



## Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

# Newsletter

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**Number 25**

**August 2011**

Brisbane Ranges LandCare Group  
Annual General Meeting

7-30pm Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2011  
Balliang Hall

Guest Panel from Anakie Residents' Action Group

Tim Anderson, Virginia Lawrence, Russell Burns, Sara Davies

The Anakie Residents' Action Group is active on the issue of the proposed Shooting Range near Anakie. This matter has been of major concern to local residents and the panel will discuss the issue prior to the AGM.

Tim Anderson is a resident of Old Boundary Road who farms 200 acres with cereal crops and runs sheep. His concern is the potential for lead contamination to neighbouring properties reaching the food chain where strict government regulations are enforced. Virginia Lawrence is a resident of Mount Road. Russell Burns is a small landholder on Old Boundary Road. Both Russell and Virginia are members of The Anakie Tree Group, and Russell is also a member of the CFA. Sara Davies, secretary of the group, is also a small landholder on Old Boundary Road.

The Annual General Meeting will follow the panel discussion. Elections of office bearers will be held. Members, particularly new members and those who have not served on the Executive previously, are strongly encouraged to nominate for positions. We have a successful history of recruiting new and recent members to the Executive, which ensures our Group continues to be responsive to the membership.

## Coal mining Exploration close to the Brisbane Ranges

Anne Griffiths from our group reports that the Parwan Landcare group is currently discussing coal exploration activities around Bacchus Marsh. The Mantle Mining Company has a licence to explore an area from the East of Bacchus Marsh to Ballan in the West, running as far South as Durdidwarrah next to the Brisbane Ranges National Park.

In a recent extended interview with Jon Stanger of *The Ballarat Independent*, Mr Ian Kraemer from Mantle Mining gave a lot of information about the proposed activities. A 15 hole drilling program will commence in August. It uses some of the 160 historic drill holes which date back to the 1940s. Although most activity will occur on road reserves, some drill holes may be on privately-owned land. Mr Kraemer states that permission will be required before company representatives can enter privately-owned land.

Any work will be under the regulatory authority of the Department of Primary Industry, and reviewed by Department of Sustainability and the local council. Environmental Impact Statements are not required at the exploration stage, but would be necessary if mining were to proceed

In an announcement to the Stock Exchange, Mantle Mining makes a preliminary estimate of between one and two billion tonnes of brown coal. The availability of brown coal around Bacchus Marsh has been recognized for many years. New technology means it may be possible to reduce the water content of the product from 50% to about 10% which could result in the deposit being viable for large scale mining.

The possibility of large scale coal mining around the Brisbane Ranges National Park is of evident interest to our landcare group.

## Proposed Shooting Range near Anakie

The Geelong Clay Target Club was forced out of their shooting range at LimeBurners Cove some 18 months ago, when the City of Greater Geelong, ceased being responsible for the site. Since then the 100 year-old club has sought a new location, and has now submitted a proposal for a shooting range in Old Boundary Rd, Anakie.

The Anakie Residents Action Group Inc. was formed just over 12 months ago by concerned residents in the vicinity of the proposed shooting range.

Members write that they are all land holders, firearm licence holders and shooters. They are not "anti-gun" but oppose the proposal on a number of environmental, planning and amenity grounds. The group argues that the development will immediately

impact on the adjacent landholders through noise, lead contamination, plastic contamination, traffic, littering and destruction of native flora and fauna, and will have a long term impact on the area in general in terms of land values, life styles and investments.

We have invited members from the Action Group to attend the meeting on 24th August and will discuss this issue and any actions the Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group should take.

## NatureShare Data Base



Recognise this plant? The online Nature-Share data base can help, if you need it.

Jessica Craven writes: "NatureShare is an online database for individuals and groups to document and share

information about their local environment. Everything you put into NatureShare (photos, locations, biological attributes) is shared in a real and functional way with everyone across Victoria.

NatureShare is free to everyone and can be used by anyone (individuals, groups, councils, companies, etc). Anyone, or any group, can set up species 'collections' for their own property, for parks/reserves, for areas/towns, for anything, anywhere.

See <http://natureshare.org.au> for more information."

Collections have been started for the Brisbane Ranges National Park eg Birds and Plants. See <http://natureshare.org.au/collection/99/> Links from this URL lead to information about 711 different plant species with photographs and extensive details about each plant. BRLCG member Caz Bartholomew is listed as an active member of Nature-Share for the Brisbane Ranges and will be pleased to provide more information.

In the meantime visit this website and see the huge range of plants and birds in the Brisbane Ranges.

## Additional information

Weblinks and other information are available in the email edition of this newsletter.

Non printing page: for email edition only:

### Further Information:

#### Bacchus Mining exploration see:

<http://theballaratindependent.com.au/news/article/our-neighbour-the-coal-mine-bacchus-marsh>

<http://www.mantlemining.com/files/announcements/968780.pdf>

Letter to BRLCG from Parwan LCG:

Anne Griffiths contacted me and asked if I could submit a short article for your LandCare newsletter. Please contact me if you need to with regards content, clarification etc.

Mantle Mining have been granted an Exploration lease and will commence drilling boreholes in the Parwan/ Rowsley area within a fortnight. The 15 drill sites are on roadsides and each drill site will cover an area of 20mx 10m. Each hole to be drilled will take a week and be drilled between the hours of 7:30am to 5:30 pm. Most landowners in this area were unaware of the Exploration licence application which apparently was advertised in a local paper and in a Melbourne newspaper. A meeting was held on August 8th, organised by Parwan Land Care at the Thelma Ross Memorial Hall in Nerowie Rd. More than 60 concerned people attended and Mantle Mining's Manager Ian Kraemer talked about their plans. If the drill sites confirm what they hope, they will apply for a Mining Licence and their exploration target is to extract 1 to 2 billion tonnes of brown coal from this area. The overlay they have covers Bacchus Marsh, Darley, Myrning, across to the eastern outskirts of Ballan, across to west of Fiskville, Beremboke, Rowsley, Glenmore and Parwan- an area of 38,000 hectares. Their system would be open cut coal mining with the coal being transported down to the port at Geelong. Ultimately they are hoping to export it to India and China.

The above is facts without the emotion!! We are horrified at the prospect of any of this happening. A much bigger meeting is being planned in Bacchus Marsh at the Shire Hall by Moorabool Environment Group within the next 3 weeks. The Mining manager hasn't returned calls or emails requesting him to attend so far. It will be advertised in the local papers so I would encourage you to watch for these ads and to attend the meeting to learn more and also to advise others to do so.

Sincerely  
Kate Tubbs  
Secretary  
Parwan Land Care.

#### Shooting range in Anakie

[www.geelongadvertiser.com.au/article/2007/10/10/7695\\_news.html](http://www.geelongadvertiser.com.au/article/2007/10/10/7695_news.html) for a news report.

Full text of letter from Anakie Action Group:

"Anakie Residents Action Group Inc. Arag Inc was formed just over 12 months ago by concerned residents in the vicinity of the proposed shooting range in Old Boundary Road.

We are all land holders, firearm licence holders and shooters. We are not anti-gun but oppose this development due to the following reasons.

There is a lack of buffer zone between the development and adjacent land. This has the potential for the neighbouring properties to be contaminated by lead, plastics, and clay target shrapnel.

There are endangered species known to the area, such as the striped legless lizard, golden sun moth and the fat tailed dunnart. The block also has a large area of kangaroo grass.

There is a risk of contamination to Hovell's Creek, which runs into one of only twelve Ramsar Wetland sites in Victoria. These Ramsar sites have international recognition.

The development itself does not comply with any of the existing land overlays of the area.

As the land in question is land-locked the proposal intends to take up the existing unmade government road, which is currently under a 99 year lease to an adjacent landholder for agricultural use only.

Our acoustic testing has shown that the development will be unable to operate within the EPA guidelines so they are now trying to mask the noise emitted by using shelters/hides which are not included in the planning permit.

Old Boundary Road is a poorly maintained unsealed road which would be unable to carry the large amount of traffic this development will bring. The

two combined clubs will have a membership of approximately 100, plus guests and competitors.

The clubs intend to shoot five days a week, with Saturdays and Sundays included, for eight hours a day. At least one shot every five seconds with the closest residence less than 1300 metres away.

The clubs will apply for a planning permit veto in a 2.5km radius of the block to ensure their longevity (as per Dimboola case).

Once this development goes through, then night shooting will be applied for as well.

This development will immediately impact on the adjacent landholders in regards to noise, lead contamination, plastic contamination, traffic, littering and destruction of native flora and fauna, and will have a long term impact on the area in general in regards to land values, life styles and investments.

Russell Burns	President
Tim Anderson	Vice President
Sara Davies	Secretary