



Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

Newsletter



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Is there a platypus in my waterway?

Brisbane Ranges LandCare Group Meeting

7-30pm Thursday 14th June 2012

Balliang Hall

Note roadworks may limit access to the Hall: see attached map.

ALL WELCOME!

The platypus is one of the world's most amazing animals. This furry, warm-blooded mammal lays soft-shelled eggs like a lizard, uses its bill to navigate underwater, and sorts out arguments with the help of venomous spurs. The platypus is also among the most popular of Australia's animal icons - a great flagship species for freshwater conservation. But what about the platypus's own environmental needs? How is the species faring in the wild? And how can local people become involved in monitoring local populations?

Geoff Williams, a renowned expert, will be at the Balliang Hall on Thursday June 14 to talk about the amazing platypus, explain its conservation requirements and how to go about helping these animals. Geoff was formerly Director of Healesville Sanctuary before establishing the Australian Platypus Conservancy in 1994.

The Port Phillip and Westernport CMA is sponsoring this event and providing a delicious supper: but you **need to confirm your attendance**, for catering purposes, by Friday 8th June with the CMA's William Hogg on 9971 6504 or 0418 596 179 or email william.hogg@ppwcma.vic.gov.au.

Member Profiles:

Mark Trengove and Trish Edwards

Trish, pictured left, supplies the following account



from their hideaway off Staughton Vale Road, prefacing her remarks with the comment that any resemblance to anything at all is entirely accidental; and any offence taken is an aerobic exercise and consequently good for the health!

"Mark and I live on the hill: you know THE hill. Mark is an ecologist (not gynaecologist) and works down in Sin City.

I'm on hill duty; keeping an eye on Peter Bufton and ensuring Parks Vic. don't burn the dope crops! I see a lot of weather up here and issue advance warnings to my daughter in Melbourne.

Mostly I am busy with furry or hairy beasts, organizing the lawn mowers for the night shift, or trying to persuade the bearded ferals to shave and bathe more often. (Either this is a reference to the male members of the Landcare Exec or feral goats ... litigation lawyers are currently trying to determine which. Ed.)

Lately I've been working on a recycling project: I figure if one rat can eat a plastic bottle, steel wool soap pad, several candles, a silk spectacle case, a tin of used plastic sushi fish and a pack of party poppers in a couple of days ... then I've solved Geelong's waste disposal problems!"



Working Bee: Balliang Hall

At its last meeting the BRLCG offered that the Landcare Group would take on responsibility for maintaining the garden and grounds around the Hall. This is to help out the hard working Hall committee, and in partial recompense for our free use of the Hall for meetings and events. We propose to hold a one hour working bee on the first Sunday of each month, followed by refreshments provided by the committee.

Most important is that we have bodies keen to help for about an hour: mowers, whipper snippers, rakes, spades, brooms or other tools could be helpful, but we need hands to ensure we can keep the time taken to a minimum. The next sitting is on Sunday 3rd June at 1100h (if you get the email edition) or Sunday July 1st at 1100h if you get the printed copy. Working bees will continue monthly, and may be more frequent if needed. You can just show up on the day, or contact Neil Day, 5369 4313 to help us anticipate numbers for catering.

Subsidies for members: revegetation and vermin control.

At the next meeting a motion to continue our subsidy for members tree planting materials (up to \$100) and vermin control (up to \$50) will be moved. Do you have any suggestions for restricting or increasing or extending this support for our members? Come along and have your say at our next meeting on 14 June at the Balliang Hall.

Revegetation: What to plant, where and how!

Go to www.growwest.com.au and click on "publications". This will take you to a list of publications, all of which will be of interest, but the Grow West Revegetation Guide is one we particularly recommend. If you don't have internet, see a member of the executive who should be able to get you a copy.



Balliang Hall: Bacchus Marsh-Balliang Road, Balliang, showing position of road works which obstruct access from West.

