FAQ About Leadership in Rabbit Control Course 2021

**When?** Arrive 18 April – Depart 20 April 2021

**Where?:** Wangaratta, North East Victoria

**What is the ‘Leadership in Rabbit Control Course’?** The Victorian Rabbit Action Network ‘Leadership in Rabbit Control Course’ 2021 is open to all Victorians currently involved in the management of rabbits on private or public land.

The Leadership in Rabbit Control Course is a mentor course that includes both classroom and practical field- based training. Following the training, participants will be offered the opportunity to form a group or ‘Learning Network’ who can meet, share ideas and discuss rabbit management.

Twenty positions are available for the 2021 Course.  VRAN encourage diversity in our Leadership in Rabbit Control Course 2021 and we want people with a range of perspectives and experiences to be involved. VRAN are seeking a balance of representation by gender, industry, regions, community groups, Traditional Owners, land managers, government agencies and other professionals.

**Tell me about the course facilitation?** - The course will be facilitated by our VRAN mentors who are recognised experts in rabbit management and community-led action. As a group, they provide expertise and insights from community, industry and government perspectives. They will be supported by co-facilitators with diverse experience in community engagement and invasive species management from around Australia, across a range of sectors and organisations.

**What does it cost?** No cost. If you are a community member all cost associated with the course, meal and accommodation will be paid on your behalf. We will also reimburse you for your travel expenses.

**Can government staff participant?** – The Leadership in Rabbit Control Course is free for participants from Local Government, Catchment Management Authorities, water, road and rail authorities. You will be expected to cover your travel costs.

**What is the time commitment? -** Many of you are travelling great distances to join us at this course. April can be a typically hot time of year and daylight savings makes our spotlighting sessions later in the evening.

We take OH&S seriously, so we would like you to arrive on Sunday afternoon and leave either on course conclusion Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning. We recognise that this is a long time to be away from work and family, but we feel that you will get a great benefit from being well rested. You will also get more time to network and meet others working in the same field. Your accommodation for the course is provided at no cost.

**What is the course schedule?** Course Start time: Sunday 18 April 2021, 4:30 pm. All participants must attend the course introduction at 4:30pm and this will be followed by a welcome dinner. You may choose to arrive at the course location earlier in the afternoon, check into your room and relax until the course commences.

Finish time: Course will conclude Tuesday afternoon 5:30 pm.

Optional - You may choose to stay Tuesday night. VRAN will cover your accommodation, but we ask that you cover your meal Tuesday night and breakfast Wednesday morning.

5 reasons to apply?

1. Hear from the best thinkers and leaders in Victoria on rabbit management

2. Get refreshed and motivated to tackle the challenge of rabbit control

3. Meet people that work in the same field & get inspired

4. Make difference in your community

5. It’s free

Course Information

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Session 1: Rabbit Bootcamp 2021 (18 March 2021- 20 March 2021)

The Leadership in Rabbit Control Course is a mentor course that includes both classroom and practical field-based training. By the end of the course participants will understand the ecology and biology of rabbits, Victoria’s legislation framework and how to implement an integrated rabbit control program.

We get our hands dirty and head outside to experience integrated rabbit control demonstrations and learn how to plan and implement monitoring courses to maximise the effectiveness of rabbit control. All participants will also attend an evening spotlight session.

We will also discuss things to consider when working in sensitive cultural heritage landscapes, the importance of collaboration, community engagement and chat about why rabbit work is challenging.

In addition to the classroom and field session you get to network with a group of people that are on a similar journey to you and facing similar scenarios and issues. By participating in this course, you will enhance your existing contacts and pest management resources.

We will challenge you to consider what you can do differently to help your community, your rabbit control course for the better.

Meet the mentors

Meet the ‘A team’ of rabbit control in Victoria. The VRAN mentors are recognised experts in rabbit management and community-led action. As a group, they provide expertise and insights from community, industry and government perspectives.

The mentors deliver VRAN’s [Leadership in Rabbit Control Course](http://rabbitaction.com/projects/building-rabbit-knowledge/) and provide ongoing support for the VRAN [learning networks](http://rabbitaction.com/projects/leaps-and-bounds-learning-network/). Each VRAN mentor has a few rabbit seasons under their belts and have experience in working across both private and public land and in different landscapes across the State. They will share their knowledge with you and are good listeners too. Once you get to know them, you will no doubt teach them something new too.

| **MEMBER** | **AFFILIATION** |
| --- | --- |
| Neil Devanny | Member, Gooram Valley Landcare Group Committee and Granite Creeks Project Inc. |
| Brad Spear | Pest and Weed Management Consultant, Enviro Vic 2000 |
| Tim Bloomfield | Pest Animal Consultant, Environment First Pty Ltd |
| John Matthews | (Retired) Biosecurity Manager, Established Invasive Animals, Agriculture Victoria |
| Tom Miller | Natural Resource Management Officer, Moorabool Shire Council |
| Peter Barnes | Manager, Neds Corner Station, Trust for Nature |
| Geoff McFarlane | Member, Bellarine Landcare Group, Member GCoG Rural and Peri Urban Advisory Committee |

A Learning Network – What is it?

After the course you will be invited to participate in our free Learning Network program. A Learning Network is a way of describing a group of people that you meet with, connect with on a common topic and learn. Participants in the VRAN Rabbit Learning Network will have ongoing access to mentors and can give and receive support to each other after the Rabbit Control Course.

The participants and mentors of the first VRAN Leadership in Rabbit Control Course in 2015 formed a learning network or support group. Participants named the network ‘Leaps and Bounds’ and meet 1-2 times a year across various locations around Victoria to share their experiences in rabbit management.

Independent evaluations of VRAN and the Leaps and Bounds learning network show that the initiative has:

* built confidence in best-practice rabbit control,
* improved relationships across different parts of the rabbit management system, and
* changed mindsets about how institutions and community groups can work together.

Sounds interesting? Check out these [stories](https://vran.com.au/vran-projects/building-rabbit-knowledge/) from the Leaps and Bounds participants.

How do I apply?

**How do I apply?**

Three easy steps:

**Step 1:** Prepare an Application Form.

**Step 2:** Submit Application Form to the course coordinator Heidi.kleinert@ecodev.vic.gov.au by **5th March 2021, 5 pm AEDST,**

**Step 3:** Your application is assessed, and you are notified.

**About the Application Process**

All participants will be assessed on evidence provided in their responses to the key selection criteria that demonstrate their skills and experience, as outlined in their “Application Form”.

A VRAN selection panel will shortlist participants, talk with referees and notify you by **17 March 2021.**

About VRAN

The Victorian Rabbit Action Network (VRAN) was established in 2014 to promote community-led action for more sustainable and effective rabbit management in Victoria.

We know rabbit work is challenging and strongly believe that working together is better. VRAN’s goal is to encourage landowners, land managers, community groups and government agencies to collaborate and coordinate their efforts for integrated rabbit control.

Working together encourages growth and learning through exposure to different perspectives. By working together, we can combine the knowledge and experiences of a diverse range of people who all have a stake in controlling the impact of rabbits in our landscapes, communities and industries.

VRAN is led by a skills-based Steering Group of community, industry and government leaders with the support of the VRAN Executive Officer.

What does VRAN Do?

VRAN acts as a facilitating institution and brings community together with government to talk about rabbit control, investment, training and partnerships.

We are all different. VRAN focuses its activities on capacity building, network development, and community-based innovation across the people, communities, and organisations that manage rabbits in Victoria.

VRAN hosts learning and mentoring networks, delivers workshops on best-practice rabbit control, and supports people and organisations to collaborate on rabbit action. It also provides occasional funding grants to support community learning, innovation, and rabbit management.

More information:

If you have any further questions regarding the Leadership in Rabbit Control Course, or how to complete the Expressions of Interest Form, please contact the course coordinator Heidi Kleinert: [Heidi.kleinert@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:Heidi.kleinert@ecodev.vic.gov.au) or 0472 877 472.