



## Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

# Newsletter

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**Number 23**

**April 2011**

### Brisbane Ranges LandCare General Meeting

7-30pm Wednesday 20th April 2011  
Balliang Hall

#### Guest Speaker:

Jeanette Spittle, Land Management Co-ordinator,  
City of Greater Geelong

**Jeanette Spittle** has recently commenced work with the City of Greater Geelong as the Land Management Co-ordinator, part of the Environment and Natural Resources Unit of the City of Greater Geelong. She previously worked with Moorabool Shire Council.

Jeanette co-ordinates, with support from the Land Management Officer and the Conservation Reserves Team, the protection and enhancement of Council owned and managed land with high conservation values across the City, including Ripley Reserve on the Little River. At the Brisbane Ranges Landcare Meeting she will discuss the work of the Land Management Team and its relationship with Landcare.

Jeanette's visit is in response to members who are interested to hear more about the work of the Geelong Council, given that the Brisbane Ranges Landcare area is on the very edge of the local authority boundary: and a small rural part of a large mainly metropolitan area. Having previously been involved with the Moorabool Shire, and worked with the BRLC Group, Jeanette is in a good position to guide us in closer cooperation with the City of Greater Geelong.

## **Fifteen Trees**

Fifteen trees is, apparently, all you need to plant to offset the carbon produced by a small vehicle. So the "Fifteen trees" organization is encouraging people to do just that ... in our case by offering us 200 trees to plant in our local area.

The Executive suggests that we share the trees equally among the members who express interest at the next meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> April.

Add to this the likely continuation of the Tree guards and stakes subsidy offered in previous years, and you will probably be able to salve your carbon-ridden conscience and beautify the area for no expense!!!!

(<http://www.15trees.com.au/>)

## **Should we continue subsidies for revegetation and vermin control?**

At our next meeting members will be asked to vote on a proposal to continue subsidies for tree planting and vermin control.

In previous years we have set aside \$2000 to be shared among members who provide receipts to the treasurer for stakes, tree guards or similar products used in revegetation in the BRLC area. The maximum for any one family has been \$200. The idea behind the program is to support members who want to join in revegetation activities but may not be eligible for the larger grants available elsewhere. The program runs for one year only, and the maximum of \$200 per member family may be reduced if the total expenditure gets over \$2000.

At the next meeting we will discuss whether to continue, modify or abandon this scheme. Please come along and join the discussion.

A similar proposal will be put forward to subsidize vermin control measures. Previously this has provided up to \$50 per member family.

## **New Natural Resource Manager for Port Phillip Catchment Management Authority**

Ms Emmanuelle Brunet has recently been appointed to this role which in the past has been very closely associated with BRLC – Emmanuelle's predecessor Sam Bayley gave us enormous support in obtaining our grant to revegetate a 14k length of the Little River. We are hoping to get Emmanuelle to address a meeting later this year.

## **More focus on grasslands**

Richard Boerke, our last speaker, told us about the recent interest in grasslands conservation. Michelle Kerr, our representative on the Geelong Landcare Network, has news about a proposal to identify areas of high environmental value focussing on grasslands around Avalon.

## **Working Bee CFA revegetation site**

A working bee will be held at the Balliang CFA fire station from 1030 to 1300h on Saturday 30 April to tidy up the site we planted last year. Lunch will be provided. Please come and join in for some light work and a friendly lunch.

We will hold a later working bee to remove tree guards from the Little River Reveg. Site: date to be advised.

## **Bunny Blasting: the aftermath**

Some members were greatly entertained last year at a field day at Ingleston Park, near Ballan, when explosives were used to demolish a large rabbit warren. We are now invited to visit the site again to see the effects of the program which included a wide range of rabbit control measures along 8 kilometres of Werribee River frontage. The field day is scheduled for Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 0900-1530h. Bookings are essential:  
0408 619 126 (Ivor Stuart)  
0439 101 631 (Tim Bloomfield)

A brochure is available from Chris Winfield 5369 4214, or at our meeting on 20 April.