

WINTER 2026

THE BABBLER

Newsletter of the
Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare Network



FROM THE GROUND UP - WE MAKE IT HAPPEN

Welcome to the Winter Edition of the Babblar

Now that the cold has well and truly settled in across our patch, winter reminds us how much strength there is in community. Even in the quiet season, our landscapes keep changing, our volunteers keep showing up, and small actions continue to make a big difference.

Thank you for staying connected, staying curious, and staying involved. Grab a warm drink, settle in, and enjoy this winter edition of The Babblar – full of stories, updates, and the steady heartbeat of Landcare across our region.

Oh, and we are running the 'Picture Our Place' photo competition. So, step outside (in your winter woollies), look around, and capture what makes our Landcare area special! Everyone is invited to share the beauty, stories, and everyday moments that connect us to the Buloke and Northern Grampians landscape. Whether it's a sunrise over the paddocks, a curious kangaroo, or a neighbour lending a hand, your photo can help celebrate the people and places that make our community thrive. No fancy camera needed – just your eyes, your phone, and your creativity. More information on Page 6 and on the BNGLN website.

The comp opens 27 June, can't wait to see your amazing photos.

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BNGLN HALL OF FAME



L to R: Paul Sheridan, Trevor Campbell, Carol Campbell, Prue McAllister, Dougal McAllister

On the 3rd May 2026, the Buloke & Northern Grampians Landcare Network celebrated the 2026 Hall of Fame which coincided with Landcare's 40 year anniversary with a warm and spirited gathering at Taltarni Vineyard, Moonambel. Against a backdrop of autumn vines and community pride, five awards were presented to recognise individuals and groups whose dedication has shaped the region's environmental legacy.

The event brought together long-standing volunteers, partner organisations, and families – all united by a shared commitment to caring for country. A highlight of the afternoon was the presentation of the 2026 Hall of Fame award winners, captured in the photo above.

The 40-year celebration at Taltarni Vineyard was more than an awards ceremony – it was a tribute to the people who have rolled up their sleeves for decades to protect the region's lakes, rivers, grasslands, and cultural heritage.

As Landcare enters its fifth decade, the stories shared on the day – from Jean Holland's dawn vigils to the APBLG's cultural heritage walks – remind us that environmental stewardship is built on passion, persistence, and community spirit. The BNGLN thanked all volunteers, partners, and supporters who continue to keep Landcare strong.



BNGLN HALL OF FAME AWARD WINNERS



Elvie McDonald Award for Biodiversity

Presented to: Mabel "Jean" Holland

Jean Holland's story – drawn from local memory and family recollections – is one of fierce advocacy and quiet courage. A protector of native birds at Hollands Lake and a visionary custodian of York Plains, Jean championed wildlife long before conservation became mainstream.

John Douglas Award for Land Management

Presented to: Paul Sheridan

Paul Sheridan was recognised for more than five decades of innovative land management. From early salinity mitigation in the 1970s to establishing 500,000 saltbush plants across 270 hectares, Paul's work has transformed degraded land into resilient habitat and his property now ranks in the top 30% of Plains-wanderer acoustic monitoring sites statewide.



Terry Simpson Landcare Group Award

Presented to: Avon Plains–Banyena Landcare Group

One of the region's longest-running groups, APBLG was celebrated for four decades of advocacy, education, and on-ground works – from revegetation along the Richardson River to cultural heritage projects with Dja Dja Wurrung. Their recent achievements include new educational signage at Walkers Lake and ongoing protection of threatened species such as the Striped Legless Lizard.



BNGLN HALL OF FAME AWARD WINNERS

Carrie Jessie Award for Community & Advocacy

Presented to: Carol Campbell

Carol Campbell's 40-plus years of service were honoured with heartfelt applause. Her leadership has shaped the Avon Plains–Banyena landscape, from fencing the Richardson River to championing improvements at Walkers Lake. Carol's Winter Warmer Walks and her commitment to community education continue to inspire new generations.



BNGLN Legend Award

Presented to: Trevor Campbell

The Network's legend award was presented to Trevor Campbell, a foundational figure in the Avon–Richardson catchment. Trevor's leadership helped establish multiple Landcare groups, secure major funding, and drive landmark projects such as the Buloke Biolink.

Trevor concluded the ceremony by cutting the official 40th Anniversary Landcare Cake, a symbolic moment recognising both history and hope for the future.



BNGLN HALL OF FAME PICCIES





PICTURE OUR PLACE PHOTO COMPETITION

---- 27 JULY 2026 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2026 ----

Step outside, look around, and capture what makes our Landcare Network area special! Share the beauty, stories, and everyday moments that connect us to the natural landscape.

Categories	Prizes
• Junior (Under 12) • Youth (12-18) • Adult • People's Choice	• Winning photos on BNGLN Trailer • Winning photos in 2027 calendar • Photos on BNGLN promotional material • Every winner will receive a calendar

Themes	How to enter
• Natural Value • Connectivity • Thriving Communities • Scientific Approach • Resilience	Go to the Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare Network website www.bnglandcare.org



**ENTRIES
CLOSE
11.59PM
30 SEPT
2026**



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Wycheproof and District Landcare

Wycheproof and District Landcare held the community 'Plant the Wycheproof Wetlands' Day on Sunday 19 July as part of National Tree Day. The day included planting many plants, re-guarding existing plants and cleaning up, as part of a long-term community project. Albeit foggy, it was a terrific day with lots of good cheer, food and company.



CHECK OUT
THE NEW
BGNLN TRAILER
IN ACTION



happy
national
tree day

Friends of Mt Wycheproof



(L to R) – Marney Durie, Viv Parish and Andrea Coatsworth

The ANZAC Day service in 2026 in Wycheproof had an extra noteworthy event take place. A key feature of this year's commemorations was the recognition of Wycheproof's Currajong - Avenue of Honour on Mt Wycheproof - a forgotten Avenue of Honour for WW1.

Article from the 1918 newspapers - 'In August 1918, twenty-five local families planted Currajong trees on Mount Wycheproof to honour young men from the district who lost their lives in the First World War.'

Unfortunately over time, the unique avenue on the mount gradually faded from public memory due to a formal cenotaph being installed in the town's main street in 1922, and the sports and A&P events being transferred from the Mount to a later facility north of the town, and the Mount reserve being fenced off in the 1960's for a proposed zoo initiative. 2019 saw the fences removed, the currajongs having been found again a year or two before.

Sixteen of the original trees still stand, and the missing trees have now been replanted from seed from the originals.

Friends of Mt Wycheproof cont.

Following the 2026 mornings ANZAC Day services at Centenary Park in Wycheproof, the community gathered on Mount Wycheproof for the official unveiling of a new plaque marking the restored Avenue, with the Charlton Wycheproof Brass Band playing, and then a barbecue lunch.

Some twenty-three of the 25 memorialised soldiers were represented on the 2026 day by family descendants. Some having travelled from Perth, WA and Queensland plus many parts of Victoria and NSW.

The 1918 planting had been an initiative of the then 'Comfort Fund' of Wycheproof, which consisted mostly of women who were affected by the war, and were raising funds to send comfort packages to troops in the front lines

So it was most appropriate to have three key local women descendants cut ribbons on the curtain to the new plaque in 2026, and then (as the photo shows) invite all the related family's female descendant in attendance that day, to pose for the photo.

The curarjongs avenue is shown in the background, being on the northern face of Mt Wycheproof.

The people in front who cut the ribbons were (L to R) – Marney Durie, Viv Parish and Andrea Coatsworth.

The ANZAC Day services for Wycheproof were all bolstered by the extra numbers with (recent) record crowds at the Dawn Service at the cenotaph – 70 number. Estimated two hundred at the annual raising of the flag service at 11 am, and at least 150 transferring to the Mount for the re-dedication ceremony. A wonderful day for such a tragic recognition.

The 2026 ANZAC day was organised by the Friends of Mt Wycheproof with the Wycheproof Sub-Branch of the RSL and was supported by the Wycheproof Lions Club, Wycheproof Op Shop, Wycheproof & District historical Society, Wycheproof P-12 College, Charlton Wycheproof Brass band, Calder United Hockey Club and many volunteers.

Wetlands of Rupanyup with Avon Plains **Banyena Landcare Group**

Contributed by Alana Rivera Kingston, Yarrilinks Landcare Network

Sunny winter days make for perfect weather to head out to explore local wetlands, with the recent rain and a hint of spring around the corner seeing them come alive with birdsong and frog calls. On a recent Sunday, members of Avon Plains Banyena Landcare and the wider community did just that, heading out to the Rupanyup area on Wotjobaluk Nations Country.

Mutton Swamp is a short drive south of Rupanyup, and was originally set aside to be the town's water supply. Brown Treecreepers, a species listed as vulnerable, were seen hopping along Black Box trees, many of which were planted when the area was declared a wetlands in 1987. Mutton Swamp receives environmental water from the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline, benefitting local vegetation and wildlife. An Australasian Grebe met us on the water in the middle of the reserve, where the group heard from local birding expert Ian Morgan, who said that critically endangered Swift Parrots had been seen at Mutton Swamp this time last year.

The next stop was Rupanyup Reservoir, situated on the northwest corner of town, where the decommissioned water supply area has been converted into a thriving forest and space for the community. Rupanyup Landcare member Adrian Tyler, who is largely to thank for turning the reservoir site into what it is today, lead the group on a leisurely walk around the circuit track.

Brown-Headed Honeyeaters and Singing Honeyeaters were observed enjoying a landscape filled with thousands of native trees and shrubs (both local and non-local species), many of which Adrian propagated from seed he collected. Adrian continues to undertake planting and weed maintenance of the site, and over the years has spent countless volunteer hours improving the area, including building a footbridge and spreading tonnes of gravel by hand.



Wetlands of Rupanyup with Avon Plains Banyena Landcare Group cont.

After a picnic lunch at Jack Emmett Billabong, the group headed to Jack's Track, which meanders through Black Box and Lignum toward a wetland and woodland area. Beginning behind the old Rupanyup Flour Mill, where the first concrete silos in Australia were built, Jack's Track is on private land that has been opened up for the benefit of community and environment, with Adrian Tyler again playing a large role in its establishment, planting and ongoing maintenance. Converted from a site that in 2005 contained only a single Black Box tree, and where a sand quarry was once used to source materials for the town's concrete silos, it is now a revegetated wetland that serves both ecological and community purposes. A White-Faced Heron, Australasian Grebes, Eurasian Coots and Pacific Black Ducks were observed enjoying the series of dams, which help filter water on its last stop in the town's water treatment journey, before being put to use on the local footy oval.

Weather conditions are ideal at the moment for getting out in the winter sunshine to appreciate our local environment, or to get plants in the ground, and there are many Landcare activities happening around the district that community members are always welcome to attend. The next Avon Plains Landcare event is a visit to Dalki Garringa Native Nursery in Wail on Wednesday 22 July at 10am, all welcome.



Group photo from L to R:

Merilyn Frank, Carol Campbell, Lyn Sudholz, Ann Dunstan, Prue McAllister, Deb Jenkins, Peter Sudholz, Richard Bazeley and Adrian Tyler



WHAT'S COMING UP

Winter Warmer No. 2

Hosted by Avon Plains Banyena Landcare Group Inc.

Dalki
Garringa
Native
Nursery

Time: 10 am
Date: 22.07.2026
(Wednesday)
Address: 127 Wail
Nursery Rd. WAIL

Bring morning tea /
lunch, chair and be
prepared for all
weather conditions.

History:

The Nursery owned and managed by Barengi Gadjin Land Council grows native plants specifically for our tough conditions.

The Nursery is located on the old Wail nursery site, established in 1946 by the Victorian forestry.

Spotlight:

We could go home via
Dimboola, and check out the
tourist shops & cafes /
bakery.

For enquiries and RSVP
Carol 0499 586008

WINTER WARMER NO.3 TO MT JEFFCOTT



Activities

Check out the flora and fauna. How many endangered species can we find? How high is the mount? Is it really the world's smallest mountain?

DATE: 16.08.2026

TIME: 10am, Mt Jeffcott

Join us to explore the mount.

BYO BBQ as facility available on site with weather protection.

BYO all weather gear, all food and drinks too. See you at the base at 10am!

FOR ENQUIRIES & RSVP:
CAROL 0499 586 008



GRANTS

FRRR (Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal)

In a Good Place grants program is now open for applications! In a Good Place supports community-led projects that boost mental, social and emotional wellbeing. With dedicated streams for community wellbeing and farming communities, now's the time to turn your idea into something meaningful. 🌱

Learn more and apply

https://lnkd.in/gJe_Rzq4



In a Good Place program

Round 12 is now open, offering grants of up to \$20,000 for:

- **Stream 1 Community wellbeing** for projects focusing on general mental health and wellbeing within remote, rural, and regional communities
- **Stream 2 Farmers and farming communities** for projects specifically supporting the mental health and wellbeing of farmers and the communities they live in.



Applications close 18 August.

WIRES National Grants Program 2026

There's three weeks remaining to apply for the WIRES National Grants Program 2026. The program supports projects that deliver tangible long-term outcomes for Australian wildlife and their habitats including:

- Wildlife rescue and rehabilitation
- Emergency preparedness and response initiatives
- Native species recovery and habitat conservation
- Capacity building within the wildlife sector
- Community engagement and education.

With up to \$200,000 across the funding tiers, eligible wildlife carers, rescue organisations, environmental NGOs, community groups and collaborative partners are encouraged to apply. Applications close 3 August 2026. For more information visit

<https://www.wires.org.au/national-grants-program>



PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS THAT YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN

Farm Business Resilience Program

The FBR supports farmers to develop the knowledge and skills they need to improve their farm business and be better equipped to manage the impacts of drought and a changing climate. The FBR program supports farmers to improve skills and management practices in:

- business planning and risk management
- farm finances and profitable decision making
- managing people on farm, farm safety and wellbeing
- climate adaptation and natural resource improvement including soil, water, crops and pastures.

The FBR Program is jointly funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Victorian Government's Future Agriculture Skills Capacity Fund.

Website: <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/prepare/farm-business-resilience-program>

BushBank Program

BushBank provides opportunities for private landowners to restore and protect native vegetation on their land. Cassinia Environmental is delivering the program thanks to the Victorian Government's \$77 million BushBank program funding. Expressions of Interest are now open for this round of funding and close 31 March. If selected, all landowners will receive BushBank funding and guidance for their restoration project. Cassinia may also assist with project delivery.

Website: <https://cassinia.com/bushbank/>

Climate Positive Farming Initiative

North Central CMA is delivering the Climate Positive Farming Initiative across the catchment with funding through the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate Smart Agriculture Program. The team is working with farmer groups to deliver workshops and field days on topics that will help farmers to improve soil health and build resilience into their farming systems. They would like to hear from yourselves about what speakers or topics you would like more information on. Examples of topics may include subsoil manuring or the use of gypsum or compost to improve soil health. Please share your ideas and thoughts with your Landcare facilitator Jane.

Website:

https://nccma.vic.gov.au/media/documents/Carbon_Positive_Farming_Initiative_EoI.pdf



OTHER BITS AND PIECES



DON'T MISS OUT,
NOMINATIONS
CLOSE 31 JULY
2026!

Do you know an environmental hero that should be recognised?

Help recognise a local environmental hero or group by nominating them for the 2026 State and Territory Landcare Awards! These awards celebrate individuals, groups and organisations protecting Australia's land, water and ecosystems.

Who comes to mind?

- A volunteer who's spent years restoring a local reserve
- A landcare, Coastcare, bushcare, 'Friends of' or rivercare group making a difference
- A Traditional Owner or First Nations organisation caring for Country
- A school, youth group or young person leading positive change in their community
- the neighbour who spends weekends replanting a creek line
- the farmer trialling new ways to be sustainable on their property
- the teacher helping students grow a habitat garden
- the volunteer group that turns up month after month to restore a local reserve and help improve biodiversity.

Nominations are free and open to everyone, including self-nominations. It only takes around 10-minutes to submit a nomination and shine a light on the important work happening in communities across the country.

LOOKING FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We're inviting locals to join our BNGLN... well, let's call it anything but a committee! The word committee sounds like clipboards, fluorescent lights, older people and someone saying "moving a motion," but ours is really just a great bunch of people who meet quarterly, share ideas, laugh a lot, and help guide Landcare projects in a relaxed, practical way. Think of it as a friendly crew, a brains-trust, a quarterly catch-up with purpose – whatever feels less scary than committee. If you're keen to be part of something fun, meaningful, and very low-stress, we'd love to have you jump in. For more information contact Adam Campbell on 0428 308 708

BNGLN ACTIVITY CALENDAR

This calendar is for BNGLN group activities. Please let the BNGLN Facilitator Jane know of any up-and-coming activities / events. These will also be listed on the BNGLN website.

DATE/TIME	ACTIVITY	WHERE	DETAILS
22/07/2026 10am	Winter Warmer No. 2 hosted by Avon Plains Banyena Landcare Group	Dalki Garringa Native Nursery	Learn about native plants by Barengi Gadjin Land Council. BYO morning tea, lunch and chair. Enquiries Carol 0499 586 008
09/08/2026	Bi-monthly working bee	Mt Wycheproof	
16/08/2026 10am	Winter Warmer No. 3	Mt Jeffcott	Explore the mount. BYO weather gear, food and drinks. Enquiries Carol 0499 586 008
04/10/2026	Bi-monthly working bee	Mt Wycheproof	
23/10/2026	BNGLN AGM	Vale of Avoca, Charlton	
13/12/2026	Bi-monthly working bee	Mt Wycheproof	

Weed Removal in Action

The Babbler is a publication of the
Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare Network

The Babbler is produced quarterly - Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring.

If you would like to receive a copy of the Babbler, please contact the Landcare Facilitator, Jane, via the details below. The Babbler is also available on the Network's website.

If you would like to place an article in the Babbler, get in touch with Jane.

Contact: Jane Bowker, Network Facilitator
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Our Website: www.bnglandcare.org
Our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/bnglandcarenetwork>



We acknowledge that our Network performs its activities on Dja Dja Wurrung and Barengi Gadjin Country. We acknowledge and extend our appreciation for the Dja Dja Wurrung and Barengi Gadjin peoples, the Traditional Custodians of the country on which we work and volunteer. We pay our respects to leaders and Elders past and present for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all First Nations Peoples. We express our gratitude in the sharing of this Country, our sorrow for the personal, spiritual and cultural costs of that sharing and our hope that we may walk forward together in harmony and in the spirit of healing.

