native Australian mammals such as Eastern barred bandicoots, Southern brown bandicoots, bettongs (Eastern and/or Rufous), quolls (Eastern and/or Spotted-tailed) and Southern brush-tailed rock wallabies through a sensitive red lensed torch held by Steph and Laura our volunteer guides.

The 473 ha Odonata Foundation managed, almost entirely voluntarily run sanctuary is surrounded by 11 km of specially constructed low voltage electric fence that keeps foxes and cats out. It is not quite rabbit free, volunteers and conservation dogs are still actively

working on removing them entirely.

The area contains areas of remnant grasslands, woodlands and granite outcrops Rod Stone (Winchelsea Land & River Care Group) shared with us that he helped with controlling the rabbit population here in the late 1980's and early 1990's as he knew someone that worked here when the property was working as Mt Rothwell Pastoral Station by the Chirnside Family.

At the end of our walk we reached the top of Mt Rothwell, a relatively low peak in the landscape that was still high enough to give us a beautiful clear view of Melbourne's city lights and that of surrounding suburbs to the east silhouetting the frames of walkers and across to the industrial area of Geelong and Corio Bay and beyond and another silhouette of the taller peaks of the You Yangs and above it the southern cross in the sky,

Thank you Kenty's Bakery Winchelsea, Maquire Butcher Winchelsea and Geelong Fresh Foods for supplying our dinner. Thank you to Hutchinsons Buslines Birregurra for taking us there and home again.

Thank you to Andrea and Ellen for coordinating and organising the trip and dinner and to the Centre For Farmer Health "Over the Farm Gate" funding for giving us the opportunity to bring us together as a community and doing something fun, interesting and meaningful.





Looking down the driveway out of Mt Rothwell Biodiversity Interpretation Centre with the specialised fence on the left



Looking out to the lights of Melbourne from the peak of Mt Rothwell our group silhouetted against the night sky



Bringing **GROUND**ED FESTIVAL Australia 2026 to Victoria and remembering the **From the Ground Up Conference 2019**



Panel discussion - From the Ground Up Conference 18-20 Sept 2019

Upper Barwon Landcare Network and Central Otway Landcare Network are partnering with GROUNDED Australia to bring GROUNDED FESTIVAL to Victoria in 2026 and we can't wait for it to get here !!

You may have heard the news and are eagerly awaiting more information as excitement builds and we come together to bring this roaming farming, food and ecologically focussed festival to our region to take place on Gadabunud Country on the Stewart Family Farm, Yan Yan Gurt West, near Deans Marsh in the foothills of the Otways.

GROUND

ED 2026 is going to be bigger, go deeper and look wider. It's the next step in building on the conversations and education in regenerative farming practices the From the Ground Up - growing regenerative agriculture in Corangamite Conference brought to the region 7 years ago.

The following is an article from the Victorian Landcare Magazine Summer 2020 Issue 77 that explains how a group of farmers with the support of Landcare and the Corangamite CMA coordinated and ran what originally began as a 2 day conference that grew to a 3 day event bringing inter-state guest educators including Charlie Arnott as MC.



From the ground up — growing regenerative agriculture in Corangamite (Conference 2019)

Victorian Landcare Magazine - Summer 2020, Issue 77

What happens when a small Landcare group interested in regenerative agriculture wants to learn more and build a bigger network of like-minded farmers? They hold a three-day regional conference.

The Otway Coast Regenerative Farmers (OCRF) Group formed in 2013 when a small group of landowners met while attending a series of whole farm planning workshops run by the Southern Otway Landcare Network (SOLN). We became a new Landcare group and did a lot of learning in subsequent years, largely funded by sausage sizzles. In 2018 we decided to apply for Australian Government National Landcare Program funding to enable us to hold a comprehensive two-day conference — From the Ground Up: Growing Regenerative Agriculture in Corangamite.

Our application was successful and OCRF President Ros Denney set about contacting the best of the best in the quickly growing field of regenerative agricultural practices. Charlie Arnott agreed to be our master of ceremonies. A bio-dynamic farmer from Boorowa, NSW, and recipient of the 2018 Bob Hawke Landcare Award, Charlie was the hook and anchor during the conference and had an easy rapport with the audience.

The final line-up of speakers included internationally renowned soil ecologist Dr Christine Jones from NSW,



Coles Weekly Times Farmer of the Year Grant Sims, regenerative agriculture practitioner Kym Kruse from QLD, President of the Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance Tammi Jonas, and award-winning Natural Intelligence Farmers Ian and Dianne Haggerty from WA. The conference grew to a three-day event with concurrent sessions and a choice of field trips so a broad range of topics and case studies could be covered.

The conference was held at Colac from 18-20 September 2019. Tickets sold out two weeks in advance. We hosted 180 delegates from all over Victoria as well as Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, New South Wales and Queensland.

There were owners and managers of a variety of farming enterprises on properties of up to 3500 hectares, as well as service providers, consultants, catchment management, agency and Landcare staff.

The key message throughout the conference was the importance of looking after soil biology by nourishing the mycorrhiza, bacteria and fungi that work symbiotically with plant roots to source nutrient uptake, and support carbon sequestration.

Key message — put the soil first

Land managers were encouraged to move away from synthetic fertilisers, pesticides, herbicides and fungicides, and instead foster life within the soil through more natural means such as biofertilisers, significantly increasing plant diversity, attracting increased beneficial insect populations and establishing productive shelter belts.

The conference field trips demonstrated different aspects of the regenerative approach including organic dairy farming, agroforestry, water infiltration systems and cover cropping. Conference break-out sessions delved deeper into topics such as carbon sequestration, climate change preparedness, ethical foods and integrated pest management.

The other key lesson for delegates was the importance of developing communities of like-minded people to support each other in making the change to regenerative practices.

Many early adopters commented on how isolated they

felt when they started to change their practices. While it is undoubtedly much more enjoyable to farm this way, having a network of others to use as a resource and for support makes a big difference.

Local producers shine

The conference dinner was held at Otway Estate with chef Duncan Green showcasing a diverse range of produce from the region. More than 20 local producers contributed items for the menu. Food writer Richard Cornish gave the after-dinner speech and later congratulated the conference organisers.

“It was a stunning piece of education, community building and emotional affirmation. What an amazing collection of human beings.

It was like walking around a living library. So much information and experience in one place. It was a pleasure and privilege taking a small part in the conference,” Richard said.

Conference delegate John Carruthers, a landholder from central Victoria, was also impressed. “All great endeavours need a tipping point and I feel I’ve had the privilege to be at a fulcrum. The event’s magic for me was the mix of science and practice, and the remarkable ecosystem of speakers, providers, farmers and participants,” he said.

We were constantly impressed by the level of engagement from the 180 delegates. The new knowledge and enthusiasm that they have taken back to their communities is the best indicator of the conference’s success.

A conference of this scale is a major undertaking. It wouldn’t have been possible without a huge volunteer effort, and the collaboration between OCRF, the Corangamite CMA, SOLN and many other parties including the Central Otway Landcare Network and the Colac Otway Shire.

The OCRF group is now expanding beyond the Otway’s to become a source of regenerative farming information for all of Victoria.

Ally Hughes was Landcare Facilitator and Manager, Southern Otway Landcare Network until November 2019 and Helen Masters is Treasurer of the Otway

Coast Regenerative Farmers Group. Ally's position was funded through the Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program.

Since the 2019 conference Landcare has continued education and support for local farmers through ongoing workshops and everyday conversations in the regenerative agriculture space and in that time improvements and growing evidence of the wide range of economical, social, environmental and health benefits of this approach have become known.

We are very excited to bring a diverse mix of experienced and fresh knowledge holders to share what they know in the way of the GROUNDED Festival, a place to collaborate and meet other like-minded people while listening to music, eating locally produced food and enjoying doing it.

There are lots of different ticket options as well as discounted prices for locals thanks to the Corangamite CMA as well as opportunities to contribute in other ways as a volunteer, speaker, attend as a food vendor or stall holder or musician - head to the Grounded website for more information:



Tickets:

<https://groundedaustralia.com.au/event/grounded-festival-2026/>

Be a part of Grounded (Volunteer, food vendor, stall holder):

<https://groundedaustralia.com.au/contributors-partners/>

There is also an opportunity to host/billet a travelling speaker - please email facilitator@upperbarwonlandcare.com if you are interested.



From left conference speakers Colin Seis, Kym Kruse, Dr Christine Jones, Dianne Haggarty and Ian Haggarty - From the Ground Up Conference 18-20 Sept 2019



Delegates seated in CoPAC From the Ground Up Conference 18-20 Sept 2019

2026 | VICTORIA

GROUND E D F E S T I V A L



GROUND E D F E S T I V A L 2026

Australia's roaming festival for better farming, food and ecological care

Join us at Yan Yan Gurt West Farm near Deans Marsh, VIC for two days of bold conversations, standout speakers, hands-on workshops and paddock demonstrations across multiple stages.



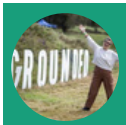
Inspiring Talks & Panels

Featuring over 40 international, national and local speakers, all curated by GROUNDED director, writer and farmer Matthew Evans.



On-Farm Demonstrations

Get hands-on in the field with demos, tours and workshops.



On-Farm Marketplace

Trade exhibitors alongside Landcare and community organisations.

Local food and beverages


Celebrate local producers with great food stalls and GROUNDED's 'Lazy Springtail' Bar.

Live Music & Camping On Site

Unwind with live music plus stay on-site and soak it all in!

GROUND E D F E S T I V A L 2026 is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program under the Natural Heritage Trust. This event is also supported by the Victorian Government through the Victorian Landcare Grants.

22-23 April 2026
Tickets On Sale Now!

www.groundedaustralia.com.au
Contact us at hello@groundedaustralia.com.au
 [@groundedaustralia](https://www.instagram.com/groundedaustralia)

2026 | VICTORIA

GROUNDNDED FESTIVAL

Speaker Host Information



BILLETING OPPORTUNITY FOR GROUNDED 2026 | YAN YAN GURT WEST FARM | 22–23 APRIL 2026

AN INVITATION TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

GROUNDED Festival is coming to the Otways in April, bringing together farmers, growers, ecologists, food producers, scientists, artists and community leaders from across Australia and around the world.

To make this event as welcoming and community-rooted as possible, we're seeking expressions of interest from local residents who may be able to host (billet) an incoming speaker or contributor during the festival.

Why billet a speaker?

Billeting has always been one of the most meaningful parts of GROUNDED. It brings visitors into real homes, fosters genuine connection, and helps us keep the festival grounded (literally) in the life of the region.

It's also a wonderful chance to:

- Meet and spend time with one of our speakers or contributors
- Learn from people doing inspiring work in farming, food and ecology
- Be part of the festival in a deeper, more personal way

What we're looking for:

Hosts located in or near Deans Marsh, Pennyroyal, Birregurra, Winchelsea, Forrest, or the surrounding Otways region who can offer:

- A private room/s
- A warm, welcoming environment
- Somewhere for 1 or more speakers to sleep for up to three nights during the festival
- A simple breakfast (we can supply muesli and milk if required)

We may not need every billet offered, but we are gathering a list of generous locals we can call on as speaker confirmations continue.

A thank you from us:

To thank you for supporting the festival and opening your home, all confirmed hosts will receive a \$50 food & drinks voucher to spend at GROUNDED 2026, should they choose to attend themselves. This can be used at any festival food vendor or bar onsite. And remember, locals are eligible to a 25% discount with the Community Ticket, an offer that's only open until February 1.

Interested?

If you're open to hosting a speaker, please send a short expression of interest to hello@groundedaustralia.com.au and include your name, location, and what type of space you can offer.

Thank you for helping us welcome our speakers into the Otways community - we couldn't do this without the support of people like you.



FERAL PIGS IN THE NORTHERN OTWAYS - Management Workshop Conservation Ecology Centre (CEC) & Agriculture Victoria

Ellen Whitten, UBLN

I attended this workshop held at Echidna House, Karwarren. It was delivered by Toni Stephens and James Templeton from the Conservation Ecology Centre together with Jason Wishart from Agriculture Victoria, Biosecurity. I found out a lot about feral pigs and their biology, how they impact the landscape and some really fascinating, interesting as well as humane and effective ways of controlling them.

The CEC focuses on managing the Otway's landscape across tenures for conservation with emerging and innovative strategies.

The CEC started monitoring and control of feral pigs in the Otways in 2018 and ran a campaign through the Wild Otways Initiative from 2020. More recently another grant has been secured through the Ian Potter Foundation to bring back the focus on feral pigs in the Otways because we have a chance of locally eradicating them while they are still in manageable numbers. This project provides free support to landholders in the northern Otways area in controlling feral pigs.

The way the animals move through the landscape create many impacts including the spreading of disease (including Japanese encephalitis), trampling and eating native vegetation and damaging buried cultural heritage artefacts, competing with native mammals, accelerating erosion and decreasing water quality. They cost the agricultural industry millions of dollars every year.

They are usually active at night so finding out whether they exist in an area depends on investigating signs of disturbance.

It is hard to get a gauge on how many feral pigs there are in an area at any one time due to their boom and bust type life cycle which is driven by the quality of the season. Over a good season their numbers can get out of control very quickly because they are prolific breeders. Our recent drought or poor season over the last couple of years has meant that their numbers are likely to be reduced which presents an advantageous opportunity to make a big impact with control and potentially locally eradicate them - which would be a really positive outcome.

The best method for control has proved to be trapping due to the mob-based behavior of pigs. In the past contract shooters have been engaged - however using this method has led to dispersing of the family group and ultimately reducing the total number being controlled.

In the case of trapping there is a chance of capturing and then controlling a whole family group which is much more effective with the use of remote sensing camera's and remote control trap closure. Using the remote control to close the trap gate as opposed to relying on a self-triggered trap closure has meant a team member can watch on camera and wait until the entire family mob of pigs is inside the trap before the gate is remotely closed resulting in a greater number of pigs being controlled at one time.

Once the pigs are in the trap they are humanely euthanised and samples are taken for testing. Samples taken can give us a range of information including what diseases feral pigs could be carrying and genetic information that gives us clues as to their origin and distribution and can help direct further strategic planning in their control.

This project needs our help to find out where the feral pigs are, so the working group can coordinate and place the traps in the best location to take advantage of and control the relatively small population and in turn protect our valuable natural ecosystems, agricultural land and community health.

There are a few ways you can report a feral pig sighting, get support in confirming potential feral pig evidence such as soil disturbance on your property or when you are out and about and contribute to the local eradication of feral pigs in the northern Otways.

The CEC is working with the *feralSCAN* app. developed by the Centre of Invasive Species Solutions. It is a community pest animal recording and management tool, where any records made through the app will immediately notify someone at the CEC. Download and use the app to record sightings and evidence of feral pig activity in your area.

You can also sent photos and a specific location reference e.g. a screen shot of where you are on google maps or map coordinates from your phone or via email directly to James from the CEC details below:

James Templeton
Conservation Project Manager
james.templeton@conservationecologycentre.org
0434 427 848

FeralSCAN

feralscan.org.au



feralSCAN app download

Google: [feralSCAN Pest Mapping](#)

Apple: [feralSCAN Pest Mapping](#)

Other useful resources include:

Centre for Invasive Species Solutions

<https://invasives.com.au/>



Pest Smart Website (part of Centre for Invasive Species Solutions)

<https://pestsmart.org.au/>



Agriculture Victoria - Feral or Wild Pig

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/pest-animals/established-pest-animal-species/pig-feral-or-wild>



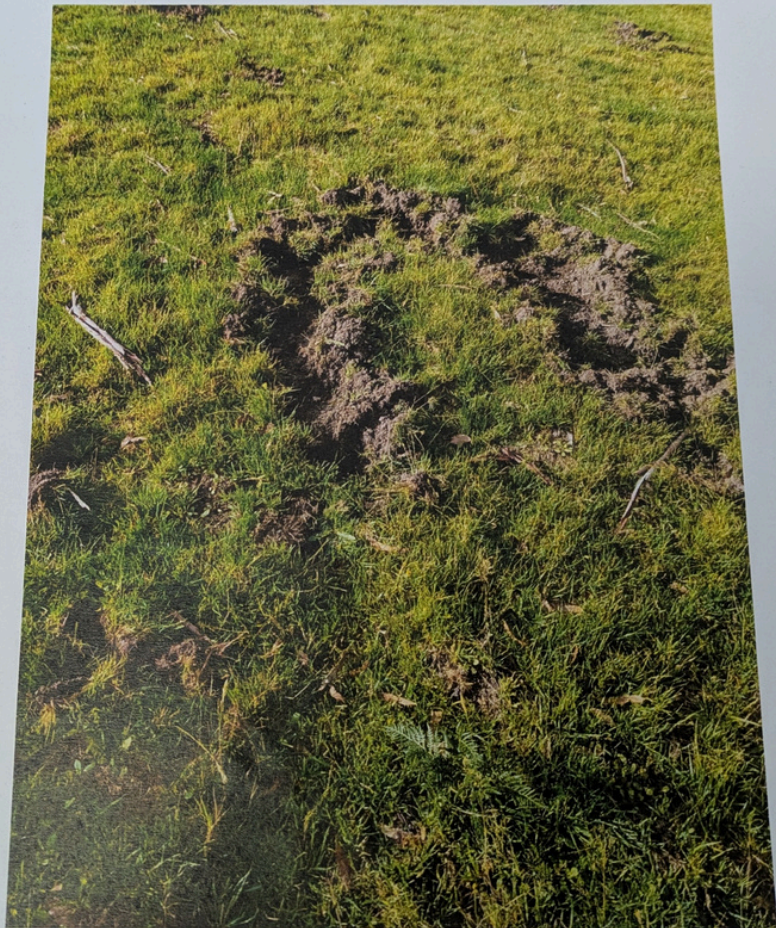
Photos of what feral pig ground disturbance can look like in pasture and the cochchafer larvae they are often foraging for





James Tempelton, CEC

Another example of evidence of feral pigs





Grass Trigger plants *Stylidium graminifolium* in full bloom behind Echidna House, Kawarren on the day of the CEC Feral Pig Workshop



Stylidium graminifolium Grass Trigger plant

BIRD IDENTIFICATION IN FORREST

Gerangamete Forrest Landcare Group

Freya Bennett



On Monday 17th November the Gerangamete Forrest Landcare Group was proud to host a bird identification event in Forrest with Parks Victoria bird experts and Forrest Primary school students.

We met down by Hennigan Crescent on the Barwon River in the drizzling rain but that didn't dampen the students' enthusiasm.

The group were expertly guided by James Gorman and Michael Mackenzie, starting with how to use binoculars and bird field guides to locate and identify birds.

James and Michael prepared a local species checklist that the students could complete and they set off along the river to start ticking off the list. The students were rewarded with a range of local birds along the waterway, and then the group moved into the area that the Landcare Group has revegetated along Hennigan Crescent. The students enjoyed spotting the birds and sharing their knowledge about them.

James and Michael also shared their expertise in identifying birds by their calls and some fantails and pardalotes called on cue. It was a pleasure to watch the students being present in the environment, observing, listening and noticing. We thank James and Michael for their expert guidance and look forward to more birdwatching in 2026.

If you would like to join or find out more information about the Gerangamete Forrest Landcare Group please get in touch:

email: gerangametelandcare@gmail.com



iNaturalist app INTRODUCTORY SESSION

Winchelsea Land and River Care Group & Wurdale Landcare Group

Ellen Whitten, UBLN



Looking at river macroinvertebrates taking photos and recording them on the iNat app



Wurdale Landcare Group



The Winchelsea Land and River Care Group's monthly working bee took a different turn for its December session with Wurdale Landcare Group joining in for an introductory session into the iNaturalist Application (App). using macro invertebrates - (animals without a background visible to the naked eye) found in the Barwon River at Winchelsea. Rebecca and Rose from the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA) delivered the session - a replacement for a similar one that had been planned for Winchelsea in October that was cancelled due to a severe weather day.

Winchelsea regulars, some families and a passer-by came to look and make a record on the iNat app which is surprisingly very simple and intuitive to use and there is a lot of supporting resources to refer to when you get stuck. There are privacy options if you want to make a record but want to be sensitive to it is located e.g. on private property or for sensitive or rare species.

Rose Herben - Environmental Water Officer with the Corangamite CMA explained how she uses data available on iNat to help her with reporting, decision making and as evidence for effectiveness of projects along the Barwon River and valuable it is for real-time, recent data it captures which can give a really clear indication of the health of the system and what sensitive species exist to take into consideration in future strategic planning. She and Rebecca encouraged us to play around with, explore and experiment with it and to learn to use it because the more it is used the more effective and useful it can be.

iNaturalist (or "iNat") is a global, community - or citizen science-based platform where people share observations (photos/sounds) of living things (plants, animals, fungi or any living thing you can manage to get a photo of) to help each other identify them, learn about nature, and generate valuable data for science and conservation and is already used in environmental reporting and policy making.

It acts as a social network for biodiversity. It helps anyone, anywhere identify species, connect with experts, track nature, and contribute to real scientific research on biodiversity - the more it is used, the more valuable and powerful the data can be, you can download from your phone app store, there is a version for iPhones and a version for Android devices. Reach out if you want some help with using it.



Rebecca McCristal from the Corangamite CMA explaining how the iNat app works



Photos



View up and out of the depression of Lake Gherang

EXPLORING LAKE GHERANG and DALPURA FARM

Wurdale Landcare Group

Ellen Whitten

Wurdale Landcare Group had a great turnout for an Lake Gherang Gherang exploratory walk in early October. Local people from Winchelsea, Gherang and Moriac came along, others who live closer to the Lake and even some grandchildren from Sydney! Some Friends of Lake Modewarre members also came to connect and share.

We had a great explore in-between the misty showers sheltering under some impressive trees on the eastern outer lunette of the Lake. We located some remnant vegetation communities.

We saw resident kangaroos, magpies, brown falcons and heard about anecdotal occurrences of broлга's and Latham's Snipe (a migratory bird).

We saw ibis and pelicans flying overhead Introduced pasture grasses and Watsonia were also noted coexisting with the indigenous vegetation Thank you to everyone that came, walked, talked, looked, listened, shared information and asked questions - it was great to connect, explore and exchange and better understand the history, what we have now that is worth protecting and what the future could be for this little patch of the wider landscape

and our personal part in it.

Wurdale Landcare group are working with the land managers - Parks Victoria to figure out what you; me; we can do to help conserve and protect this area of local and unique biodiversity accessible to everybody.

We have held a meeting with and continue to engage with ANGAIR for guidance as to how to approach caring for the area as they have a long standing relationship with Parks Victoria in the Anglesea and Airey's Inlet area of the Great Otway National Park and other local reserves.

Initially we hope to get to know the area by connecting with it and listen to what the land has to say. We'll begin by removing some old plant guards made from mesh and star pickets around some of the older trees and do some hand weeding of larger weeds such as thistles in the lake area. We will also be reaching out to the adjoining landholders to get a feel for their perspective.

Over the longer term with the support of the Upper Barwon Landcare Network we hope to explore some ecological/cultural/cool/mosaic burning together with Parks Victoria and Wadawarrung.

We are curious to see how the native species respond to burning. Much of the lunette or outer surrounds of the lake contain native grassland species that are severely impacted by pasture species around the perimeter of the reserve. These vegetation communities are adapted to regular cycles of fire and we want to investigate introducing this as an alternative long term management strategy next to spraying and revegetating.

Following is some photos of the native wildflowers discovered over a number of walks at the lake during spring and what isn't shown is a large distribution of sun orchids (*Thelymitra* species), of which we saw multiple growth stages but didn't manage to capture them in flower this year.

A few members of the group also visited Dalpura Farm for the Otway Agroforestry Network (OAN) Spring Farm walk held in October.

We were inspired by all the different enterprises and experimentation going on behind the gate including biochar manufacture from wood refuse from the farm and neighbours and used for water retention and nutrient draw for agroforestry seedlings on planting. Near the biochar set up were some large hot composting piles. We also were welcomed inside some of the tiny homes constructed onsite using timber grown on farm.

Dalpura is preparing to bring in cattle to graze under the agroforestry trees while also using certain trees as fodder. We were shown how a simple mobile electric fencing set up would control the cows and guide them in their rotational grazing. A run-down on a mobile mill and different methods of curing and drying of harvested timber were explained as well as that the mill and operator is available to come out properties for anyone who has harvested timber they wish to process.

Other things to note were the recently and thriftily constructed nursery - where the propagation of all sorts of plants including agroforestry species is taking place for the farm as well as being for sale to the community. We ventured for a walk into some remnant bush on the block that was blanketed in wildflowers with tree guards dotted around - examples of climate adapted species being planted in an aim to prepare the site for warmer and drier weather into the future.

It was great to see and chat about different options to use what we already have on hand and ways we can implement things differently to help ourselves and the natural products we rely on be adaptive and resilient in the changing climate. Thanks George and Ivan and the OAN crew for showing us around.

If you would like to join, collaborate, share or find out more information about the Wurdale Landcare Group please get in touch:
email: wurdalelandcare@gmail.com
Ellen Whitten 0400 146 254.



Wahlenbergia sp. or native bluebell



Hydrocotyle sp. or pennywort



Glycine latrobeana or Clover leaf Glycine (Vulnerable EPBC)



Convolvulus erubescens or Blushing bindweed



Unknown Pea species - ID pending



Bossiaea prostrata or creeping *Bossiaea*

Drought Employment Program - EOI is still open

Corangamite Catchment Management Authority

The Victorian Government is delivering a \$1 million Catchment Management Authority Drought Employment Program. This program is providing meaningful off-farm employment opportunities for people experiencing hardship because of dry conditions.

Corangamite CMA and Glenelg-Hopkins CMA are delivering regional Drought Employment Programs in their catchments accelerating and bringing forward essential activities that are improving catchment condition and care for waterways at priority sites. This includes pest and weed control, riparian fencing and revegetation.

The Drought Employment Program is being targeted to the southwest region due to the severity and length of drought conditions, which have impacted farmers and farm businesses. Based on responses, the CMAs will plan works within a reasonable proximity of participants' locations.



Expressions of interest for employment through the Drought Employment Program remain open:

Click here to find out more information and register your interest:
[Drought Employment Program - Corangamite Catchment Management Authority](#)



Ekidna Tree Guards - still available



ekidnaTM
TREE GUARD

A pallet full of these spiky metal mesh paddock tree guards are available for purchase through the UBLN at a wholesale cost for Landcare members.

Ekidna Tree Guard is based in the Hunter Valley, NSW and have proven to be a simple to install and economic way to protect paddock trees as they establish while the paddocks are stocked.

They come in 2 sizes, large (for cattle) and small (for sheep) and can be purchased from us at a rate of \$29/large and \$22/small.

Contact us if you are interested in purchasing some and trying them out.

More information including specifications can be found in the [brochure](#)



A collection of Ekidna Tree Guards (sheep size) doing their job guarding Red Gum seedlings from her flock of crossbred ewes on Andrea's property in Paraparap

National Livestock Identification System (NLIS)

Got some new cattle or sheep? Remember to upload after you unload

When livestock arrive at your property it's your legal responsibility to ensure that the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) database is updated within two days. Unload your livestock then upload the information to the database.

This includes whether they are your livestock or if they belong to someone else, such as being loaned or on agistment. Livestock includes dairy and beef cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs. Up-to-date records are vital for quick traceability if there is a fire, flood or emergency animal disease outbreak. Agriculture Victoria uses the records to quickly contact livestock owner to contain and eradicate disease or check for urgent animal welfare needs.

There are three parts to Victoria's world class traceability system:

1. All locations where livestock are kept have a Property Identification Code (PIC). This includes farms and saleyards. PICs are available free from Agriculture Victoria.
2. All livestock are identified by a National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) ear-tag or device.
3. All livestock movements to a different PIC are recorded in the NLIS database.

If your property doesn't have a PIC, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/pic or call our NLIS helpline on **1800 678 779** between 9am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

PICs are free to obtain and update.

Recording stock movements helps to protect your animals, the wider livestock industry and your community.

For more information about tagging call our NLIS helpline on 1800 678 779 between 9am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday or visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/p2p

Unload your livestock then,

Upload their details to the national database.






RESOURCES

UBLN Office LIBRARY

- A Field Companion to Australian Fungi; *Bruce Fuhrer*
- A Field Guide to the Mammals of Australia; *P Menkhorst, F Knight*
- Call of the Reed Warbler; *Charles Massey*
- Connect — Practical ways to grow and prepare sustainable food; *Kylie Treble*
- Farm Dams — Planning, Construction & Maintenance; *Barry Lewis*
- Flora of the Otway Plain & Ranges 1: Orchids, Irises, Lilies, Grasstrees, Mat-rushes and Other Petaloid Monocotyledons; *Enid Mayfield*
- Forest Trees of Australia; *Hall, Johnston & Chippendale*
- From Seeds to Leaves; *Doug & Robin Stewart*
- Geelong Bird Report 2013-2016; *a publication of the Geelong Field Naturalists Club Inc.*
- Geelong's Changing Landscape - Ecology, Development and Conservation; *David S. Jones and Phillip B. Roös*
- Grasses of Temperate Australia — A Field Guide; *Lamp, Forbes & Cade*
- Growing Trees on Australian Farms; *Alan Brown & Norman Hall*
- Heartwood; *Rowan Reid*
- Integrated Pest Management for Crops and Pastures; *P Horne, J Page*
- Last Child in the Woods; *Richard Louv*
- Log-Grown Shiitake Mushrooms - An Australian grower's manual; *Parsuram Sharma-Luitai & Rowan Reid*
- Native Trees and Shrubs of South Eastern Australia; *Leon Costermans*
- Noxious Weeds of Australia; *WT Parsons & EG Cuthbertson*

- 
- Reconnected - A community builder's handbook; *Andrew Leigh & Nick Terrell*
 - Second Nature; *Michael Pollan*
 - Sufficient For The Day; *Geoff Lacey*
 - Taking Care of Yourself and Family; *J Ashfield*
 - Talking to My Country; *Stan Grant*
 - The Allure of Fungi; *Alison Pouliot*
 - The Biggest Estate on Earth; *Bill Gammage*
 - The Farmers Forest - Multipurpose Forestry for Australian Farmers; *Rowan Reid & Peter Stephen*
 - The House on the Hill: The Transformation of Australia's Farming Communities; *Neil Barr*
 - The Man Who Climbs Trees; *James Aldred*
 - The Nature of Survival; *Doug Lang*
 - The New Nature; *Tim Low*
 - The Omnivore's Dilemma; *Michael Pollan*
 - The Resilient Farmer; *Doug Avery*
 - The Vanished Land: Disappearing dynasties of Victoria's Western District; *Richard Zachariah*
 - Tracks, Scats & Other Traces: A Field Guide to Australian Mammals; *Barbara Triggs*
 - Trees & Biodiversity: A guide for Australian farm forestry; *D Salt, D Lindenmayer, R Hobbs*
 - Trees of Victoria and Adjoining Areas; *Leon Costermans*
 - Upper Barwon River System — Mt Sabine to Winchelsea; *Trevor & Pam Jennings*
 - Walking the Barwon River from Source to Sea; *Jennifer Morrow and Peter Greig*
 - Warncoort & Mt Gellibrand History; *Birregurra & District Historical Society*
 - Water for Every Farm - Yeomans Keyline Plan; *P. A. Yeomans*

- *Weeds of the South West: An Identification Guide for Australia; FJ & RG Richardson & RCH Shepherd*
- *Where Song Began; Tim Low*
- *Whole Farm Planning - Principals & Options; Brian Garrett*
- *Wild Places of Greater Melbourne; Robin Taylor*
- *Wild Mushrooming - A guide for foragers; Alison Pouliot & Tom May*
- *Wildlife on Farms — How to conserve native animals; D Lindenmayer, A Claridge, D Hazell, D Michael, M Crane, C MacGregor, R Cunningham*

Marquee available for use

Thanks to a community grant from Acciona, UBLN have a marquee 3 x 4.5 m in size available for use by our Landcare groups. Please contact the office if you would like to use it.



RESOURCES CONTACTS

Executive Contacts

President
Jackie Dullard

Treasurer
Bruce Bilney 0417 372 219

Board Members

Birregurra Landcare: Claire Dennis, Ian Fox
East Otway Landcare: Jill Stewart
Murroon Landcare: Josh McGoldrick, Deb McSephney
Irrewarra Farmcare: Bruce Bilney, Jackie Dullard
Otway AgroForestry Network: Deb McSephney
Winchelsea Land and River Care: Rod Stone, Jane Bartier
Wurdale Landcare: Ellen Whitten

Member Groups

Birregurra Landcare Group
President: Russel Garraway
Secretary: Sylvia
Treasurer: Ian Court
Working Bee Coordinator: Janet Gordon

East Otway Landcare Group
President: Jill Stewart
Secretary:
Treasurer: Peter Thomas
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