

WHAT'S ON...FEBRUARY 2010

The monthly bulletin of the Upper Barwon Landcare Network

Welcome to the first edition of 'What's On' for 2010 and what is shaping up to be a busy and exciting year

New Office

To better serve our Landcare members the UBLN office has been relocated from Colac to 57 Main Street Birregurra, next to the General Store. Please feel free to drop in anytime. We are waiting for our landline phone to be connected and this will be advised next issue. Our mobile numbers and email addresses remain the same.

Farming in a variable climate

The UBLN has recently received a Woolworths Sustainable Farming grant for us to facilitate a series of soil health and sustainable farming workshops. The first, 'Understanding Your Soil, Soil Health & Soil Structure' will be conducted in the Birregurra Community Health Centre on Friday 16th April. This workshop will be led by Tim Johnston, Soil Health officer, Department of Primary Industries, and will include a soil pit at a nearby farm. More details in the March edition of What's On.

The second workshop will be 'Integrated Pest Management' conducted in Birregurra Community Health Centre by Dr. Paul Horne and Jessica Page from IPM Technologies on Thursday 22nd April. This intensive workshop is for farmers who are looking to use beneficial insects to assist in reducing their use of pesticides. The workshop will include a farm visit. We are looking to recruit a number of farmers to be involved in establishing on-going demonstration sites that can be used as case studies.

Other workshops we propose conducting throughout the year are:

1. 'Understanding and Managing Soil Organic Matter & Soil Carbon' with Cath Botta in June
2. 'Understanding Soil Biology'
3. 'Interpreting Soil Test Results' with Cam Nicholson.
4. 'Managing Sub-soil Constraints' with Cath Botta
5. 'Understanding Water Use Efficiency'

In addition to the Woolworths grant we have also received a FarmReady Industry grant from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to run a number of professionally facilitated discussion group meetings with speakers and farm visits over the next three years. This program will allow the farming community to share and evaluate knowledge and practices over a longer period.

Pest Plants and Animals

Township Gorse Control Project— over the next few weeks we will be mapping gorse in the townships of the Upper Barwon area and conducting an awareness raising and control program. A chemical subsidy is available (township properties only).

Rabbits— numbers have built up quite a bit in many areas. In the coming weeks we will be contacting people in the hotspots to co-ordinate baiting and harbor removal.

Serrated Tussock— together with other Landcare Networks we have received through the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority to survey Serrated Tussock and conduct an extension program. We will be focussing in the northern part of the UBLN area which is part of a 'containment zone' that extends from Bellbrae to north of Rokewood.

Contact John Sinclair on 0427 316 396 for PPA matters.

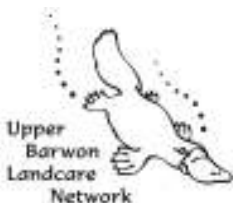
Group Meetings

Murroon Landcare Group— next meeting will be at the Brien's property Ard Mohr on Friday 26th February. Includes a discussion about the property and farm tour. Start time is 12:30pm. Bring a sandwich for lunch.

Irrewarra Farmcare Group— next meeting will be at Tom and Maida Dunn's property on Wednesday 17th March at 10:30am. Topic is 'Beekeeping'.

Forrest Tiger Rail Trail— meets monthly at the Forrest Football clubrooms. Contact Bob Brooks for further details on 5236 6322

Upper Barwon Landcare Network— Tuesday 9th March



For more information please contact the Upper Barwon Landcare Network:

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