

## 2022 Annual General Meeting

We held our 2022 AGM in late December just prior to the Bunny Boiler event. Your committee members for this year are: David Rooks (Chair), Dean Thompson (Treasurer), Bev and Charles Watson, Jon Fallaw, Jim McPhee, Mike Cleeland, Richard Davie, Carolyn Atherton and Heather Davidson. We have two positions vacant should anyone wish to join. Specifically, we're looking for a younger person to help with social media. They would join Jasmin Rooks, our young web administrator, in our communication team. They don't need to be a committee member, just a helper for our group. They may contact Jasmin if interested on 0497 370 216 or [phillipislandlandcare@gmail.com](mailto:phillipislandlandcare@gmail.com) To Landcare parents of older teenagers, please let your child know of this offer.

## 2022 Bunny Boiler Dinner



We celebrated our annual Bunny Boiler dinner in December last year. The dinner event was again held at the Phillip Island Winery in the large atrium which provides an earthy atmosphere for the occasion. The event is held to remind Landcarers and the wider community how pesky the rabbit population is on our Island.



Over 80 attendees dined on a tasting board of delights including breads, cheese, dips, and rabbit terrine followed by the main of rabbit stew poured over polenta or vegetarian gnocchi. Aaron Stephens, Invasive Species Coordinator at Bass Coast Landcare Network, was the key presenter for the evening and shared the first-year results of the Phillip Island 'Teaming up to Tackle Rabbit's project'. Aaron can be contacted on 0456 390 423 or [aaron.stephens@basscoastlandcare.org.au](mailto:aaron.stephens@basscoastlandcare.org.au) A second presentation launched the Groups new 'Island Bush Care' program. To top off the evening Mike Cleeland shared his classic poetry before live music from Bern Carroll and Bill Cleeland had people up dancing.



David Rooks, Chairperson of the Landcare Group, agreed "It's a great celebration with a bit of everything included to create a wonderful dinner, education and social event".



Thanks to Carolyn Atherton, Committee member, for creating a fantastic itinerary that everyone enjoyed, with great feedback, including our favourite comment 'there were no dull bits'! Keep your eyes out for three more Bus Tours early this year presented by the Bass Coast Landcare Network.



## Landcare Bus Tour

Our bus tour held late last year in partnership with Bass Coast Landcare Network was a celebration of how our group works with the variety of land managers across our Island. We visited Our Lady Star of the Sea School Landcare plantings, Jim McFee's Farm, new council sites, had a delicious lunch at the Wild Food Farm in Rhyll, and were taken around Scenic Estate by Phillip Island Conservation Society volunteer John Eddy. We saw plantings at Kym Plant's farm and heard from Gayle Seddon, the president of the Surf Beach/Sunderland Bay Coast Action Group on their works to control rabbits.



## Landcare Forum

The North-East Region Landcare community will host the Victorian Landcare Forum from Friday, 24 March to Saturday, 25 March 2023 in Beechworth (George Kerferd Hotel). The Forum will provide a fantastic opportunity to share Landcare knowledge and experience from around the State, to meet others directly involved in Landcare and to see first-hand the achievements of Landcare in the North-East.

For further information and tickets go to <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/victorian-landcare-forum-tickets-532776016407>



## Membership plants

A range of plants have been ordered for members this year. Plants should be available in April, and can be picked up from the Rooks farm again this year. All members both new and renewing receive 20 complimentary plants. Guards and stakes are also available should you require them.

## Biolinks funding

Biolinks funding for revegetation works is available to landholders whose property connects or forms part of the Bass Coast Shires biolinks map. <https://www.phillipislandlandcare.org.au/biolinks> If this includes your land and you're interested in re-vegetation please contact Luke Phillips – Bass Coast Landcare network staff member on 0437 011 638 or [luke.phillips@basscoastlandcare.org.au](mailto:luke.phillips@basscoastlandcare.org.au)

## Phillip Island Land Alliance

The Phillip Island Land Alliance, a newly formed group, continues to develop through its terms of reference and action plan. Our group is one of eleven groups in the alliance. A draft version is now available on our website. The vision of the alliance is 'A connected community who respects and protects the unique and biodiverse environment of Phillip Island'. There are many purposes for the establishment of the alliance. A major one is to support and bolster the capacity of the members groups helping them to continue caring for our Island land.

## Dieback

Dieback continues to be an issue for many of our island eucalypt species. One definition of dieback is a tree's response to negative stress occurring within its environment. All trees are susceptible to dieback, a condition where trees die or decline in crown health prematurely and often rapidly. There are many causes, therefore our Dieback sub-committee are working on a monitoring program to get more information on what exactly is happening here. We are looking for Landholders and citizen scientists to assist monitoring trees on our island that are suffering and will launch our new program at a field day to be announced very soon. If you're interested in getting involved, please contact Lisa Wangman on 0409 366 914 or [lisa.wangman@basscoastlandcare.org.au](mailto:lisa.wangman@basscoastlandcare.org.au)

