



Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

Newsletter

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Brisbane Ranges LandCare Group

Peter Box talks about Great Parks in our area

7-30pm Thursday 12th April 2012
Balliang Hall

Peter Box: Local Parks in Our Area

Peter Box, a long time member of our group, has recently taken the Parks Victoria job of Ranger in Charge, Moorabool. For many years Peter worked in the Brisbane Ranges Park, and spoke to us regularly on management and other issues. He is a lively and very entertaining speaker with a great enthusiasm for the benefits of parks and has a lot of experience in management issues that are of great concern to our group including vermin control, plant diseases and maintenance of the plants and animals indigenous to our area. Recently Peter took over the job of Ranger In Charge and now his responsibilities extend to all local parks including Werribee Gorge, Lerderderg, Long Forest Nature reserve, as well as our local Brisbane Ranges Park. Peter is in a great position to tell us more about the work of the Rangers in all the parks in our area, and to discuss the challenges of management in a time of rapid change. Most especially he can let us know how we can continue to enjoy our parks and provide support to ensure that they flourish!

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Peter Box and his merry band of Park Rangers



(Peter is the one with the designer stubble!)

Little River Project

This project continues as a major focus of the work of our group, with work continuing into 2012. Recently flooding has resulted in fencing repair and each of the four participating land holders will be planting 750 trees on site this year. In all some 14 k of Little River Frontage is involved in this project: and a great growing season has resulted in a lot of improvement in riverside vegetation.

Myrtle Rust: a new threat to indigenous trees.

Myrtle Rust is a new fungus disease which can infect a broad range of plants including eucalypts, callistemons, melaleucas and many others. The disease has been found in commercial nurseries and other locations, mostly on the Eastern side of Port Phillip Bay, but with a serious danger of rapid spread elsewhere. The disease begins with tiny raised spots that are brown to grey ... up to 14 days after infection the spots produce masses of distinctive yellow/orange spores which spread the infection.

The DPI requests that it be notified of suspected cases, and recommends strongly that plants or

samples are not collected or moved as the disease spreads easily. For more information see: <http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/myrtlerust>.

Carefully check any new plants before you bring them home!!!!

Examples of plants infected with Myrtle Rust:



Meeting Dates for 2012 (subject to confirmation)

(except for the first, these meeting dates are subject to the Hall being available: please note the dates in your diary)

April 12th Speaker Peter Box Chairman Garry Heath

June 21st Speaker William Hogg, Catchment management authority. Chairman Michelle Kerr

23rd August AGM. Chairman Tony Farrugia

18th October Speaker to be confirmed. Chairman Jacki Stroud

13th December Speaker to be confirmed. Chairman Andrew Gay