



Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

Newsletter

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Brisbane Ranges LandCare Group Meeting

7-30pm Wednesday 26th October 2011
Balliang Hall

Barn Owls and other Raptors

Martin Scuffins

Noticed a lot of Barn Owls on the roads and elsewhere this year? Our Secretary Bart recently emailed asking if anyone had barn space to accommodate some owls who were in need of a good home. This got us in touch with Martin Scuffins who owns and operates "Hawk Haven" a specialised wildlife shelter dedicated to the rehabilitation and conservation of Australia's unique birds of prey. Martin writes:

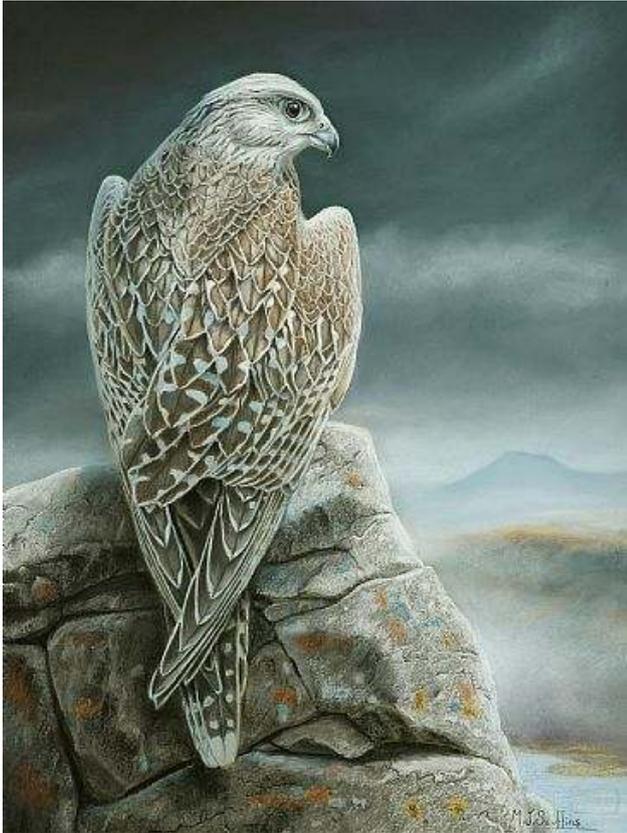


I have been fascinated by wildlife and, in particular, birds of prey since early childhood. I now live on a twenty acre Trust for Nature covenanted property near Buninyong. Here I care for injured birds of prey under a government permit whilst focusing much of my remaining time and energy on my artwork - expressing the beauty of the creatures that surround and inspire me in mediums of pastel, acrylic and charcoal.

I am lucky enough to have many of my 'artistic models' close at hand and, as I train raptors for rehabilitation and education, I often get to know my subject very intimately indeed.

Martin will tell us about his sanctuary, his renowned paintings of birds of prey, and why there are so many barn owls around this year!

Painting by Martin Scuffins



This is one of many superb paintings available at the web site of our next speaker: see: http://www.natureartists.com/martin_scuffins.asp

Landcare Groups and planning permits: an issue at the next meeting.

At the last meeting we were addressed by members of the Anakie Residents group who strongly oppose a proposed shooting range. Two motions were passed in response. The first requested the Secretary to write to the Council expressing concerns with respect to Landcare issues in the proposal. There was then some discussion of the appropriateness of a Landcare Group becoming involved in local authority planning processes. A second motion was then passed instructing the Executive to determine whether or not Landcare groups should be involved in the planning process in this way before writing to the Council.

Executive Member Garry Heath and member Eric Sharkey recently took to the opportunity to discuss the role of Landcare in local authority planning with Alex Arbuthnot, currently Deputy President of Farm Trees and Landcare Association. Alex is a dairy farmer from Gippsland, a past president of the VFF, and is heavily involved with Landcare. Landcare old hands all see Alex as a Landcare "guru".

In a phone call to BRLCG Newsletter Alex made the point that the Landcare movement allows maximum flexibility to local Landcare groups: "the success of Landcare is due to the fact that it is not

institutionalized: local groups own the movement". On the matter of Landcare groups getting involved with local authority planning issues he says "there is no set policy". In cases where the planning issues are not principally about Landcare values, Alex continues, "I would prefer to see individual members participate in the local planning process." We will decide at the next meeting whether or not to write to the Council as planned.

Little River Reveg. project.

Our major project on the Little River is nearing completion, with only some fencing repair required due to the recent floods.



Rabbit proof fencing on the Jenz property (top) and fencing in progress on the McMahon property: both generously funded by Melbourne Water and Vision for Werribee plains.

Free money for projects!!!.

Thanks to some carry over from the above project, very generous funding is available to members to undertake similar activities, with preference given to small projects and those ineligible for funding elsewhere. Reimbursement, up to full cost recovery, may be available. Please contact a member of the Executive!