



2021-2026 ACTION PLAN



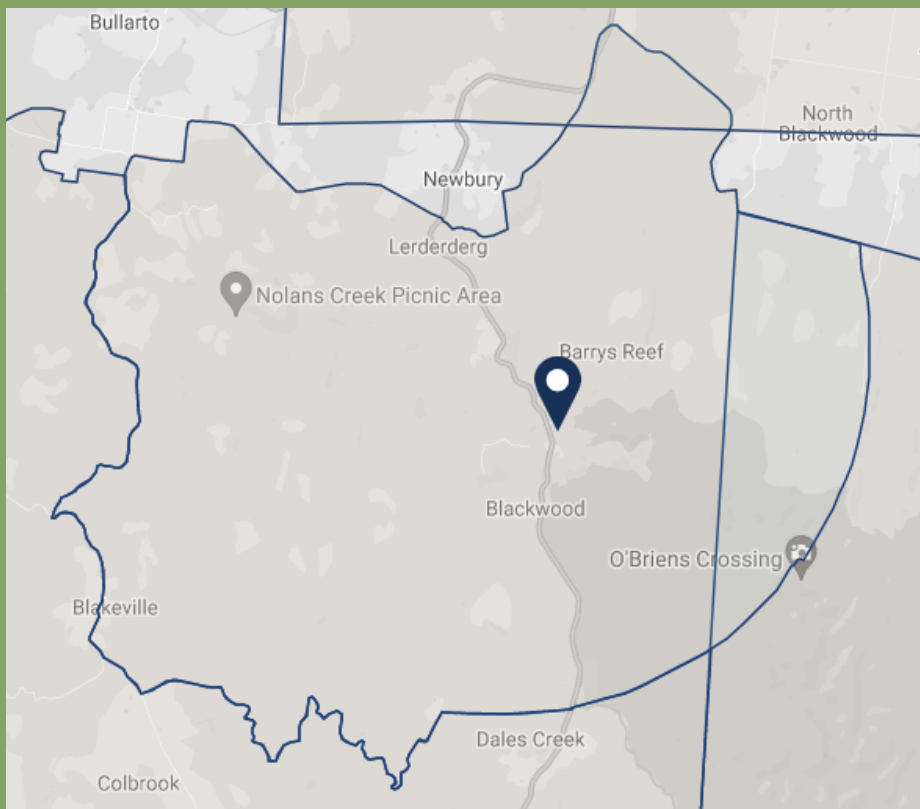
Blackwood & Barry's Reef
**LANDCARE
GROUP**

ABOUT US

Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare Group has been around for over 20 years. We are a group of local residents who are passionate about actively caring for the land, waterways, plants, animals, fungi...all the natural beauty of a special part of Victoria. We undertake weed management, revegetation, citizen science activities and have fun along the way!

Our meetings are held bimonthly in Blackwood.

As a member of Landcare Victoria Inc and also Moorabool Landcare Network, Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare Group taps into the resources of the wider Landcare "family".



Our area of interest



PREPARING THE ACTION PLAN

In August 2021, our members were sent an online survey. Results of that survey form the basis of our *Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare Group Action Plan 2021 – 2026*. The survey had a range of questions which focused on what are the things that you enjoy most about your involvement with the group, what topics you would like to learn about and what projects do you think are most valuable in restoring our local environment.

Survey results

WORKING BEES



Most people enjoy working bees, getting their hands dirty, removing weeds and helping clean up a community asset. When asked if a regular working bee would be of interest, the answer was yes! Some people were available on weekdays; others said a weekend day would better suit.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION



Members would like to learn more about weeds (identification and control techniques), local plants, fungi and animals. They want to learn how to plant native gardens at their homes. And how to reduce pesky European Wasps! Some are interested in investigating the Lerderderg River and what calls it home. Fire and biodiversity interactions was a suggestion - highly relevant to a community in a forest.

NETWORKING



Members like social networking and suggested creating more opportunities for this (eg. BBQs). The regular networking with local land management authorities was also supported because much of the forest around Blackwood is in public ownership. Linking and learning from neighbouring environment "care" groups was suggested.

PRIORITY ACTIONS

Immediately

- Establish regular working bees - both weekday and weekend ones - in addition to targeted on-ground works
- Conduct an *Ultra-weed-a-thon* to raise awareness (supported by Moorabool Council)
- Celebrate our local area and our landcare work through social activities
- Conduct three informative workshops or presentations per year
- Publish a localised backyard-to-catchment weed management video



Over the next 2 years

- Build our capacity in citizen science - start a River Watchers project, expand War on Wasps project
- Establish a local *Moorabool Gardens for Wildlife* program and plant an indigenous garden at the Blackwood Uniting Church, St Martin's Chapel
- Start an environmental arts project
- Hold a Weed Forum with government land and water managers in our area

***"Do activities to
involve families
and children...
the future of
Landcare"***

Our Vision & PURPOSE

A forest and town
free of weeds

&

To care for our
beautiful backyard



Longer term

- Establish a weed mapping and auditing process that tracks private and public land management activities
- Build our knowledge of fire and biodiversity interactions
- Link to researchers and help them where possible
- Develop joint projects with other groups in our vicinity, in particular those in the lower Lerderderg catchment, and those in the same unique bio-clime
- Build our capacity to identify and monitor vulnerable, threatened and endangered species of the area



Priority weed
SITES

1 Blackwood
Recreation Reserve

2 Mineral Springs
Reserve

3 Whalebone Rd -
Lerderderg Track

4 Blackwood Hall

5 Blackwood Uniting
Church, St Martin's
Chapel

6 Povey's Reserve

The priority weed sites are associated with community assets within the township of Blackwood.

Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare Group is working in partnership with the Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee of Management and the St Martin's Management Committee. We will also explore how we may be able to assist the Great Dividing Trail Association with weed management on parts of the Lerderderg Track.

A further priority for the Group is encouraging residents to remove problem weeds from their properties. A local weed management guide has been prepared and equipment is available for borrowing. A local backyard-to-catchment weed management video funded by Melbourne Water will be developed and the Gardens for Wildlife program promoted.

A Weed Forum was held in 2020 with representatives of government land and water managers and Mary-Anne Thomas MP, chair.

Twelve priority sites were identified by that Forum along with potential coordinated action between the different authorities. A rapid audit in 2021 by Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare Group has confirmed significant progress on most of the sites which is greatly appreciated.

A future Weed Forum, along with an agreed systematic auditing process, is planned as part of this Action Plan.



Sadly in 2021, Shane Scanlan, a founding member, passed away. He was passionate about Blackwood and Landcare, in particular weed control. By implementing this Action Plan we hope to continue Shane's legacy.

People come into and leave the Blackwood community for all sorts of reasons so it's important to encourage people to join Landcare and keep up the momentum.

CONTACT US

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Photo credits:

Blackwood seeds, Diana Dawson; Everlasting daisy, Cat Moser; Eastern Yellow Robin, Diana Dawson

Design:

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