



Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

Newsletter

President: Andrew Prime
Phone 5369 4261

Secretary: Andrew Gay
Phone 5284 1550

Treasurer: Chris Winfield
Phone 5369 4214

Number 13

July 2009

Brisbane Ranges LandCare Group
Meeting
Wednesday 13th July 2009
Balliang Hall

A film: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil

After production peaks, what happens when the oil runs out?

How Cuba Survived Peak Oil is an American documentary film that explores the economic collapse and eventual recovery of Cuba following the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 which removed a major source of oil. Its major themes include urban agriculture, energy dependence, and sustainability. The film was directed by Faith Morgan, and was released in 2006.

Cubans have replaced petroleum-fed machinery with oxen, and their urban agriculture reduces food transportation distances. Today an estimated 50 percent of Havana's vegetables come from inside the city, while in other Cuban towns and cities urban gardens produce from 80 percent to more than 100 percent of what they need. As well as funding permaculture programs delivered by Australian experts, the Cuban Government has permitted the development of private markets as part of the reforms.

A reviewer writes: "This is simply the most inspiring film I have seen. It shows clearly how an oil dependent country can make the transition to life without oil."

The film runs for about an hour and will be followed by supper.

BRLCG Projects

The Executive are investigating several new projects. Discussions are under way with the Hall Committee about revegetation in the area around the Hall, specifically near the proposed play ground and along the front and car park. Also, in conjunction with the fire brigade we are looking at obtaining funding to do revegetation works around the fire shed.

These two projects will transform the throbbing heart of the Balliang Central business district!

Finally, Sam Bailey from the CMA is supporting us in the development of a mosaic project that seeks to link up the many areas of revegetation that have been happening on a piecemeal basis in the past. At the moment we are focussing attention on the Little River between Lees Road and the Geelong Bacchus Marsh Road, but any other projects that involve revegetation in our area could be included.

Executive member Profile



Michelle Kerr with friends Beau and Doc!

Michelle Kerr joined the Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group in 2008.

Michelle is a real Balliang local. She was born at the Bacchus Marsh Hospital and,

apart from some work and study commitments, has lived in Balliang for all her life. She went to the Balliang Primary school and in her senior years attended Clonard College in Geelong.

It was a big change when Michelle went overseas last March. First the trip took her to the UK where she met up with friends. A European tour followed visiting Eastern Europe, Germany and Spain. Now the travel bug has bitten her we are all wondering where she will head off next!

Michelle is an expert on many aspects of farming: She has practical experience of farm work all her life and still works 500 merinos on the family farm. She spent two years at Longerenong completing an advanced diploma in Agricultural services. Her work in agriculture has taken her to Horsham and Camperdown. Now back in Balliang, Michelle is now employed at Riordan Grain Services. She works long hours and rumour has it she may be a workaholic!! One of our committee can vouch for Michelle's farming skills, especially in encouraging stubborn lambs to run through gateways. A hint: a long length of ringlock and much heaving and hoeing, and the lambs are projected through the gateway with an impressive muzzle velocity!!!

Michelle is certainly the outdoors type and loves gardening. She played tennis in Balliang and when the club folded her Mum Margaret would drive her into the Bacchus March tennis club. Michelle now loves to play golf and often plays at Eynesbury .

Living on the family farm, she is close to her niece Ellen, and to William and Thomas her nephews. She has two older brothers Andrew and Matthew who are also very active in the community.

Michelle is also the youngest member of the Landcare group and it is always good to see her friendly smiling face at our meetings.