

UPPER BARWON



LANDCARE NETWORK



TREE TALK

A newsletter published by the
Upper Barwon Landcare Network

1/58 Main Street
Birregurra 3242

www.upperbarwonlandcare.com



NETWORK COMES TOGETHER AT ANNUAL GATHERING IN FORREST



The Upper Barwon Landcare Network works on the lands, waters and seas of the Wadawurrung People of the Kulin Nation and the Gulidjan and Gadubanud People of the Maar Nation and acknowledge them as the Traditional Owners. We pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge that the Traditional Custodians have been a 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

GROUNDING FESTIVAL

Wed 22 & Thurs 23 April 2026
Yan Yan Gurt West Farm
Deans Marsh

Master TreeGrower Course 2026

OAN & SOLN
Free Information Day
Friday 1 May 9:30am - 4pm
Lunch & snacks included
Apollo Bay (address upon RSVP)
RSVP by 24 April

East Otway Landcare CREEK WALK

10am Sunday 17 May
Park at 280 Bambra Cemetery Rd, Bambra
RSVP by 15 May via eastotwaylandcare@gmail.com

“WHATS GOING ON WITH OUR RIVER?” FORUM

Gerangamete Forrest Landcare Group

Saturday 13 June
Time and location to come

UBLN AGM & Annual Dinner

6:00pm Monday 15 June 2026 - SAVE THE DATE!
Location - Birregurra Bowls Club
More details to come

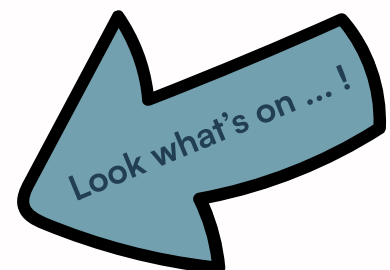
RESILIENT FARMING Course 2026 (FASA Project)

Applications open now !
Formal EOI process to come
Closing Date: 14 June 2026
Apply through contacting Kristy Stewart
Email: kristy.upperbarwonlandcare@gmail.com
Phone: 0491 012 737

ADVISOR TRAINING 2026 (FASA Project)

Expressions of Interest (EOI)

Applications open now !
Formal EOI process to come
Closing Date: 14 June 2026
Apply through contacting Kristy Stewart
Email: kristy.upperbarwonlandcare@gmail.com
Phone: 0491 012 737



NETWORK COMES TOGETHER AT ANNUAL GATHERING

- hosted by Gerangamete Forrest Landcare Group *Ellen Whitten*

Faces from across the network gathered in the sunshine by the Barwon River in Forrest township on a Saturday morning in mid March for our network annual social and planning gathering.

We stood on the ancient lands of the Gadubanud and Gulidjan people's of the Eastern Maar nation. The network was well represented with members coming from the Birregurra, East Otway, Winchelsea and Wurdale Landcare Groups on the day with the Gerangamete Forrest Landcare Group hosting the occasion. Members from the Otway Agroforestry Network were also present as was Sarah Brien, Senior Project Officer - Sustainable Agriculture representing the Corangamite CMA. Some visitors from Melbourne also stopped to listen and participate.

Andrea Montgomery - Landcare Facilitator outlined the aims of the gathering and gave a run down on current projects. Kristy Jane Stewart - Project Officer added a detailed explanation of the 4-part project that makes up the new federally funded "Farmer Adoption of Sustainable Agriculture" Project, affectionately nick-named FASA. Below is a simple summary of the project that will be delivered over the next 3 years:

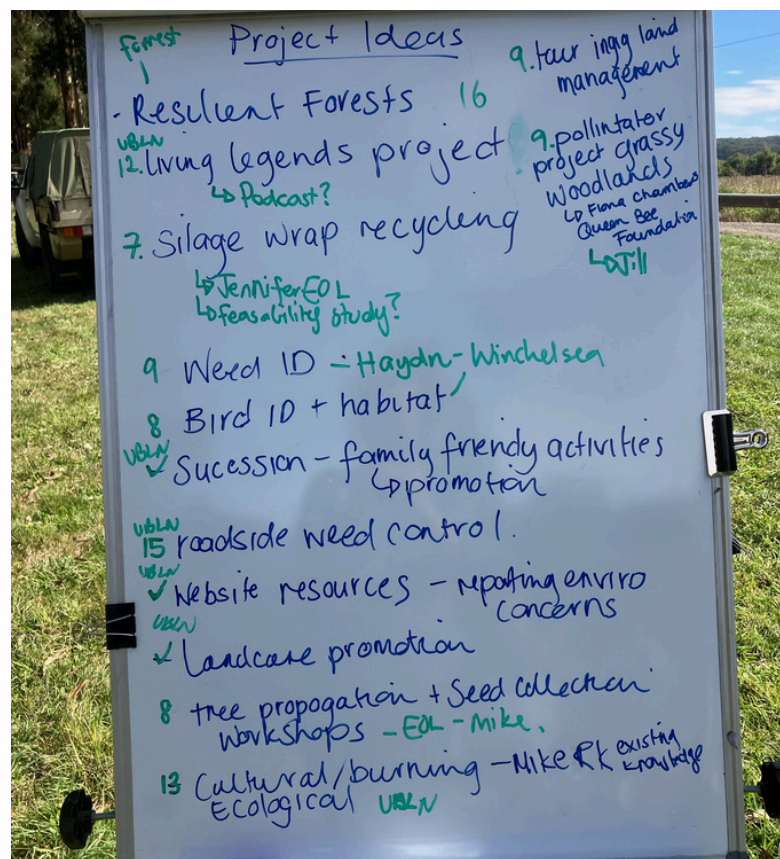
1. Sustainable Agriculture Course - training for farmers
2. Advisor Training - to support farmer adoption of sustainable Agriculture and ensure continuity of expertise for independent advice to support sustainable agriculture adoption and cultural awareness for our region.
3. Farmer Peer Group Mentoring Initiative - provides support during the project where farmers are supported along the way to connect with each other, to learn what works, put new ideas into practice and provide continued support after project ends
4. GROUNDED Festival - Farming Conference -Brings world experts in rebuilding soil and encouraging biodiversity while running viable financial farm businesses to the local level. Event attended by engaged participants, offering a positive starting point for the project.

This is such a wonderful opportunity for our region, keep an eye out for details on the upcoming farmer and advisor training dates including expressions of interest (EOI's) that are opening soon. And - see you in the paddock for GROUNDED at Yan Yan Gurt West Farm this week !!!

Following this, the group workshopped a list of project ideas to be maintained as priority considerations for future grant applications, along with some constructive suggestions for building on the networks ethos. This included promoting UBLN and Landcare as family-friendly and as an avenue to support people experiencing eco- and climate-related anxiety. See whiteboard photo this page.

It was constructive and energising having everyone together providing their individual input and perspective - a positive start to the year that we will be sure to continue.

After the group discussion Mary Dracup, President of Gerangamete Forrest Landcare Group described the history of the group and the evolution of the revegetation site we then visited.



The revegetation site that flanks a steep bank of the west branch of the Barwon River has multiple land managers including DEECA and Colac Otway Shire and was heavily infested with holly at the time the group decided they wanted to do something about it.

Gerangamete Forrest Landcare group has successfully removed the holly and revegetated the area with locally indigenous plants and conducts ongoing weed management continually removing any re-establishing holly.

They have done a good job - I didn't notice one holly leaf on the walk!

As they continue to take care of the site new opportunities are popping up. One of which Mary excitedly explained as "garden rain drains". There are a number of drains at the top of the site that direct runoff from shire roads above down into the river itself. At the moment they support weed growth and are maintained by the shire through spraying which is detrimental to the riparian ecosystem.

Mary and the group are working with the Colac Otway Shire to take over the management of the drains and plant them out with locally indigenous plant species that can tolerate drying out and inundation such as *Juncus* and *Lomandra* species. These provide a natural filtering system for runoff before it reaches the river and as habitat for local wildlife.

After the walk everyone enjoyed a beautiful spread of shared picnic lunch.

Thank you to everyone that attended and especially to Gerangamete Forrest Landcare Group for hosting us and sharing your beautiful corner of the Upper Barwon region and how you are so meaningfully caring for it now and for the future with us all.

Have a think about whether your local Landcare group would like to host this event at the start of 2027, it's a very worthwhile occasion we want to build into our calendar and we also find extra value in holding at a different location each year.

Photo credits - Ellen Whitten, Andrea Montgomery and Kristy Jane Stewart







ELECTROFISHING DEMONSTRATION -

Barwon River Winchelsea

Ellen Whitten

Upper Barwon Landcare Network (UBLN) supported the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA), Barwon Water and Arthur Rylah Institute (ARI) in bringing an Electro-fishing demonstration to the local community of Winchelsea and surrounds in late February.

The event brought together different organisations that manage the health of the Barwon River system for both the natural environment and for domestic water supply. Surveying and monitoring using methods such as electro-fishing help inform the decisions that are made.

The "Mid to Upper Barwon River and Threatened Species Fish Monitoring Surveys Project" is in its third year. The project's main aim is to build a baseline dataset. The plan is to replicate the same type of monitoring at different points in time (e.g. 10 years and/or 20 years) in the future and compare it to the baseline data they are establishing today to piece together a picture of what the state of health the river is in at any point in time. From this information the impacts of the collective management actions that

have been implemented over time can be more accurately quantified.

Examples of waterway restoration actions include willow removal, revegetation of riparian areas, fish re-introduction and timing of and amount of environmental water release.

The Electro-fishing survey information will be one piece, with other inputs coming from other sources such as citizen science data from WaterWatch and iNaturalist provide another layer.

ARI's Aquatic Ecologists Liam and Lauren gave us a very thorough demonstration of the electro-fishing equipment and process explaining in detail the way pulses of electricity attract the fish and when it is close enough the electric activity overrides the fish's nervous system causing them to collapse into unconsciousness.

The surveyors then have a short time to collect the specimens - by netting them and ushering them into a waiting bucket of water.





The survey is always conducted in pairs with one person operating the equipment and the other collecting specimens.

The surveyors are careful to use the lowest amount of voltage required to conduct the operation and have years of training.

The fish re-gain consciousness very quickly and are held in oxygenated tanks while they are processed. Processing includes recording information on species, length and weight, with all equipment and handling using wetted surfaces to maintain the slime coating that is crucial to the health of aquatic species and an important part of their recovery after being exposed to electrical currents. Fish are released back to where they were originally caught.

Another important part of the survey method that was highlighted is that electrofishing must be conducted more than 200 metres away from where platypus or rakali are observed.

Species caught on the day included eels of varying life-stages, river black fish, common galaxid, flat headed gudgeon, southern pygmy perch and a small European carp.

The demonstration also included a sample of macroinvertebrates from the river which are an important food source for the fish and mammals that use the river as well as a valuable indicator of river health and water quality. Where the greater the abundance and/or diversity of these fascinating critters indicates greater health of the river.

Will and Emma explained how Barwon Water is focussing on reducing the impact it has on the environment as much as possible by taking into account many different factors when making the decision to take water from the system for domestic use to have the least impact possible. They also consider these factors when they release it for environmental flows. Barwon Water's encouragement and promotion of water saving equipment and habits come from a place of "keeping more water in the river" - to maintain it's water quality and health of the system as a whole.

An opportunity also arose to visit a nearby Winchelsea Land and Rivercare Group revegetation site, where President Stewart Mathison shared a detailed and colourful history of the landscape. He spoke of a time when the area was overrun with gorse, and the many steps taken to re-introduce the native vegetation we walked through on the day.

Hearing Stewarts words while standing on the riverbank provided a practical reference point to understand the links between the parts that different organisations and community groups have in understanding and caring for the Barwon River system and learning how to do so in a more informed and sustainable way into the future - from the diversity and passion in the people who attended on the day it's in good hands.

Thanks goes to Rose Jackson - Project Officer - Estuaries & Environmental Water at Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA) who planned the event and who facilitated the day - with special mention to her and the Barwon Water crew who monitored the weather on the day allowing us all to have a thorough session before they called an end to the event due to severe storms - you did well to balance all the different parts and conduct a very successful day - well done and thank you.

On the following pages 11 & 12 there is a field update including photos on what was found during the 2026 fish surveys in the Upper Barwon River from Liam Hogan (ARI).

Photos:

Page 7 Lauren and Liam, aquatic ecologists from ARI explaining how the electro-fishing equipment works

Page 9

- a. Lauren and Liam on the river bank explaining what they are going to do when they get into the water
- b. Liam in the river bed sending out the electric current with the yellow wand with you can just see Lauren behind with the net

Page 10 (L to R)

- a. Fish holding tank
- b. Stewart Mathison, President Winchelsea Land & Rivercare and Rose Jackson (CCMA) at the groups revegetation site
- c. Processing fish specimens
- d. Macroinvertebrate samples from the same section of river







Field Survey Update

Mid to Upper Barwon River and Threatened Species Fish Monitoring Surveys

Location	Barwon River, East Barwon River, West Barwon River, Boundary Creek, Callahan Creek, Pennyroyal Creek, Gosling Creek, wetlands adjoining East Barwon River.
Dates	10 th of February, 23 rd - 26 th of February
Data collected and methods	Backpack, bank-mounted and boat electrofishing, bait traps and dip netting. A backpack electrofishing demonstration was conducted at Dwyer Street in Winchelsea as part of a community event organised by Corangamite CMA and Barwon Water.
Survey notes, dominant species and highlights	Overview Eleven sites (two sites on the East Barwon River, three sites on the West Barwon River, six sites in the Barwon River) which were sampled in 2024 and 2025 were sampled. One site on Boundary Creek, a tributary of the Barwon River, could not be sampled due to unsuitable conditions (high electrical conductivity). An additional five sites were sampled to increase the spatial distribution of sites, with four new sites on the Barwon River and one site on Callahan Creek, a tributary of the Barwon River, as a control site. Four sites were sampled targeting threatened species (Little Galaxias and/or Yarra Pygmy Perch), with two sites on the Pennyroyal Creek, one site on the Gosling Creek, and one site in wetlands adjacent to the East Barwon River. A third site on Pennyroyal Creek could not be sampled this year because access to the private property could not be arranged. Fish Community - A total of 2786 fish were captured or observed (2325 native and 461 exotic individuals). Southern Pygmy Perch was the most abundant native species (n=1094), and Eastern Mosquitofish was the most abundant non-native species (n=385). Ten native fish species and six exotic fish species were recorded. - Native fish species included: River Blackfish, Southern Pygmy Perch, Little Galaxias, Common Galaxias, Ornate Galaxias, Flatheaded Gudgeon, Australian Smelt and Southern Shortfin Eel, with Yarra Spiny Crayfish and Common Yabby also detected. - Non-native fish species included: Common Carp, Goldfish, Eastern Mosquitofish, Brown Trout, Redfin Perch and Tench. Survey Notes - The threatened species Little Galaxias was recorded at five sites, with relatively high abundances observed at one site (a wetland adjacent to East

	Barwon River). A broad distribution of sizes was captured, including one individual that was 12 mm, showing recent recruitment. - No Yarra Pygmy Perch were recorded despite being captured at one of the sites in 2024. - 10 River Blackfish were recorded (with an increase in abundances at one site, Dwyer St, from the 2024 and 2025 sampling events) with a relatively broad variation in sizes. - Southern Pygmy Perch were recorded at nearly all sites, with very high abundances in some sites (particularly in the upper reaches of the study area). Abundances of Southern Pygmy Perch have remained similar at sites sampled in 2024, 2025 and 2026. A broad distribution of sizes suggesting good recruitment success across a relatively large area of the catchment in recent years.
Survey team	Liam Hogan, Frank Amtstaetter, Lauren Johnson, Andrew Pickworth and Will Sowersby (ARI staff)



Photos (by Liam Hogan, Lauren Johnson and Frank Amtstaetter) clockwise from top left: 1. Adult River Blackfish, 2. Adult Southern Pygmy Perch, 3. Southern Pygmy Perch and 4. Little Galaxias.

Disclaimer – Please note these are field observations from a recent survey. This information will undergo quality assurance and analysis.

*Please contact Liam Hogan for further details
(liam.hogan@deeca.vic.gov.au , Ph: 0490 136 930)*



Energy,
Environment
and Climate Action



2026 | VICTORIA

GROUND FESTIVAL



GROUND Festival 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 FESTIVAL 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)



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry



Central Otway
Landcare
Network



LEADING REGIONAL RESPONSE TO CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN AGRICULTURE - Farmer Adoption of Sustainable Agriculture (FASA) Project launching at GROUNDED Festival

We are leading a regional response to climate resilience in agriculture, with the Farmer Adoption of Sustainable Agriculture (FASA) Project launching at GROUNDED Festival 22 & 23 April at Yan Yan Gurt West Farm.

At last year's National Landcare Conference the Australian Government awarded funding to the Upper Barwon Landcare Network in partnership with three other Landcare Networks and key regional organisations to deliver the new regional project fully titled "Leading farmer adoption of sustainable agriculture for climate resilience," through the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program.

The project is launching at GROUNDED Festival — a 2 day roaming food and farming festival/conference hosted at the Stewart's Family Farm - Yan Yan Gurt West and on the traditional lands of the Gadabanud people of the Eastern Maar Nation.

The 2026 festival brings to the Otway region international, national and local food and farming experts to explore better ways to care for soil, land, water, animals and communities with 70 speakers, and over 85 sessions, including three speaker tents, a 'How To' tent, The Understory space, and workshops the programme offers something for everyone.

Grounding the event to it's Otway based location this year is an opening night dinner and pre- and post-festival farm tours (all exclusively available to ticket holders only) of local iconic enterprises including Bambra AgroForestry Farm, Brae Restaurant Kitchen Garden, Frogwood Arboretum and Farm My School — Colac site the festival is the perfect launching point for the project.

Kristy Jane Stewart of Upper Barwon Landcare Network and project lead, expressed that "It's exciting to bring GROUNDED Festival 2026 to our region, it is the next step in a shared learning opportunity following the 'From the Ground Up' conference delivered by our local partners in our region about 7 years ago"

After the knowledge and connection building provided by the festival settles for those local landholders keen to put new ideas into action — enrolments for a Resilient Farming Training Course and Farmer Peer Group Mentoring will become available.

The new training and mentoring initiatives are designed to support farmers adopting climate-resilient and ecological farming practices. The training is unique in that it will create a community of practice whilst working with farmers on their individual soil, biology and plant test results along with landscape observations to create targeted action plans to move their systems forward.

Courses and training starts August 2026, continuing over the next 2 years across 4 Landcare network areas including the Upper Barwon Landcare Network, Central Otway Landcare Network, Heytesbury and District Landcare Network and Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Network with the support of the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (Corangamite CMA), Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and Soils For Life.

This project, is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program under the Natural Heritage Trust.

Contact:
Andrea Montgomery
Facilitator Upper Barwon Landcare Network
0407552663
facilitator@upperbarwonlandcare.com



FOR FARMERS IN THE UPPER BARWON,
WARRNAMBOOL & DISTRICT,
CENTRAL OTWAY & HEYTESBURY REGIONS

RESILIENT FARMING

Course



VALUED AT \$5000
YOUR
CONTRIBUTION:
\$300



Apply Now
via your local Landcare contact

Upper Barwon Landcare Network

Kristy Stewart
phone - 0491012737
kristy.upperbarwonlandcare@gmail.com

Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Network

Danielle Nipe
facilitator2@wcln.org.au
wcln.org.au

Heytesbury District Landcare Network

Debbie Dalziel
debbie@heytesburylandcare.org.au
heytesburylandcare.org.au

Central Otway Landcare Network

Andy Gray
info@coln.org.au
coln.org.au

Applications close June 14, 2026



Jade Killoran

Healthy Farming Systems
B. Ag Science (Honors-FirstClass)



Tony Evans

Soil Health Consultant



Kristy Stewart

Farmer, Agricultural Educator
B. Ag Science



RESILIENT FARMING

Course

We are offering subsidised places for 10 farmers per Landcare region to take part in a 5-day Resilient Farming Course.

The course provides regionally tailored training in sustainable farming techniques, combining practical skills with expert guidance to support resilient, profitable and ecologically sound farming systems. Participants will also receive free soil, microbiology and plant tissue testing.

When: 5 days (August–November 2026)

Exact dates will be confirmed during the application process.

Where: Venue and farm locations within your Landcare catchment
(Details TBC)

Cost: Valued at \$5,000

Participant contribution: \$300 per farm business

- Two attendees per farm permitted
- \$50/day catering fee applies to the second attendee

The course, developed by the Upper Barwon Landcare Network, is delivered by experienced practitioners:

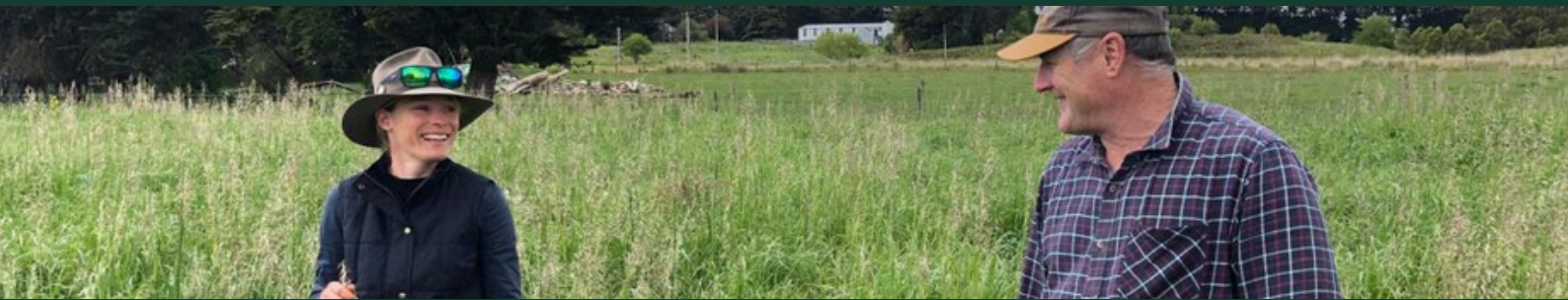
- Tony Evans, Soil Health Consultant
- Jade Killoran, Healthy Farming Systems
- Kristy Stewart, Farmer & Agricultural Educator

This project is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program under the Natural Heritage Trust.



Topics covered

- Identifying key constraints in farm productivity & ecological health
- Soil, plant tissue & microbiology testing & interpretation
- Building soil carbon
- Improving soil health & biology
- Multispecies cover cropping & plant establishment
- Practical management strategies to improve whole-farm systems
- Grazing management
- Reducing fertilizer costs through smarter & blended approaches
- In-field soil health assessments
- Long-term farm health monitoring
- Revegetation & agroforestry strategies



Outcomes

- 🌿 Skills to develop a tailored Farm Action Plan based on soil, plant tissue & microbiology results
- 🌿 Gain practical tools to identify & address key limitations in your farming system
- 🌿 Establish long-term monitoring transects to track progress
- 🌿 Build strong local networks with like-minded farmers in your region
- 🌿 Access a \$500 discount on further training through:
 - RCS Farming and Grazing for Profit, or
 - Nutri-Tech Certificate in Nutrition Farming

Participation in further training is optional. \$500 available per farm business. Course completion is required by October 2028.

PRESENTERS



Jade Killoran

Healthy Farming Systems
B. Ag Science (Honors-First Class)

Jade is an independent multispecies forage/cover crop consultant and researcher, working in Victorian grazing systems. Jade founded 'Healthy Farming Systems' in 2020 and aims to help farmers trial, adopt, and manage multispecies cover crops on-farm. She has worked as a researcher with AGF seeds as well as Southern Farming Systems looking at nitrogen use efficiency. She is the 2022 Victorian LeadHER delegate and a 2015 Youth Ag Summit Delegate.



Tony Evans

Soil Health Consultant

Tony is a soil health consultant with a plethora of experience in the agricultural sector as a dairy farmer, researcher and business entrepreneur. Tony has been involved in research throughout southwest Victoria, supporting farmers with knowledge and methods to improve soil health and whole farm planning. He is also the co-founder and director of Camperdown Compost.



Kristy Stewart

Farmer, Agricultural Educator
B. Ag Science

Kristy is a 5th generation farmer. Currently working in agricultural extension & education as a Landcare project officer and Sustainable Table's Industry Development Manager. She is part of the team at her family farm Yan Yan Gurt West where she runs educational tours on agriculture, agroforestry and landscape connection whilst managing the Agroforestry Systems with her father Andrew. You'll often find Kristy attending workshops and courses geared towards best practice farming to build her knowledge.

This project is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program under the Natural Heritage Trust.



FREE Introduction to Southern Otways Master TreeGrower Course 2026

Delivered by Otway Agroforestry Network (OAN) in partnership with the Southern Otway Landcare Network, the eight-day course kicks off with a free information day and farm walk on Friday 1st May in Apollo Bay.

Friday 1st May, 9:30am - 4pm (includes lunch and snacks).

Apollo Bay (address to be provided upon RSVP).

An opportunity to 'try before you buy' -
see what it's all about before committing to the 8-day
course.

Afternoon walk with landholder, please wear appropriate
footwear and clothing as it may be wet and or hilly terrain.

All welcome! You do not have to have land to do this course
and gain some great skills.

RSVP for the Free Introductory Day with any dietary
requirements by Friday 24 April.



For more information and to RSVP, contact:

Southern Otway Landcare Network: Abby Imhoff, abby.landcare@soln.org (03) 5218 8011

Otway Agroforestry Network: Becky McCann, mtg@oan.org.au 0409842471

The Diverse Farms, Resilient Catchments - 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.



Australian Government



CORANGAMITE CMA



**DIVERSE FARMS
RESILIENT
CATCHMENTS**



Southern Otway
Landcare
Network



AUSTRALIAN
AGROFORESTRY
FOUNDATION



OTWAY
AGROFORESTRY
NETWORK



Master TreeGrower
AUSTRALIAN

BRIDGING THE INTEREST-ACTION GAP: A Behavioural Analysis of Regenerative Agriculture Adoption among Landholders in Victoria - Research Study

Hansi Dayanath, Honours Student, School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Deakin University

The above timely study fits nicely alongside the Farmer Adoption of Sustainable Agriculture (FASA) project - find out more by reading the information below. For more information, any questions or to participate see flyer next page.

The study is all about understanding how landholders move from being interested in Regenerative Agriculture (RA) to actually putting these practices into action on their farms after attending workshops, field days, or other council- or catchment-led programs. We're using a qualitative approach, with a short online survey (Adapted TAPE Tool) and one-on-one interviews to hear directly from landholders about what motivates them, what helps them, and what barriers they face.

Importantly, the study is not limited to farmers who have successfully transitioned to regenerative agriculture. We are also keen to hear from those who are curious about regenerative practices, have attempted to adopt them, or have tried and later discontinued. All perspectives are equally valuable to understanding the interest—action gap.

We hope the findings will offer valuable insights to help farmers transition to regenerative practices.

Your support would be a huge help in understanding how CMAs, councils, and Landcare groups can strengthen long-term adoption of regenerative practices across Victoria.

Please feel free to get in touch if you have any questions or want to chat further. I really appreciate your time and support, and I'm looking forward to connecting with you!

Expression of Interest Link:
<https://forms.gle/FJj4Cc689nAT7Lsk8>

Warm regards,

Hansi Dayanath

Honours Student | School of Life and Environmental Sciences

Deakin University

Email: s224541808@deakin.edu.au

Contact: +61 401952534

LinkedIn: [Hansi_Dayanath](#)



Regenerative Agriculture in Victoria: We'd Love to Hear from You!

Are you a landholder or farmer in Victoria who has taken part in council, Landcare or catchment-led regenerative agriculture activities (like workshops, field days, or webinars)?

We're inviting you to share your experiences for an Honours research project at Deakin University exploring:
How landholders move from initial interest to long-term practice in Regenerative Agriculture (RA).

What's Involved

1. Online survey (Around 15 mins)
2. Follow up interview (30–45 mins) – via Zoom or in person

Participation is voluntary, and all responses will be confidential.

Who Can Join

- Aged 18 or over
- Located in Victoria
- Have participated in a council or catchment RA farming program

Why Take Part

Your insights will help improve local programs supporting regenerative and sustainable farming practices across Victoria.

Interested in participating?

We'd love to hear from you! You can contact the research team for more information or to express your interest, or alternatively, scan the **QR code** below.

Contact

Hansi Dayanath
Honours Student | Deakin University
Email: s224541808@deakin.edu.au

Supervisors

Dr. Christie Lam | Deakin University
Email: c.lam@deakin.edu.au
Contact Number: +61 392445663
Assoc. Prof. Hanabeth Luke | Murdoch University



This study has received Human Ethics Advisory Group (HEAG) approval
(reference number: 2026-HE000002)

EAST OTWAY LANDCARE CREEK WALK



East Otway Landcare invite you to a stroll along the upper tributary of the Yan Yan Gurt Creek, where there has been a project to revegetate the creek and create a track and wonderful area to enjoy and experience.

We will be meeting some of the landholders who will talk about their involvement in the project, reasons why they got involved and the outcomes.

Afterwards we are meeting at the Deans Marsh Store for lunch if you would like to join us.



Sunday 17 May 10am

Parking at 280 Bambra Cemetery Rd, Bambra

We will be car-pooling from here to the start of the walk, (at the top of Bambra Cemetery Rd, limited parking) which will be 4-5kms long. The walk will take approximately 2-3 hours.

Don't forget to bring a water bottle, good walking shoes, weatherproof clothing.

NO DOGS PLEASE, as we will be walking through private properties.

We hope you can join us, all welcome.

*Please RSVP to Jill – email – eastotwaylandcare@gmail.com
by the 15 May*

MURROON LANDCARE GROUP - update

Josh McGoldrick



Working bee:

We had a great turn out to the Rex's corner and Demonstration site working bee on the 7th Feb. It was very productive and fun. See the photos

Murroon Bushland Reserve:

Soon we will start working through a plan for Murroon Bushland Reserve. If you are interested in helping with planning and or hands on, let me know.

Thanks,

Josh McGoldrick

Secretary, Murroon Landcare Group

murroonlandcare@gmail.com

Ph: 0418 568 475





LANDCARE PLANNING DAY IN FORREST

Gerangamete Forrest Landcare Group

Freya Bennett



On Saturday 14th March, Gerangamete Forrest Landcare Group hosted the Upper Barwon Landcare Network Planning Day.

It was a glorious autumn day for Network members to meet and hear about the transformation of Hennigan Crescent from weed infested to supporting a far more diverse range of vegetation, and to walk through the area and see the plants and wildlife thriving firsthand.

A group of about 20 gathered by the river and shared a picnic as well as ideas about Network priorities for 2026. Thank you to all who joined us and we are looking forward to a great year of Landcare activities across the Network.



CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY TANNERS RD CAMPGROUND Wurdale Landcare Group

Ellen Whitten



We had a successful morning cleaning up in and around Tanners Campground on Sunday March 1 for Clean Up Australia Day.

It was great to see familiar faces who supported last year's effort, alongside new volunteers and a group of enthusiastic kids. It was also encouraging to have travelling campers Tim and Christina join in, generously offering their time and bringing their own reusable rubbish bags and tongs, which they explained are available at most Western Australian information centres.

The campground itself was generally clean and well respected by users. The clean-up did bring up some ongoing concerns.

Approximately 12—15 bags of small loose rubbish were collected, along with several bulky items including a large solar panel, broken camp chairs, and a substantial roll of old carpet. Hidden piles of dumped waste were also discovered in bush areas immediately surrounding the campground. There was also a noticeable presence of used toilet paper in these areas. This remains a concern for both the natural environmental and local residents who regularly use

the area including for walking their dogs.

More larger-scale illegal dumping was also found along the western section of Tanners Road, separate from the campground itself. This was reported to the Surf Coast Shire Council illegal dumping team for follow-up and removal.

A major safety concern was raised by the group around fire management. On the day of the clean-up an unattended fire was found still burning in a fire pit and was extinguished by some of our group members. While conditions were relatively mild at the time, the risk under higher fire danger conditions is serious, particularly given the Otway fires earlier in the year. The local Wurdale CFA has noted the highest recorded reports of callouts to the campground this fire season.

These observations together with some suggestions such as installing more explicit signage relating to toilets, rubbish and campfires and an offer of our support in their design was passed onto land managers DEECA Barwon South West who supported our event and welcomed our input.

Thanks go to Rhys for supplying his ute and trailer and

transporting the waste to the Winchelsea Transfer Station; to Phil for hosting the group for a BBQ at his home afterwards; and to Ellen for coordinating the day and organising the food.

Appreciation is also extended to Surf Coast Shire Council for waiving disposal fees in doing so supporting our efforts, and to DEECA Barwon South West for fast-tracking the event permit process at short notice.

It felt meaningful to take care of our bush in this way and to provide a local community perspective that will feed into ongoing management planning for Tanners Campground - thanks to everyone who attended and helped make it happen, see you there again next year !

Photo credits: Ellen Whitten and Vicky Chandler





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



RESOURCES

UBLN Office LIBRARY

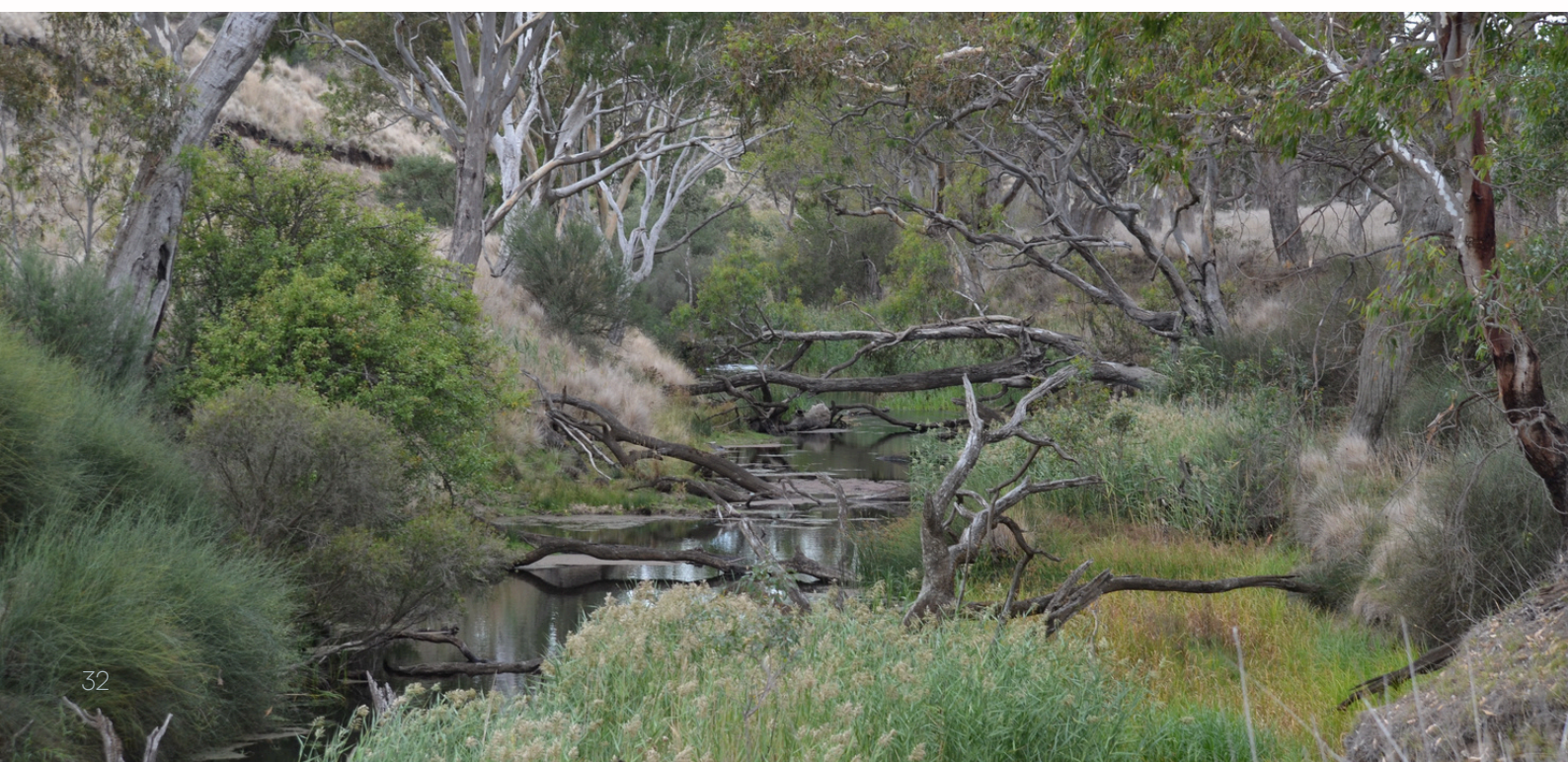
- A Field Companion to Australian Fungi; *Bruce Fuhrer*
- A Field Guide to the Mammals of Australia; *P Menkhorst, F Knight*
- Call of the Reed Warbler; *Charles Massey*
- Connect — Practical ways to grow and prepare sustainable food; *Kylie Treble*
- Farm Dams — Planning, Construction & Maintenance; *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-Luitel & Rowan Reid*
- Native Trees and Shrubs of South Eastern Australia; *Leon Costermans*
- Noxious Weeds of Australia; *WT Parsons & EG Cuthbertson*

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- 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

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Treasurer

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Board Members

Birregurra Landcare: Claire Dennis, Ian Fox

East Otway Landcare: Jill Stewart, Cara Johnson

Murroon Landcare: Josh McGoldrick, Deb McSephney

Irrewarra Farmcare: Bruce Bilney, Jackie Dullard, Justine McCarthy

Otway AgroForestry Network: Deb McSephney

Winchelsea Land and River Care: Jane Bartier, Steve Wade

Wurdale Landcare: Ellen Whitten

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Treasurer: Brad McLean

Murroon Landcare Group

President: Josh McGoldrick

Secretary: Jennifer McDonald

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*Please note new email addresses. We are transitioning over to new ones so if you could check and change our email addresses in your email contacts settings that would be great! We will still be able to access emails at the gmail account as we transition

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<https://www.linkedin.com/company/upper-barwon-landcare-network/>

Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@UpperBarwonLandcareNetwork>

RESOURCES GROUPS & PARTNERS



TREE MANAGEMENT SERVICES



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