



Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

Newsletter

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Brisbane Ranges LandCare General Meeting

7-30pm Wednesday 15th June 2011
Balliang Hall

Guest Speaker: Emmanuelle Brunet

Emmanuelle is the recently appointed Natural Resource Management Coordinator for Werribee, replacing Sam Bayley who worked very closely and successfully with our Landcare Group. Emmanuelle is employed by the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority, and describes her role more fully in an article in this newsletter.

Emmanuelle is an environmental professional with eight years experience in land management. She has worked on a wide range of projects: "water challenged" agriculture in Bolivia, organic agriculture and roof top gardening in Montreal, environmental project manager in the Lanaudiere region in Canada, and as an agronomist specializing in water issues on agriculture land.

The many issues Emmanuelle has dealt with include

- blue green algae contamination of lakes and rivers in Quebec and how farming practices can be improved to reduce the problem
- erosion control and riverbank management
- establishment of "buffer bands" along water-ways involving close cooperation with 40 farmers
- water quality assessment
- hydroponic and container-based vegetable gardening for city rooftops in the city of Montreal
- domestic grey water treatment in Ceres in Victoria
- composting of waste including the use and breeding of worms
- organic production of oregano and other herbs in Bolivia
- tree planting, fruit picking landscaping work while a student.

Emmanuelle will talk about the work she was doing in Canada and provide us with a short introduction to the region of Quebec focussing on how they tackle the problems of erosion and Blue Green Algae as well as describing techniques used to stabilize river banks (Green Engineering). She will also give us a brief introduction to her workplan with the Catchment Management Authority.



Emmanuelle preparing for winter in Balliang!

Emmanuelle Brunet - our new Werribee Community NRM Coordinator - writes:

I would like to introduce myself, Emmanuelle Brunet, as the new Werribee Community NRM Coordinator with the Port. As you might guess from my name, English is not my native language, so I would appreciate your understanding as I work on improving my English as part of doing this job.

As an introduction I studied Agriculture and Environmental Science in Canada (Quebec is the French part) and I went on to work with the Department of Primary Industries, consulting with small farms with an emphasis on reducing the impact of agriculture on natural resources in the position of catchment coordinator.

Since I moved to Melbourne I have embraced the Australian landscape; this has been assisted through my experience as Manager of Greenlink Indigenous Community Nursery in Box Hill which specialises in the propagation of indigenous plants by volunteers, as well as the leading of working bees and a Waterwatch group for the Koonung and Bushy Creeks.

I will be building on the work that Sam Bayley did in the past with an emphasis on providing support to community-based natural resource management groups in the Werribee catchment. The focus of my position will be to support community groups like yours to:

- improve your understanding of NRM priorities as they relate to your local area
- support you in developing your ability to design and deliver biodiversity, river health and land management projects that respond to these priorities
- help you to develop your ability to engage and influence local landholders to participate in NRM

In terms of my new role I will be offering similar type of support that you would be used to, such as;

- E-Newsletters to alert you to NRM events, and funding and learning opportunities
- connecting groups to resources and people to groups
- helping your group better understand which regional, state and national NRM priorities are relevant to your local area
- support with strategic and action planning to find the best fit between these priorities and your local priorities
- helping groups/networks to develop sound NRM projects
- helping groups understand what investors want and advice on grant writing and sourcing other resources
- facilitating start up of new groups and networks
- working with local government, Melbourne Water and other agencies to improve their connection with, and support for, local groups and volunteers

Over the next couple of months I will be focussing on getting 'out and about' to meet with members of community NRM groups in the Werribee catchment, and learn as much about my new area as possible. I need to get my head around my new patch and in particular understand what the different group's NRM priorities are, what they are doing (including where and why), what assistance they are getting, what the natural assets and threats of the area are, and also where gaps may exist.

I look forward to working with you for the betterment of the Werribee Catchment.

Regards,

Emmanuelle Brunet



New look riparian conservation? Find out more at the Landcare meeting!!!