



Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

Newsletter

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Number 27

December 2011

Brisbane Ranges LandCare Group Grand Christmas Party

7-00pm Wednesday 21st December 2011
Balliang Hall

Christmas Party

Don't miss the widely renowned Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group Christmas Party which will be held at the height of the festive season.

A selection of prime quality meats, courtesy of Alistair Sadler, will be sizzling on the barbeque and sumptuous desserts will be available. BYO salad and drinks.

Cost: Members and their families: Free,

Non members \$25 per person (hint membership costs only \$25!!!)

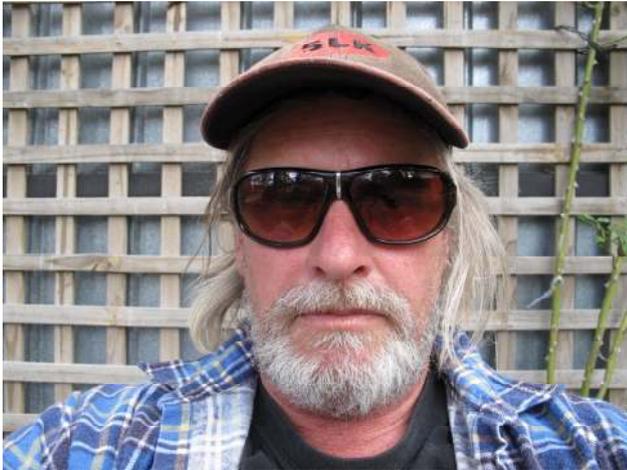
Non-members and, especially, any new residents, will be warmly welcomed! Please come and join your neighbours for a friendly Christmas get together.

Next year's program for BRLCG

Your hard working Executive are putting together a program of talks and activities for next year. Among the topics under consideration are: a visit to Mt Rothwell or similar sanctuary, a Western Treatment Plant trip, a speaker on fencing techniques, and a weeds forum. Let Executive members know of your interests, or any good speakers or activities of interest!

Member Profile Andy Gay

Andy was for many years our hardworking Secretary, and now he has handed over this role to Alan Bartholomew, it is safe to reveal the man behind the mask!!!



Andrew (Andy) has lived in the district now for about 8 years. Together with his family he moved from inner city Melbourne to Staughton Vale after deciding there was another way to enjoy life than living in a crowded, noisy, grimy and sometimes ugly urban environment. In what was a major life decision, being all born & bred in the city, the Gay family took on a beautiful 16 hectare property with an old Victorian cottage and a small established plant nursery on the eastern flank of the Brisbane Ranges National Park.

His two children, Adelaide & Harrison, both finished primary school in Anakie and joined a number of the local sports teams, making many new friends in the local community. Andy's wife, Julie initially taught part-time at the Anakie school, and is now Assistant Principal of Ballan Primary School

Andy's working life for the past 18 years has been spent at the University of Melbourne in Parkville. His role as Grounds Manager is primarily about the maintenance, use and development of the campus landscape; a job that is demanding and interesting, but which unfortunately allows little time and energy for his home property. The weekend nursery has been closed but both Andy & Julie hope to one day restart the business when time allows.

Despite extended drought, fires and floods, Andy and his family have found their 'tree-change' to be a rewarding and valuable experience.

Werribee Blue Box: new kid on the block?

Michelle Kerr suggests that tree planters might like to consider a newly classified local tree, officially a threatened species. The National Herbarium of Victoria has recently published an official description of the Werribee River catchment's own Blue Box, *Eucalyptus baueriana* subsp.. It has the common name 'Werribee Blue Box'. It is noted for its new summer adult ovate or roundish leaves (see below) which give cause for the Latin word thalissinus meaning "sea-green" being used for its name.

These magnificent trees, which are found along the Werribee River and tributaries, grow from 3 to 12 meters. A small number can be found on rocky hills near the river. There are some on the Werribee Golf Course and one large tree at the Werribee Open Plains Zoo. A few ancient specimens have survived in the Werribee Township. It is similar in appearance to the Red Box found in the Brisbane Ranges, but is generally found close to watercourses.

(Thanks to Werribee River Association contactable on Facebook.)



Non printing page: for email edition only:

Minutes of the last meeting from Alan Bartholomew, Secretary. Acceptance of the Minutes will be moved at the next meeting.

Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group -

26/10/2011

Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 October 2011 at Balliang Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

Members Present: Neil Day (Acting President), Allan Bartholomew (Secretary), Chris Winfield (Treasurer), Julian and Connie Menegazzo, John Hogarth, Marie Martyn, Tony Farrugia, Carole Bartholomew, Andrew Prime, Garry Heath, Andrew Gay, Janelle Humphreys, John Anderson, David Goble, Michelle Kerr, Margaret Kerr, Eric Sharkey, Alistair Knox, Jacki Staude, Mark Trengove, Trish Edwards.

Guests: Martin Scuffins, William Hogg (PPWCMA), Scott Nicholson and Judy Locke (Parks Victoria), Friends of Brisbane Ranges members (Helena Lindorff, Beverly Phillips, Marilyn Blankley, Gordon Lyall) also Peter and Sue Jones (from Little River).

Apologies: Peter Bufton, Bernice Prime, Denise Anderson,

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the guest speaker and other guests.

Minutes of the previous AGM were presented.
Moved: Tony F; seconded: Carole B; accepted

Martin Scuffins followed with an entertaining talk covering an overview of raptors (birds of prey such as eagles, hawks and falcons) and owls, and some of his experiences with rehabilitating injured birds and ensuring they are fit and ready for release. Due to an increase in mice numbers this year, birds of prey have been active including black shouldered kites (seen hovering/fluttering over paddocks) and barn owls which have been breeding locally. Just a few of the important points raised on the night:

1. Please remove road kill from the road if it is safe to do so as raptors can also get hit while feeding.
2. Barbed wire on fences is a major cause of injuries to birds.
3. If you find an injured bird or any wildlife - please notify BADGAR (Ballarat and District

Greendale Animal Rescue) 1300 223 427 or Wildlife Victoria 13 000 94535 and give exact location of where found. Ensure birds (and native animals) are returned to the location they were found ASAP as they can be very territorial - particularly eagles.

4. Transport any raptors in cardboard boxes – not cages – to protect their flight feathers.

William Hogg (Regional Landcare Facilitator) provided information on current healthy waterways funding and a new “Communities for Nature” funding for local environmental projects.

Reports

Treasurer Chris reported an income of about \$300 from memberships with reimbursements of about \$1,500 and about \$16,000 in the main account. Moved by Carole that the Treasurer’s report be accepted, seconded by Gary H and then carried.

Andrew Prime provided an update of current projects – particularly the Little River Project. Tony McMahon now fenced, Gary H has replaced some fences damaged by recent floods and P Wright is removing woody weeds.

John Anderson mentioned a “treeline” project aiming to link the Brisbane Ranges with the You Yangs. Extension of the Little River project and “Granites” area for example are 2 possible areas to consider.

Michelle reported on the Geelong Landcare Network meeting - and asked for an additional volunteer (2 now required) to represent BRLCG. Carole B was nominated and accepted.

David Goble has planted 300 trees received from the 15 Trees project.

General Business

Proposed clay target shooting range near Anakie. Council has still not yet made a decision, the Geelong Clay Target Club has taken the matter to VCAT and the current owner is trying to cancel the sale. Concerns are as indicated in the August newsletter eg noise, environmental impacts and future planning/development ramifications.

Regarding a previous motion for the Secretary to draft a letter from the BRLG to Council/Councillors expressing environmental concerns - Landcare charter does allow this action. After discussion, a vote of 8 for and 4 against the motion was taken. (UPDATE: the club has now withdrawn their submission to VCAT and the letter is no longer necessary).

A query regarding Barbed wire on Little River Project fences was brought up by Carole. Martins reference

regarding birds (as above) also applies to sugar gliders, kangaroos, koalas etc being brought into wildlife shelters after damage caused by barbed wire. Alternative fencing options were discussed and then deferred for later discussion and a query about funding possibilities is to be considered further by the executive.

Scott Nicholson (PV ranger BR National Park) talked about the problem with feral goats damaging the park. Luring/trapping and sporting shooters were options under consideration and he asked for any further ideas.

A vote of thanks to John and Denise Anderson was expressed by the group as proposed by David G. They have made a valuable contribution to BRLG over many years and will soon be leaving the area. John will continue his role with the Little River project committee.

Meeting closed and supper followed.