



Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

Newsletter



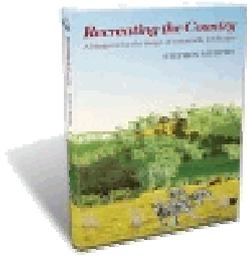
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Brisbane Ranges LandCare Group Meeting
7-30pm Wednesday 16th September 2009
Balliang Hall

Stephen Murphy, author of *Recreating the Country*

Recreating the Country is the book that Jaqui Stroud recommended in our last meeting ... a well thumbed copy is presently circulating among members thanks to Jaqui.

Recreating the Country challenges landholders to consider new ways of thinking about how we might reverse the inexorable decline and disappearance of Australian plants and animals from rural landscapes. This book provides a blueprint for adding habitat and designing more 'wildlife-friendly' properties. It is set to become the 'bible' for a new form of revegetation - the 'biorich plantation'. This approach aims to enrich habitat potential across rural landscapes, not just for a lifetime, but in perpetuity.

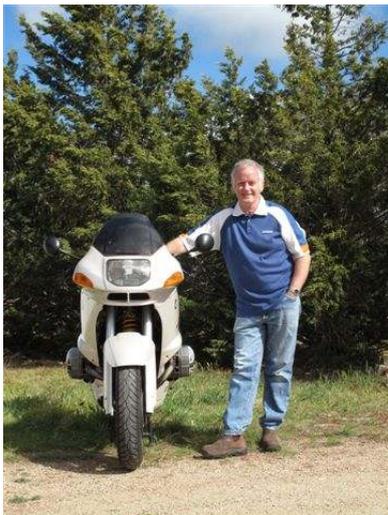
Author Stephen Murphy asserts we have to rethink our revegetation strategies to match the sophistication of natural design principles. Stephen, with his wife Lina, has run a successful native plants nursery in central Victoria for over 25 years. He believes that even the most well-intentioned shelterbelts, Landcare plantings or mixed species farm forests lack the features to make them rich in critical habitat for wildlife, let alone capable of self-perpetuation for centuries to come. Pale shadows of a natural grassland, woodland or forest, they are destined to fail as a wellspring for native plants and animals.

Hear the author and buy the book at the meeting!

BRLCG Projects

Sam Bayley from the CMA has done a sterling job in pulling together an application for the biggest project attempted by the BRLCG. This is the first stage 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. The present application focuses on the Little River between Lees Road and the Geelong Bacchus Marsh Road and we are very hopeful that, thanks to Sam's expert assistance, our application will succeed. We hope to follow up with other projects that involve revegetation in our area. Ideas and expressions of interest are welcome.

Executive member Profile



Andrew Prime proudly wears his bikie gang colours!!!

Andrew Prime has been involved with Landcare since its beginning as a member and in the roles of Secretary and now in recent times President.

He has lived all of his 56 years in Balliang, where he grew up happily on his parents' farm in Davis Road and attended the Balliang East Primary school.

After finishing his secondary schooling, Andrew came back to work on his family's farm and also worked around local sheds as a rouse about. He has kept his original

'shed agreement' dating back to 1971! He then worked locally for several firms and, after TAFE study, ultimately finished up at the Shell Refinery for the past 30 years.

Andrew loves the rural life and chose to live not far from his original family home with his wife Bernice. Their children, Nathan and Alaine attended the Balliang East Primary School and were the 3rd generation of the Prime family to do so.

Andrew has volunteered most of his life to his Community, by serving the local C.F.A, Church, School and of course Landcare and for something a little different he also volunteers once a week at one of his favourite past times frolicking among the planes at Point Cook Air Force Base.

Andrew's other interests include motorbikes, sailing, tennis and good books. He is manfully attempting to correct the gender imbalance in our local Book Club. Needless to say, he also follows Geelong Footy Team. 'Go Cats!'

Snakes in the Christmas Stocking!

Our next meeting, due for Wed. 2nd December, we hope to feature a renowned, highly entertaining speaker: an expert on snakes and his slithery friends. Keep the date free as it is also the date for our Christmas party which we plan will feature great steaks from Alistair Sadler, who is now a high protein member of the executive.

VALE Sam Bayley and Ian Garsed

Two outstanding workers who have constantly supported the work of the BRLCG are moving on: Sam Bayley who has played the key role in our "mosaic project" is leaving his post at the CMA and Ian Garsed who has been very supportive of members seeking Stream Frontage Grants from Melbourne Water is also leaving. We wish them both well in the future and hope to keep hearing from them!