



NEWSLETTER



Issue No.23 July 2025

www.phillipislandlandcare.org.au

Hello members

It's been a while between newsletters! Hope this finds you well and enjoying winter, the whale season and recent rain on the island.

Firstly a reminder, your membership plants are now ready for pick up from David Rooks farm, at 457 Ventnor Rd, Ventnor. You can collect up to 20 plants. Please contact David on 0418 115 935 or david@eventsupport.com.au to arrange a suitable time for pick up.

2025 Calendar of Events

Our group has a calendar of activities for the winter season of 2025, that are already in full swing, and, we hope you can participate. There are opportunities to get involved with planting trees on various farms and at the Phillip Island Recreation Reserve, PIRR (Carnival site).

Planting sessions

Saturday 12 July

Phillip Island Rec Reserve Corner PI Rd and Ventnor Rd – in conjunction with the Whale Festival..

Thursday 24 July

Plant and Learn at the Phillip Island Rec Reserve:

A Community Planting with Insights from Award-winning Naturalist Gio Fitzpatrick

9.30am – 1.00pm

This is a public event with a planting, followed by lunch and a talk from Gio Fitzpatrick about revegetating for biodiversity and wildlife. Gio will be providing his insights on the potential for ecological restoration at the Phillip Island Rec Reserve. Gio has a particular interest in how we can co-exist with, and support, biodiversity in our communities. Gio has visited Gippsland a few times recently, including a well-attended session organised by the Kongwak Hills Landcare Group in May 2024 where he shared many fascinating insights. One of which, and surprising to most, was the biodiversity values

of the Black Wattle species which in it's 12–20 year lifespan, contributes more insect biodiversity than species which live for many times that!

Gio also led a walk and talk at the Bass Coast Landcare Network AGM on a property at Screw Creek in May 25 where he showed us how to seed mistletoe. Gio shared the beneficial roles that mistletoe, mistletoe-birds, prickly plants and graded vegetation away from fence lines can have for restoring ecologies. All of these elements can help to reduce the impact of aggressive noisy miners that tend to out compete the smaller beneficial insectivorous birds. You can find out more about Gio's background and work here:

<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/how-to/my-garden-path-gio-fitzpatrick/13543634>



Funded by AusNet, and led by Landcare on this significant public site on the island. The project will plant 9,000 trees in one section to help bring back more diverse wildlife to the area.

Phillip Island Rec Reserve, Thursday July 24

9.30am, Morning Tea, 10.00 am –12.00 noon

Planting, 12.00 noon – 1.30 pm, Lunch and talk from Gio.

Proudly sponsored by **AusNet**



What to bring: appropriate dress for the weather, sturdy footwear, gloves (some will be available to borrow), and water bottle.

Parking: Off Ventnor Rd, first gate to the left after the roundabout. There will be signage pointing you in the right direction.

RSVP to phillipislandlandcare@gmail.com

Sunday 27 July

Planet Ark's National Tree Day, 865 Ventnor Rd, Ventnor.

Saturday 2 August

Kate Darling and Johns Field – 300 Watts Rd, Ventnor.

Saturday 16 August

Phillip Island Rec Reserve Corner Phillip Island Rd and Ventnor Rd.

Recent Events

May 4

On a very mild Sunday morning the activity planned was to remove existing fencing – wire and poles to gain access to the 2 metre high gorse hedge growing on the east side of the project area of the proposed Phillip Island Recreation Reserve (PIRR). Our Landcare group is in the second year of preparing for the site to be used for plant and guarding trials.

Together with a big tractor, a bull dozer and a dingo trench-digger David, Richie and Richard started the major transformation of this part of the site with gusto, Tom Grayden came with his landscaping monster machine and that's when the scale of this process for me, was realised. The ground team rolled barbed and plain wire into rolls for pick up and removal while two metre high gorse hedges were being flattened. This is the second year of the 3 year project funded by SP Ausnet for Phillip Island Landcare Group to start monitoring and regenerating the area for future public use, working within the BCSC's master plan.

We encourage all Phillip Island families and residents to get involved in this very hands on project. There are 3 more days to participate this year at the Reserve so come along!



Rewilding the Island' dinner

A big shout out to Sue Doyle our Vice Chair, for putting together and bringing to life this wonderful event

A short recap of the night from Sue

PILG and the Penguin Foundation hosted the popular 'Rewilding the Island' dinner on May 15 at Phillip Island Winery. With over 110 guests, the dinner was a celebration of progress in restoring biodiversity on Milawul, through the collective efforts of Landcare and conservation projects managed by Phillip Island Nature Parks.

The guests heard from Lily Christopher, presenting on behalf of her grandmother Anne Davie, with insights into the challenges and successes of sustainable farming and regenerating their land. The Davie family have worked closely with Phillip Island Landcare over many years to plant 20,000 trees on their property.

The guests also enjoyed presentations from Dr Duncan Sutherland, Phillip Island Nature Parks, and self-confessed "bird nerd", Paula Wasiak, PhD candidate. They shared groundbreaking research in introducing Eastern-barred bandicoots and re-introducing bush stone-curlews on the island.

Both are endangered species and Milawul, as a fox-free environment, provides renewed hope for their survival. Given the success of the night, Phillip Island Landcare is considering future 'Rewilding the Island' events that connect and inspire the broader community through sharing knowledge and stories.

If you have any suggestions for future events, we'd love to hear from you!

Rotary Phillip Island generously covered the cost of free tickets for six young people (and their guests) as a way to support their interest in conservation and related areas of work. This resulted in some fantastic outcomes for the young guests.

For example, one 16 year old guest who is still at school, will now be doing work experience in the facilities team at Phillip Island Nature Parks next year. This pathway for training in a field he is passionate about and in his local area, is thanks to conversations at the dinner, and follow up work by staff at Nature Parks.

Another 17 year old guest, after introductions and chats on the night, has organised an opportunity to gain valuable experience in the wildlife rescue team after completing her Cert three in Animal Care this year. Also a big thank

to Katherine Cousins from WestVic Staffing Solutions and Melanie Forster from Workforce Plus who connected Landcare to these young people who would not have otherwise come along to the dinner and created these opportunities. It's important that we consider creating meaningful opportunities for young people in all the work we do.

Funds raised through the sale of bottles of wine (supplied by Gippsland Wine Company) with beautifully designed bespoke labels (provided pro-bono by Pressroom Philanthropy) go to Phillip Island Landcare and the Penguin Foundation.

If you came to the dinner, we would love hear your feedback and any ideas for future events, by answering a few question in this survey link https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSftxL7OrYFIMHAvm1uogBFHWDRBcb2sgyGZ_Db3ujH5NXXhCA/viewform The survey is short and sweet - it should take no more than 5 minutes of your time. Unless you have lots of ideas or feedback, which we also welcome!

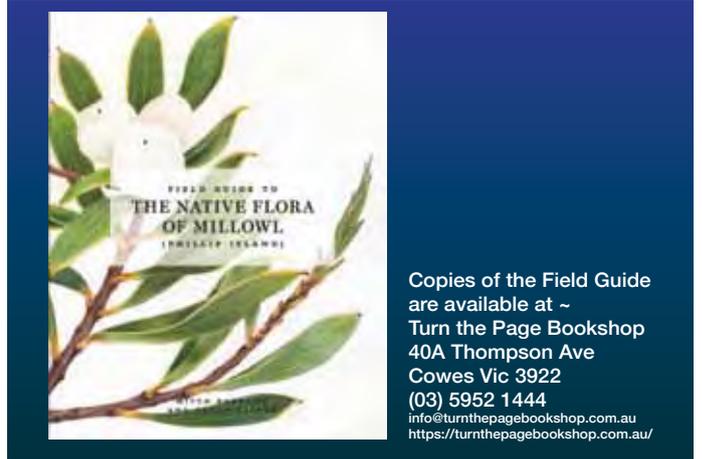
To sweeten the deal, you will have the chance to win one of these prizes:

A copy of The Field Guide to the Native Flora of Millowl, by Mitch Burrows and illustrated by Tegan Carter.

A bottle of Bush-stone Curlew Chardonnay, (Gippsland Wine Company).

A bottle of Eastern-barred Bandicoot Bubbles (Gippsland Wine Company).

A gift voucher for a 3 Park Pass for a family (2 x adults & 2 x children) to visit Phillip Island Nature Park attractions. August 2024.



Copies of the Field Guide are available at ~
Turn the Page Bookshop
40A Thompson Ave
Cowes Vic 3922
(03) 5952 1444
info@turnthepagebookshop.com.au
<https://turnthepagebookshop.com.au/>

Edible Gardens

Jess Moulynox of Backyard Botany contacted our group to see if we could support her industry placement to design and implement a edible garden at the Phillip Island Community Adult Learning Centre (PICAL) and Lady Star of the Sea Primary School as part of her Degree in Environmental Science. Jess is an Ethobotanist with a passion for sharing knowledge about native edible plants.

Of course we welcomed the opportunity to assist in any way possible and the native edible garden bed for PICAL was a terrific project to support! The workshop and gardens was very well received and an absolute informative addition to our community – Jess has implimented two gardens and both are thriving – please visit PICAL to observe and learn for yourself. Jess has provided the information on the next page (5) to help you start planting native edible plants in your own garden!

*We hope you are all staying warm, and we'll keep you posted on any new happenings as they arise – otherwise – see you soon at one or more of our planting days and Keep planting !
cheers, Carolyn and Sue*





White Elderberry - *Sambucus gaudichaudiana*

Perennial herbaceous shrub to 2m height. The leaves are narrow, lance shaped and pinnate. Flowers are white and grow in corymbs. Fruit is white to translucent.

Uses

Edible white fruit.



Native Thyme - *Prostanthera incisa*

A small perennial evergreen shrub that grows 2m to 2.5m. Leaves ovate and margin coarsely toothed. Flowers racemose and purple.

Uses

Edible leaves as a mint/thyme substitute. Flowers edible in salads, desserts and drinks. Other common name Cut Leaf Mint.



Native Lemongrass - *Cymbopogon ambiguus*

Tufted plant in the grass family 'Poaceae'. The leaves are green to grey with hints of purplish red and fragrant. Plant can be propagated by seed or divided into clumps and grows to a height of 1.8m tall.

Uses

Leaves harvested when approximately 30cm tall and used as a lemon grass substitute.



Midyim Berry - *Austromyrtus dulcis*

Small-leaved shrub containing dense, upright branches with copper-toned new growth. Evergreen, low-growing plant with small white blossoms followed by sweet-edible white fruits with purple spots that can be eaten raw.

Uses

Edible berry that comes after flowering. The size and texture of a blueberry and tastes like sweet mild custard.



Muntries - *Kunzea pomifera*

Prostrate shrub often shooting roots out from main branches. Alternating elliptic to orbicular leaves. Flowers creamy yellow similar in appearance to a Eucalypt.

Uses

Edible fruit can be eaten raw with the texture similar to a blueberry and flavour like custard apple.



Nodding Saltbush- *Chenopodium nutans*

Prostrate ground covering plant to 1m in height and 1m across. Leaves are arrowhead shaped (Hastate) and semi-succulent. Flowers are ball shaped, inconspicuous and green. Fruit is small and red when ripe

Uses

Edible leaves with a salty taste. Can be used raw or cooked. Dried leaf can be used as a salt substitute. Edible berry when red.



Phillip Island Landcare Group est. 1987

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2025 Tree planting sessions

9.30am morning tea. 10.00am planting starts. Complimentary lunch.

Please RSVP: Carolyn Atherton 0433 284 148 or
phillipislandlandcare@gmail.com

June

Saturday 28th Kate Darling and John Field. 300 Watts Rd, Ventnor

July

Saturday 12th Phillip Island Rec Reserve Corner PI Rd and Ventnor Rd
in conjunction with the Whale Festival

Thursday 24th Phillip Island Rec Reserve Corner PI Rd and Ventnor Rd

Sunday 27th Planet Ark's National Tree Day. 865 Ventnor Rd, Ventnor

August

Saturday 2nd Kate Darling and John Field. 300 Watts Rd, Ventnor

Saturday 16th Phillip Island Rec Reserve Corner PI Rd and Ventnor Rd

Please bring:

- Appropriate dress for the weather
- Sturdy footwear
- Gloves
- Water bottle

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