



## Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

# Newsletter

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**Number 17**

**April 2010**

Brisbane Ranges Land Care Meeting  
7-30pm Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2010  
Balliang Hall

***Speaker: Dr Simon Treadwell, Little River Flow Study***



Simon works with SKM consultants who are conducting a Flow Study of the Little River under instructions from Melbourne Water. This study, described below, is of great interest to our Land care Group and to anyone with an interest in the Little River and surrounding areas. The Study will emphasize the importance of the interests of values of the local community in deciding how to manage the River. This meeting will be an excellent opportunity to contribute to this important study and find out more about it.

## Little River Flow Study

The objectives of this study, established by Melbourne Water, are to define the issues of importance for the Little River and its catchment, particularly flow related issues, and to make suggestions for its future management aimed at enhancing the value of the River to both the local and broader community. Identifying the “natural flow” characteristic of the river is an important aspect of the study. Volume and timings of past flows will be determined and the study will be selecting 3 to 6 sites for detailed study as part of this investigation.

Simon Treadwell, from consultants Sinclair Knight Merz (SKM) our guest speaker for April 28th Meeting, is leading a team including aquatic ecologists, botanists, geomorphologists (who study the origin of natural features of the earth’s surface) and hydrologists (who study water on the earth’s surface): all in all the most expert and comprehensive review ever conducted of the river as a whole!

Given that the Little River has been a major focus of our Group’s activities, this study is one of great interest to the BRLCG, and anyone living in the catchment of the Little River.

The study emphasizes the importance of local knowledge, and the values that the community place on the river. A local Project Advisory Group has been established to assist in this regard, and the BRLCG is well represented in this group by Chris Winfield, Eric Sharkey and Neil Day. At the first meeting of the Advisory Group in March, BRLCG representatives raised the following:

- the importance of preserving the amenity and environmental value of the River system;
- its significance as a source of water needed for stock and domestic purposes;
- its importance as a corridor for animals and birds and as a harbour for fauna more generally;
- its role as a source of residual vegetation from early times;
- its significance for fire water access and in other aspects of fire management; and, finally,
- possible connections between the river system and ground water supply.

The importance of agriculture was emphasized, and the role of Melbourne Water in continuing to manage for weed and vermin control was favourably noted. If there are other issues you believe are important, please raise these with the BRLCG representatives on the Advisory Committee.

If you are interested in the Little River and surrounding areas, the April Meeting of the Landcare

Group is your chance to hear and have your say about this study: possibly the most significant review ever of the Little River and its surrounds, and one that will influence the future management of the river and catchment.

## Rabbit Baiting

Four members participated in the Maude Landcare Group local rabbit baiting program, and dutifully spread poisoned carrots on their properties. Results were mixed. One member found the otherwise welcome heavy rain, which arrived the day after the carrots with 1080 were laid out, resulted in a less than spectacular kill. Another reported no carcasses found – this can happen when burrows are close to the bait trail. But reduction in rabbit numbers were noted at all the sites.

Those using Pindone were less affected by the rain as they used three poisoned feeds, rather than the single one used for 1080. The only off target poisonings that may have resulted were a couple of foxes which are often killed as a result of eating carcasses of rabbits poisoned with 1080.

Rabbit baiting members are reminded to claim up to \$50 towards costs. Give your receipts to Treasurer Chris Winfield.

The BRLCG subsidy to assist with small scale tree planting has recently been increased to \$200 per member family. Contact our treasurer, Chris Winfield 5369 4214 for information.

## Little River Revegetation Project

The Little River Revegetation project involves several members jointly revegetating about 14km of the Little River. This, our largest ever project, has progressed since the last update. Quotes for the fencing stage have been sourced from a number of fencing contractors and a decision on the preferred contractor is expected to be made before the next meeting. The next stage in the project planning is the selection of a tree planting contractor to plant the 1800 trees in the first year of the two year revegetation stage of the project.

## For your diary: provisional meeting dates for 2010

28 April, 30 June, 25 August, 27 October, 16 December. All meetings at the Balliang Hall, 1930h.