



Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

Newsletter



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Brisbane Ranges LandCare Meeting
7-30pm Wednesday 20th October, 2010
Balliang Hall

Speaker: Dr Simon Treadwell, Little River Flow Study



Simon returns to tell us about the final definitive findings of the recently completed Little River Flow study. Simon works with SKM consultants who conducted this major study for Melbourne Water. Simon held our members spellbound when he spoke to us earlier this year and had the audience fascinated with his detailed factual knowledge about the River. Now the report is completed Simon has some very interesting results to report and will be able to tell us about some specific changes in management that should lead to more regular flow in the upper reaches of the River and improved maintenance of the River during dry spells. He also has some very interesting findings to report about the impact on river flow of extraction of water for domestic supply, the effects of farms dams and ground water extractions. Anyone with any interest at all in the Little River and its surrounds must attend this talk!!!

Annual Election Results

Temporary chairman and long-term returning officer Peter Bufton managed to secure a much more speedy resolution of the annual elections for the BRLCG than his counterparts at the Australian Electoral Commission did for federal voters. The results: Chair: Andrew Prime; Secretary: Allan (Bart) Bartholomew; Treasurer: Chris Winfield; Committee: John Anderson, Tony Farrugia, Andrew Gay, Michelle Kerr, Jacki Staude, Neil Day (newsletter editor).

Christmas Barbeque

Keep Wednesday 15th December free for the famous BRLC Group Barbeque Christmas feast renowned for the excellent steaks from Alistair Sadler's Eternity Meat Company. As usual, it will be held at the Balliang Hall, meat and salad supplied, BYO drinks. Members free, or \$25 non members (or be smart and join the group \$25 membership!!!)

New Committee Member: Tony Farrugia

Tony Farrugia and wife Liz bought their block in Balliang in 1986, and arrived with a caravan four days later. Since then, the Farrugia family has been actively involved in many aspects of life around Balliang. For instance, Liz and Tony have been members of the Hall Committees for 15 years. All three of the now very grown up Farrugia children - Michelle, Michael and Emily - were pupils at the old Balliang School, where Tony served on the Mothers Club (hastily renamed the Parents' Clubs in consequence!) He was also a Vice Chair of the School Council and continues to be involved with the School site, now recycled as the CFA Fireshed where Tony is a long-term active volunteer firefighter.



Tony has worked a lot in the local area and is an expert on our bird and animal life. His block doubles as Balliang's local menagerie: many varieties of ducks, turkeys, quail and rabbits happily coexist with two dogs.

Tony has been a hard-working member of Brisbane Ranges Landcare group for about six years and can be relied on to be the first hand on the pump for any project work. A pet project he would like to see Landcare take on is an avenue of honour in Balliang. He joins the committee at a point when he will well-placed to support the revegetation projects along the Little River.

Vision for Werribee Plains

LeadWest conducted a Community Forum on the 7/10/10 to discuss the implementation of the Werribee Plains Regional Environmental Sustainability Framework. This Framework was released in March as part of the Victorian government's Vision for Werribee Plains (V4WP) program, which aims to transform the region into a global leader in water management and sustainable development. Four of the projects funded by V4WP were presented to the forum by the project managers followed by a panel discussion addressing the three themes of the framework, Water, Energy and Natural Environment

Locust Outlook

Moorabool Shire Council recently hosted an information session led by Erica Schelfhorst, DPI Bendigo on the present situation with the expected locust outbreak this year. All crops and pastures in much of the north and west of Victoria are under threat.

Locusts laid extensive egg beds in many areas north of the Divide earlier this year. The Australian Plague Locust Commission anticipate the eggs will start hatching in late September in the most northerly parts of the State and a month or so later further south.

Two to three weeks after hatching, when the hoppers begin to form bands, is the best time to begin control spraying. Much of this control will be in the north and not affect our area. However if significant numbers of mature locusts are blown south local landowners may need to be prepared to control second generation locusts (the life cycle takes only 5-6 weeks).

DPI has a hotline to report locust sightings and obtain advice on control measures (1300 135 559). They also have a comprehensive website: www.dpi.vic.gov.au/locusts

Werribee Information available

Andrew Dawson, Wyndham City's Land Management Officer, has provided us with an update of Environmental activities, including a subsidy to land holders to support eradication of weeds. Details will be discussed at our next meeting and copies are available by emailing: neilathertoday@bigpond.com.