



Barkers Creek Landcare & Wildlife Group

Action Plan 2015-2019





Introduction

Welcome to Barker's Creek Landcare & Wildlife group - a group of local residents passionate about protecting and restoring our local environment on both public and private land. A group also committed to celebrating and building our sense of belonging to the Barkers Creek community in which we live.

The end of 2014 saw the completion of our first 5 year plan (2010-2014). In February 2015 approximately 15 members of our group gathered together for an Action Planning workshop facilitated by Max Schlachter – the Mt. Alexander Regional Landcare Facilitator.

The passion of everyone for the work that we are already doing and possibilities for the future was outstanding.

The balance between working on public land and members properties continues to be affirmed, as was the primary focus being 'on ground works' (monthly working bees) together with a 'splash' of educational and social activities.

Comprehensive notes of all the things that were discussed form the basis of our **Barkers Creek Landcare & Wildlife Group Action Plan 2015 – 2019**.



TOP Group photo taken during the 2014 AGM working bee at Cat Dam Track (behind Wendy McClellands old property) in the Diggings Heritage Park - Barkers Creek.

BOTTOM
Purplish Beard Orchid - *Calochilus robertsonii*



So what was the number one priority?

Follow-up, follow-up, follow-up!!!

Everyone agreed that, 'all the hard work that has been done so far needs to be maintained'.

McManus Road reserve is a great example of ongoing care – the 2 metre high English Broom is now almost totally eradicated and has been replaced with a wonderful mix of local grasses and shrubs.

Conversely, the Heritage Digging Park (off Specimen Gully Rd) is example of neglect. Our Vice President - Boxer Cole was part of the works team that removed all the Gorse approximately 15 years ago and now (unfortunately) it has totally re-grown and is an eyesore. NB. Restoration of this area is one of the top priorities for the future.



TOP Phil, baby Otto and Tony looking out across the creek at McManus Road, during this years bus tour. This site is a great reminder of what the groups follow up work has achieved in the last 5 years.

BOTTOM Leopard Orchid - Diuris Pardina



Our priority projects for the future are:

Ongoing

The Bushland Natural Reserve

Between Adams and Peelers Rds [MAP REF 2](#)

The Brilliant Barkers Creek project

In co-operation with North Harcourt/Sedgwick and Harcourt Valley Landcare groups [MAP REF 1](#)

Roadside Weed Removal project

In conjunction with Mt Alexander Shire Council

Barkers Creek 'Old Tip' site, Peelers Rd

In conjunction with Mt Alexander Shire Council [MAP REF 4](#)

McManus Rd reserve [MAP REF 3](#)

Growing our Group

Barkers Creek Landcare and Wildlife group is very active and ranges from kids to retirees. New members are always welcome.

New

Restoration of the Heritage Diggings Park

In conjunction with Parks Victoria [MAP REF 6](#)

I.M.B.Y – In My Back Yard

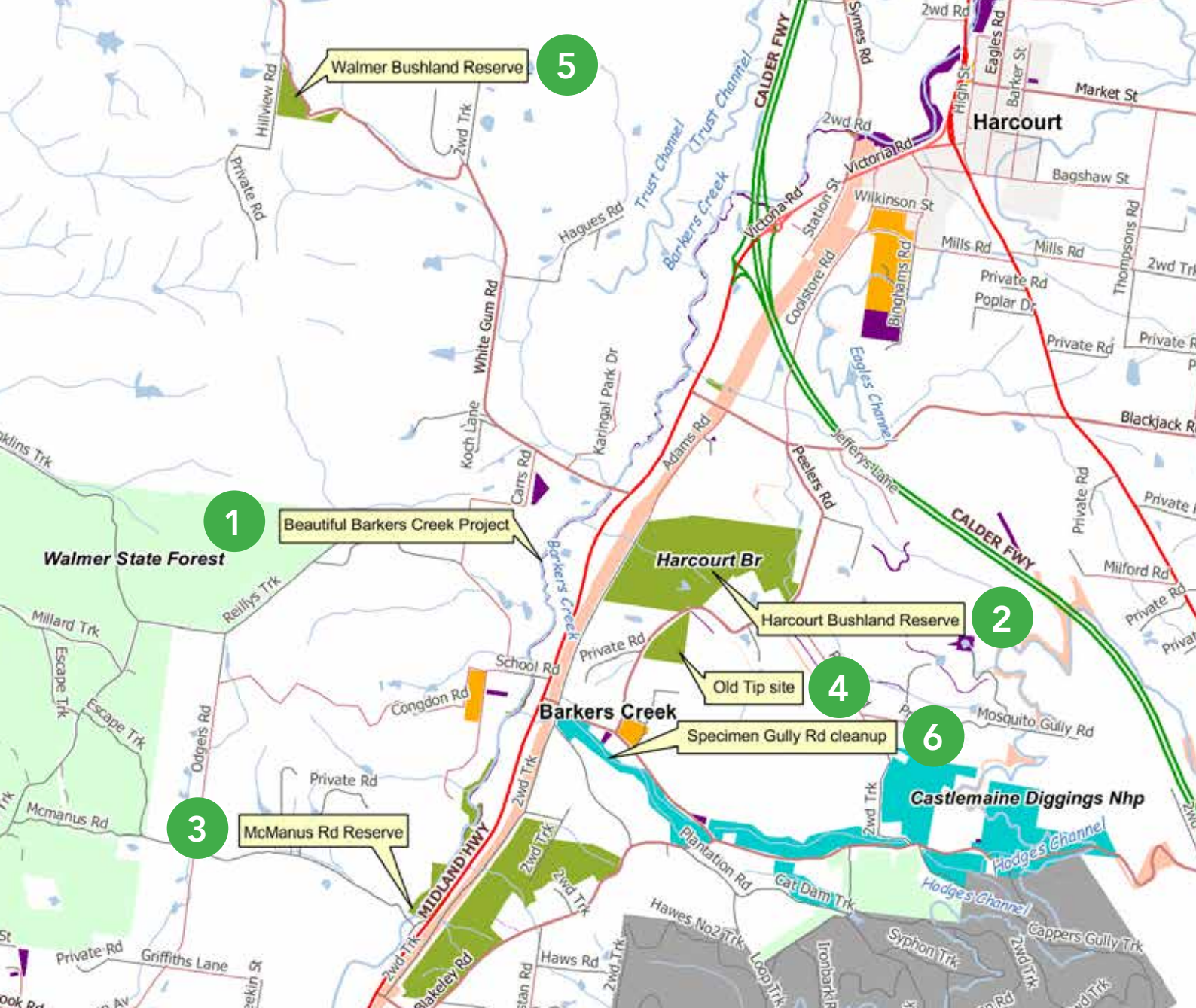
Local people caring for public land adjacent to their properties.



TOP A happy gang after our big clear up at the Bushland Natural Reserve completed during our last 5 year plan – one of many sites that will receive ongoing follow up work during or next 5 year plan.

BOTTOM Pink Fingers - Caladenia Carneae

'Be part of a community that cares for our local environment'



Barkers Creek Landcare & Wildlife Group Project Map

Past and present major project sites

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| ■ | National/State Park |
| ■ | Proposed Park (NP Act) |
| ■ | Wilderness Park |
| ■ | Other Park (NP Act) |
| ■ | Marine National Park/Sanctuary |
| ■ | Nature Conservation Reserve |
| ■ | Natural Features Reserve |
| ■ | Regional Park |
| ■ | Forest Park |
| ■ | Coastal Reserve |
| ■ | Education Area |
| ■ | Historic Reserve |
| ■ | Metro Park |
| ■ | Other Reserves |
| ■ | OTHER PUBLIC LAND |
| ■ | Alpine Resort |
| ■ | Commonwealth Land |
| ■ | Community Use Area |
| ■ | Earth Resources |
| ■ | Plantation |
| ■ | Port and Coastal Facility |
| ■ | Services and Utilities |
| ■ | State Forest |
| ■ | Stream Frontage |
| ■ | Highway Park |
| ■ | Uncategorised Public Land |
| ■ | Waterbody |
| ■ | Water Production |

Barkers Creek Landcare & Wildlife Group Planning Day Outcomes

Sunday 1st February 2015

Top priorities



Working Bees

1. Follow up on weed control
2. Weed Control on public land
3. Revegetation of tip site
4. Working on private property
5. Bike path from Castlemaine to Harcourt

Social Events / Other

1. Encouraging families
2. Work with refugees
2. Develop identity of Barkers Creek
3. Social get-togethers
4. Rename Bushland Reserve



Promotion / Education

1. Website
2. Kids Event
3. Guest Speakers
4. Bus Tour
5. Brew & Bake-off
6. Newspaper Articles

Other

- Bee conservation
- Map and track work in Harcourt Bushland Reserve
- Native seed collection
- Planting along creek

Priorities in detail

Working Bees

Bushland Reserve

- Tracks are currently very hard to navigate – they are very rough
- Ask Jayne Heyson if she is able to map the tracks
- Continue with woody weed and rubbish removal
- Put up nesting boxes along ephemeral creek-line in reserve

Old Barkers Creek Tip Site

- It has been good to see it being restored
- Still a lot of work to be done – keep having working bees there
- Needs more revegetation
- Clean up of Barkers Creek tennis courts – a joint social project with other Barkers Creek residents
- Suggestion to paint a mural on the concrete shelter
- Suggestion to establish bee habitat/hives – would need to contact Council about this

Heritage Diggings Park/Gorse along Specimen Gully Road

- Has been done twice about 15 years ago
- Needs major follow up co-ordinated with Parks Victoria & Council.

Private Properties

- Continue to hold working bees on private properties and on public land i.e. members and non-members properties

Follow up

- Most important task for the group otherwise all our hard work will be lost
- Start a spreadsheet of work that has been done which includes a review date etc. This can be used as evidence for funding

Weeds

- Continue our work on weed management
- Continue roadside weed management in conjunction with Council

Planting along the Creek and other areas

- Generally wherever the creek is sparse
- Opposite Lou & Judi's house especially – corner Blackjack Rd & Midland Hwy

I.M.B.Y. - In My Back Yard

- Encourage people to work on a small area in their local area
- Another way of getting things done

Planning of Working Bees

- Put details of working bees on the new website, Facebook and email
- Ask people to RSVP so we know there will be a core number of people attending
- Tony to be Media Manager

Bike Path

- Promotion of bike path from Castlemaine to Harcourt along Barkers Creek.
- Connect path to the Bushland Reserve
- Commencement of clearing and management of vegetation to contribute to bike path
- Take advantage of the mountain bike park
- Native Seed Collection Working Bee



Promotion / Education

Website

- Use it to promote the group
- Local businesses can be on it
- Profile building
- RSVP's to the working bees

Bus Tour

- For new members to find out what has happened and is going to happen
- See and enjoy the successes of the past year
- Combine with Christmas function

School Holiday Program / Kids Event

- Mandy & Janyce co-ordinated the last kids holiday program which was held at Judi & Lew's property
- Everyone found it very educational and it cost very little to run
- Incorporate another day in 2015 with one of our projects

Brew & Bakeoff

- Was held at the Barkers Creek Hall (Cricket ground) and also Ray Bradfield Room in Victory park
- Was a fundraiser for Landcare and also a fun social event
- Suggestion to hold every second year

Articles in Newspaper

- Good way to get to people who won't see the website or get emails
- Midland Express has better coverage than Castlemaine Mail, but is harder to get into
- Look for a newsworthy story to submit a couple of times a year

Guest Speaker/s

- Invite a guest speaker once or twice a year
- Involve other groups to include more people and make it worthwhile doing and easier
- Ideas include: talks, workshops, history of Barkers Creek
- Barkers Creek Hall (Cricket ground) flagged as a venue
- Incorporate into Christmas break up

Social Events / Other

Encouraging other Families

- Lots of people don't know what the group does
- Put copies of our BC brochure in Little Red Apple and Skydancers
- When advertising our social events include encouragement for families to join in

Asylum Seekers

- Liaise with asylum seekers and continue to work with them and invite them to landcare working bees
- Max is ready to email groups when Bernadette says that RAR can help

Social Get-Togethers

- Hold up to 2 social events yearly
- Need to include social events to build cohesion of group
- Social get-togethers with other groups could be addressed by workshops, bike path and workshops

Develop Identity of Barkers Creek

- Group could be the social hub of the community
- Rename Bushland Reserve: From 'Harcourt' to 'Barkers Creek'





Credits and acknowledgments

Barkers Creek Landcare & Wildlife Group
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For more information contact Daryl Colless
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Find us online
www.facebook.com/LandcareBarkersCreek

5 Year Plan Workshop
Held 1st February 2015 and facilitated by
Max Schlachter, Mt Alexander Regional
Landcare Facilitator

Layout and design
Tony Cormack - Function/Form

