

Greetings.

Hi fellow Landcare members. As our last newsletter was November last year we have much to share with you.

Note, further information and images on all the information below can be found on our website

phillipislandlandcare.org.au

2021 Annual General Meeting

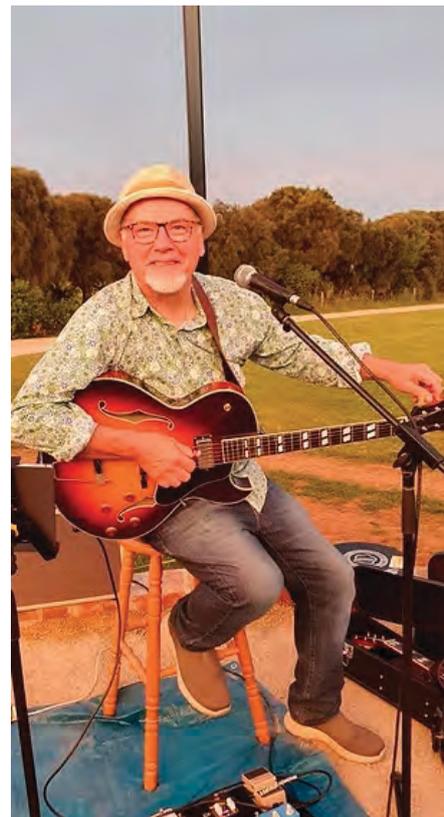
We held our 2021 AGM in late December alongside our Shed at the Koala Conservation Reserve. Again we have a full committee of 12 members with other people interested in helping without being on the committee. It further demonstrates the ongoing interest people have in Landcare.

We welcome new committee members, Carolyn Atherton and Heather Davidson and are pleased we now have 4 females on our committee with still more room for improvement in this area.



Bunny Boiler Dinner

Our Bunny Boiler Dinner was held on a warm December evening last year and was a great success. Thanks to the Phillip Island Winery for hosting the occasion. Their new indoor / outdoor function room provided an authentic space where we enjoyed a scrumptious two course dinner, live music and a rabbit presentation. Check out more photos on our website.



Home Garden Visits

After a few Covid false starts we have begun our Home Garden Visit program. It is a popular program with around a third of our members interested in a visit. We hope to see you all by April before our membership plants become available. If you have your name down for a visit and haven't been contacted, please remind us via our email phillipislandlandcare@gmail.com

Reveg projects 2022

It's a huge year for re-vegetation projects on Phillip Island with funding via three streams – Victorian Landcare Grant, Bass Coast Shire Biolinks funding and a Biodiversity funding stream. We have over 22,000 plants on order paid for via these grants. Also included is fencing subsidies and weed control. There will be plenty of opportunities to get involved in our community planting days. Dates and locations will be notified in the next newsletter.

Membership plants

A huge range of plants have been ordered for members this year. Plants should be available from the first of April, and will be available 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.



Dieback

We are continually reminded of the issue of Dieback on Phillip Island as we move around and see dying and dead trees. It is an issue not just in our area but in many locations around our region and just this week I read an article in 'The Age' on the serious issue of Dieback in NZ. There are two local Ecologists who are joining our dieback sub-committee and with some funding received we hope to establish a plan for researching and responding to this terrible issue.

Rabbit strategy

The Bass Coast Landcare Network have been successful through the Ross Trust Foundation in receiving significant funding to help support rabbit control on Phillip Island. It is 3 years' worth of funding that includes a part-time rabbit officer. Our local Council has supported this funding by establishing an update to date Phillip Island Rabbit Strategy. This work is being done now and by mid-year we will begin implementing actions from the strategy. This funding provides a real strong opportunity to have a significant impact on rabbit numbers on our Island. If you're interested in getting involved in this project at any level please contact:-

Aaron Stephens – Invasive Species Officer 0456 390 423, aaron.stephens@basscoastlandcare.org.au For this project to be successful we will be relying on huge community involvement.

Life Membership

The committee recently agreed on a future process for nominating potential life members. The details of the process can be found on our website under [About us/life members](#). We encourage members to nominate someone they feel fully deserves life membership.

Upcoming event

Introduction to Regenerative Agriculture Farm Planning. Friday 25 March 2022. 10.30am 1.30pm.

Join us at the Kardella South property of respected regenerative agriculture consultant, Declan McDonald, who will showcase his property and its regenerative agriculture journey. For further information and to confirm your attendance please email:-

Joel Geoghegan on joel.geoghegan@basscoastlandcare.org.au or phone 0409 705 652.



Declan McDonald

Distinctive Area Landscape Project

You may be aware of the Distinctive Area Landscape

Project (DAL) being undertaken by the State Government. It has significant implications for our area as the whole of the Bass Coast was recognised as a Distinctive Area recently. In October 2019 the Victorian Government declared the Bass Coast shire as a 'distinctive area and landscape' under Part 3AAB of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, and "The Bass Coast declared area is among Victoria's most-preferred places to live, work and visit. Its unique values and distinctive attributes — its Aboriginal, cultural and historic heritage, biodiversity, significant landscapes, natural resources, productive land, strategic infrastructure and built form — need protection against visitors, overuse, overdevelopment and the impacts of climate change" You can view the draft Bass Coast SPP and proposed landscape planning controls at <https://engage.vic.gov.au/distinctive-areas-and-landscapes-program/bass-coast>

The draft DAL has just been released and submissions may be made up until Friday 29 April. For more information, call 136 186 or email planning.implementation@delwp.vic.gov.au

As president of Phillip Island Landcare Group, I'm also interested in hearing from you in regards to the DAL. It is an important document that sets out planning matters for our Island with a 50-year vision. It provides a real opportunity to protect the Island's natural beauty into the future. I'm also heavily involved in the DAL in my role as a Local Councillor (Island Ward). Feel free to contact me should you wish at:-

David Rooks 0418 115 935 or david@eventsupport.com.au