



Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

Newsletter

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Speaker: Matt Aquilina
Victorian Volcanic Plains Grassland Protection Program

Followed by Annual General Meeting and Elections

7-30pm Wednesday 15th August 2012, Balliang Hall
Chairman: Tony Farrugia

On behalf of Moorabool Shire Council, Matt Aquilina will introduce and discuss the Victorian Volcanic Plains Grassland Protection Program. This program offers financial support to landowners to maintain or enhance properties with volcanic plains grassland or plains grassy woodlands. This program is funded through the Commonwealth Caring for Our Country grant program and is available to landowners living within the Moorabool Shire and the Port Phillip and Westernport catchment.

The BRL Group area contains remnant native grassland vegetation that is potentially eligible under this program. Activities funded by the program include fencing, vermin and weed control. Matt will discuss in detail the aims of the program, eligibility criteria and the responsibilities of participating landowners. Matt will also be happy field any questions relating to the program.

The attraction of this program will include its wide application, generous levels of funding and ease of application: Grant recipients don't have to be on a waterway, and smaller properties are eligible. The program may appeal to many of our members and friends!

(We are also inviting Jeanette Spittle from City of Greater Geelong who can answer queries about the availability of this program in the Geelong area.)

Projects sought for remainder of Vision for Werribee Plains funding: \$20,000 available.

BRL Group members carefully controlled costs of our Little River Reveg. Project and are now in the happy position of having over \$20,000 of funding available for additional projects. The criteria for funding include support for biolinks of vegetated areas that provide harbour and travel pathways for native birds and animals. To secure funding, we have to ensure projects enhance links between existing areas, or will do so in the future as further refuges are established.

Funding is very generous, and if supplemented from other sources, can cover the full costs of fencing, stock water supply, site preparation and planting.

The funding is on a "use it or lose it" basis and we need proposals within the next couple of months to ensure the money is expended in our area.

On Friday 20th July, Max Coster from Vision for Werribee Plains and Susie Inglis from W. Melbourne Catchment Network came to visit the Little River project site funded by VWP and Melb. Water. A group of landcare members joined a short but muddy tour along the Little River from Peter Bufton's property through to some of the extensive plantings at Garry Heath's place. Pictures show the tree planting, most of which was fully funded by the project.



Susie Inglis (W.Melb. Catchment Network), Bart Bartholomew and Neil Day from BRLG at an extensive planting on Garry Heath's property showing the phenomenal growth over three years since the start of the project!! (photos: Janelle Humphreys).



From the right: Max Coster (Vision for Werribee Plains), Susie Inglis (W.Melb. Catchment Network) Chris Winfield (obscured), Caz Bartholomew (gesturing dramatically), Bart Bartholomew (vulnerable jugular) and Andrew Prime on the tour: plantation in the background is about 6 years old on Peter Bufton's property.

Working Bees at Balliang Hall

The first Sunday of each month members are invited to help out with maintenance at the Balliang Hall from 1100-1200h, followed by tea or coffee, snacks and a friendly chat. Visitors are especially welcome so if you want to get involved with your local community, here is your chance! Thanks to Michelle Kerr, David Goble, Chris and Mary Winfield, Caz and Bart Bartholomew, Tony Farrugia and Janelle Humphreys who helped out in June and July. Help from others is needed to keep our Hall spick and span!

Planting Day at Goble Property

David and Pam Goble are seeking help to plant 400 trees at their property (which is the first place to the West of the C704 on the South side of Bufton's Road) from 1000h on Sunday September 9th. Ring to confirm arrangements and to assist with catering: 0418 389 472.

Small landholder with no river frontage racked off about difficulty getting funding for tree planting?

Good news may be round the corner! The 15trees organization is trying to source 500 trees for us for small plantings. Remember you can get \$150 from the BRLG towards guards and stakes which should cover about 100 trees. So if 15trees are successful there will be a free plantation for any of our smaller landholders who all too often miss out on funding!