



Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

Newsletter

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Brisbane Ranges LandCare Meeting
7-30pm Wednesday 25th August, 2010
Balliang Hall

Panel: Grants to landholders for LandCare activities: the view from the bottom!

Many of our members have been successful in getting grants from various government agencies to support their LandCare activities: our major supporters include Melbourne Water, Vision for Werribee Plains, Department of Primary Industry, and many other government and some non-government agencies. (Don't forget that the BRLC Group itself makes small grants to members!)

In this panel discussion members will share experience covering issues such as:

- finding grant making bodies, and appropriate grants
- deciding how far the grant will meet your expectations (the fine print!)
- working out what the grant body expects, in both the short and the longer term
- matching your project to the requirements of the grant
- applying for the grant, and managing the specification, development and implementation of the project
- reporting and follow-up activities
- help that is available
- traps for the unwary

Annual Elections to be held at this meeting.

Nominations for positions are now open and will be accepted at the meeting. Please consider standing for office in our very active group ... new members are particularly invited to consider nomination. Please come to the meeting to show your support – you can practise voting on the Saturday prior!!!

BRLCG Call for projects

Thanks to a hearty contribution from volunteers and some canny spending of grant monies, your LandCare group finds itself with some spare change in its pocket! Our funding body is happy for us to retain a substantial surplus from a large grant provided we expend it on projects that match the funder's requirements. The June BRLCG meeting discussed possible projects and decided to call for expressions of interest for revegetation, fencing or other development work on wildlife corridors that:

- are at least 20 metres wide
- link up existing areas of vegetation or extend areas of vegetation in a way that may lead to such linkages in future
- will be maintained over the long-term
- are unlikely to receive funding from other sources.

Please approach any member of the BRLCG executive (contacts at the top of this newsletter) if you would like to discuss a proposal. The funding may cover part or all of the project cost.

Tree planting there is still time! (and funding is available).

If you don't have a large project in mind, remember that member families qualify for up to \$200 for funding of tree planting in our area by way of reimbursement for expenditure documented by receipts. Given the late winter rains, it is not too late to qualify: you have to buy the plants, but the BRLC Group subsidy will cover other costs such as tree guards and stakes.

Little River flow study

Four members of our LandCare Group recently attended the last of three consultative meetings with Dr Simon Treadwell who is managing the Little River Flow study for Melbourne Water.

You may remember that Simon gave us a fascinating presentation at our April meeting outlining some of the early findings. At this most recent meeting, we were privileged to hear the preliminary recommendations of

the study. As these have not as yet been finalized, it is not appropriate to report them in detail at this stage. However, we are very keen to hear from Simon again and intend to invite him to talk about the project at a future LandCare group meeting.

The report covers issues of major local importance in great detail using hard data. It will guide the future development of policy and management of the Little River and its catchment.

Among the significant issues canvassed in the report:

- the role of the lower Stony Creek Reservoir and its possible contribution to flows in the river
- the impact of farm dams on the river
- the impact of ground water extraction
- the impact of drought
- the management of the river and the catchment during drought periods.

We have had a long running interest in the potential of the Lower Stony Creek Reservoir to contribute timely flows to the River. We hoped that it might be the "silver bullet" to enhance flows. Preliminary work on the study suggests this is a forlorn hope. The Reservoir wall dates from the late Nineteenth Century, and there are concerns that if the water level gets too low the wall may be damaged. At present a limited amount of water is released only when the reservoir is close to full: i.e. generally at times of rainfall, when the River needs the water least!

Thanks to Barrie Cowman

Our group is indebted to our retiring mailman Barrie Cowman whose cheerful presence and enthusiastic support for our local community has been outstanding. As well as being a happy friendly face ready to chat over anyone's mailbox, Barrie has been a rock of support for local groups, distributing newsletters and notices free of charge. The good news is that Barrie is staying on delivering some newspapers and is going to continue his generous support for local community groups.