

Northern Bendigo Landcare Group

Volunteer Skills and Interests Form

*It is important to us that volunteers are able to communicate their interests, along with skills that they have or would like to gain. This helps us match volunteers to activities more effectively and ensures volunteers feel valued, needed and rewarded for their efforts.*

Please complete the form and return to the group via post; PO Box 433, Epsom, 3551 ; email; dnhowie@bigpond.com ; or bring along to a meeting; 4th Wednesday in Jan, March, July, Sept and December

It will then be placed in the group’s confidential Volunteer Register.

**Personal Details**

Mr Mrs  Miss  Ms **Age**  16 – 29  30 – 49  50 – 69  70+

**Name ­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Home Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Postal Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Preferred contact method** Post Email

**Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ When necessary, can we text you ? \_\_\_\_\_**

**How did you find out about volunteering with us ? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**How often would you like to volunteer ?**  Regularly  Sometimes  One off \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred volunteering times** Week days Weekends (Sat or Sun ?)  School holidays

**Skills / Experience**

**List the skills / experience you feel you could contribute to our Landcare group:**

**List the skills / experience you would like to develop through volunteering with our Landcare Group:**

**Interests**  **Tick the activities below that you would be interested in assisting with: (see overleaf for explanations)**

Adopt-A-Roadside clean-ups Organise community events Seed Collection

Propagation Garden Maintenance Bird Surveys

Nest Box monitoring Project Planning Organise youth events

Revegetation Pest plants and animals Information displays

Administrative tasks Water Quality Testing Plant identification

**Adopt-A-Roadside Clean ups** – Our group participates in Keep Australia Beautiful’s Adopt-A-Roadside program. We clean up our adopted section of the Midland Highway, north of Huntly, four times per year (Feb, May, Aug, Nov). We meet at the roadside stop approximately 6km north of the Huntly Post Office. We provide the collection bags, gloves, hi-vis vests, hand-held rubbish grabbers and utes. You bring yourself, water bottle, hat, sunscreen and wear sturdy shoes. We only clean-up for 1 hour maximum.

Remember, if you are willing to help out, you can choose your level of involvement ranging from participation, to assisting with organisation or maybe even full organisation. When needed, training will be provided.

**Organise community events -**  Our group has held several successful community events ranging from a Sustainable Living Field Day and Huntly Cemetery 140th Anniversary Commemoration Day through to treeplanting days and field days at our Bendigo Creek Restoration site. Organisation might include planning the program, booking speakers, arranging catering / toilet hire / transport / venue hire, advertising and all aspects of running the actual day.

**Seed Collection –** Currently, we collect Whirrakee Wattle seed each year in December / January. We also hope to collect other species indigenous to our area, including grasses.

**Propagation –** Our group owns a shadehouse and we currently propagate Whirrakee Wattle seed each year both in-group and with students of Huntly Primary School. This usually occurs in July / August. If possible, we would like to experiment with propagating other species as well.

**Garden Maintenance –** Our group installed the Huntly Community Indigenous Demonstration Garden (beside the Huntly General Store) two years ago. The garden looks after itself for the most part but occasionally needs some maintenance – removing litter / autumn leaves, watering, pruning, weeding, plant replacement, updating signage.

**Bird Surveys -** We currently conduct seasonal bird surveys in our restoration area of the Bendigo Creek, starting at Leans Rd, Huntly. We would like to also conduct surveys from the Howard St, Epsom end. We record specie numbers in 3 x 20min periods / 200m lengths. We would like to start recording bird species at other project sites.

**Nest Box Monitoring –** We have many nest boxes installed in our area for birds and mammals and these need to be mapped, maintained and monitored. More nest boxes will be installed each year we have funding.

**Project Planning –** We are always keen to have help with project planning. This might involve identifying problem areas in our district or opportunities for enhancement, devising plans of attack and sourcing funding.

**Organise youth events –** Our group has conducted lots of field days, talks and hands-on activities with youth ranging from kinder children, primary school groups and TAFE / BTEC students to Cubs groups and the Family Nature Club. Organisation might include liaising with groups, planning activities, gathering equipment, running the event.

**Revegetation –** Treeplanting and enhancing understorey is a big part of what we do. We need willing workers to be involved in choosing species, the actual planting and ongoing maintenance including watering, weeding and monitoring. Several existing sites need someone to adopt them and new sites are always in the pipeline.

**Pest plant and animal control –** We currently employ a contractor to do the big jobs in our Bendigo Creek Restoration Project but there are often other jobs such as follow up spraying, weed control ahead of revegetation, rabbit surveys, ongoing monitoring and good old hand pulling for species such as Gazania (quite a big problem around the streets of Huntly and Epsom)

**Information Displays –** We try to present an information display at Huntly Market Days (4 per year), during Landcare Week and often seize other opportunities when they arise. We have a display already assembled which may need updating from time to time. Help with setting up / packing up and staffing the information display would be great.

**Administrative Tasks –** This might involve maintaining our group’s website, writing press releases, preparing advertising, keeping monitoring records or even entering social media to get our name out there even more.

**Water Quality Testing –** We currently monitor two sites along Bendigo Creek on a monthly basis as part of the North Central Waterwatch program. Other sites could be included if we had more volunteers.

**Plant identification –** We often require people with skills to conduct flora surveys of proposed, existing or past project sites. Accurate Plant identification is also a pre-requisite to seed collection. Plant i.d on private land could also be a possibility.