



Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

Newsletter

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Speaker: Graeme Anderson
Victorian Climate Extension Specialist

7-30pm Thursday 25th October 2012, Balliang Hall



Graeme Anderson has worked in our local area for many years and is well known to members for his enthusiastic involvement in programs, such as revegetation activities, sponsored by the State Government's Department of Primary Industries. At present he has a very interesting role as DPI's Victorian Climate Extension Specialist with the task of supporting farmers and other rural dwellers in dealing with our favourite conversation topic: the weather!!! He leads an innovative program that has created several products of great interest to farmers and other rural dwellers. "ClimateDogs" is an informative series of cartoon-based explanations of major factors affecting our weather. He is also behind online seminars and face-to-face meetings which assist

farmers across Victoria in making sense of emerging climate information. (See www.dpi.vic.gov.au/climaterisk).

All in all, Graeme is an informative and entertaining speaker with a lot of local knowledge combined with climate expertise. He is well placed to discuss the likely impact of weather changes and carbon issues on our local area and the key economic impacts of climate policy.

His talk will provide an overview of the key climate drivers which influence our district, and the features that make the difference between our wetter or drier years. He can also provide an update of some of the useful climate tools, and describe what drives our normal seasonal variability as well as looking into any recent trends and the latest science for this part of the world.

500 trees for local planting from 15trees.

For a few years now, Colleen Fillipa from 15trees.com.au has put local landholders in contact with generous donors who want to support tree planting activities. This program funds smaller landholders who may not meet the requirements of our other generous funders such as Melbourne Water or Vision for Werribee Plains.

This year our Landcare group contributed guards and stakes to the 500 trees offered through Colleen by an anonymous donor. Several members, who would otherwise have missed out on support, were encouraged to plant using an approach that suited their properties.

Michelle and Margaret Kerr needed a conventional windbreak plantation to provide shelter for stock and link two lots of remnant vegetation. "15 trees" contributed 200 trees to this project which will see Michelle's ewes lambing in sheltered comfort a few years hence.



Michelle Kerr says the red ribbon is not only a good look, she doesn't want to lose the hammer! Nephew Thomas Kerr looks on as the "15 trees" plantation goes in following ripping and spraying of weeds.



New planting around existing remnant vegetation on Bart and Caz Bartholomew's property close to Staughton Vale Road.

Bart and Caz Bartholomew wanted to thicken up some existing remnant vegetation on their property.

They are also encouraging regeneration of native grasses and other vegetation. 15 trees contributed 130 trees to this project which already is showing a pleasing effect.

Mark Trengove and Trish Edwards used their 50 trees for scatter planting near to a waterway on their property.



A visitor, possibly checking out the gourmet possibilities of the planting at Trish and Mark's property. As trees develop, more substantial guards made from ring-lock wire are often required to discourage banqueting wallabies such as this bloke! However, once established, the trees will cope well with light grazing.



Nick Neeson and Andrew Prime skive off from gardening at the CFA cleanup day to count out 25 tree guards for a small scale planting at the Prime's. This was funded by 15 trees.com.au. Thanks to Linda Kelly, guards and stakes were generously subsidized by Eco Regeneration Nursery who also supplied trees of local provenance.

A great advantage of the 15 trees program is that small scale plantings are supported: Jacki Staude and Alistair Knox used their 15 trees to diversify vegetation and establish clusters on a formerly naked paddock. They had some trees left over thicken existing vegetation.



Support is available for quite small scale plantings ... are there spots in your garden where plantings might be needed? Jacki and Alistair used some of their 15 trees to thicken up existing vegetation.

Former Chairman of Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group John Anderson and Denise Anderson planted 15 trees as part of establishing their garden at their new house in Batesford.

We are keen to develop our relationship with “15 trees”, particularly as it is a very flexible program targetted at small holdings. **If you would like support for small scale revegetation works**, please let a committee member know of your interest and we will attempt to arrange continuing support from Colleen’s generous donors.

Remember that members of Brisbane Ranges Landcare are eligible for subsidies of up to \$150 to assist with guards and stakes. A spray trailer is available for hire and tree planting equipment is also available. This means members can do small scale planting at zero cost!

Working Bees at Balliang Hall

On 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! Our next session will be Sunday 4th November. Please come if you can and if possible bring garden tools, a whipper snipper or a lawn mower.

Development at Shooting Range in Balliang East

Following concerns discussed at our June meeting about a proposed development at the shooting range in Balliang East, the Executive lodged an objection to the proposal and also requested Melbourne Water to consider any issues that might arise for the health of the Little River.

The objection states: “We are concerned that the location of extensive clay bunds close to both the Balliang Creek and Little River frontages of the property will raise the risk of changing overall water flows in this area with likely erosion and runoff into the two streams. Runoff is likely to include clay and soil sediments, lead shot pollution, target fragments, and weeds, detrimentally affecting the river water quality and the riparian environment.

The scheme includes erection of large “bunds” or piles of earth, each 20 metres wide and 10 metres high close to the North Bank of the Little River. Members also expressed concerns about the possibility of lead pollution finding its way into the River as an increase in operations is proposed.

Massive Tree Planting in Balliang East

Bronte Payne of the Geelong Landcare Network organized a large-scale planting to fill in gaps in a large stand of Bulokes on the Sharkey property in Balliang East on 7th October. A large number of volunteers attended and were amazed to find themselves bogged on the access track: could this be happening in Balliang? Visitors had to be ferried to the site in a slithering cavalcade of 4WD vehicles.

The trees were grown at Barwon prison from seed collected at the site. Children, parents and teachers from Balliang East Primary School helped out in the morning and a team from Conservation Volunteers joined in the afternoon.

Planting Day at Goble Property rescheduled 1100am Sunday 21st October.

David and Pam Goble are seeking help to plant 500 trees, funded by Melbourne Water, at their property (which is the first place to the West of the C704 on the South side of Bufton’s Road) from 1100h on Sunday October 21st. Ring David to confirm arrangements and to assist with catering: 0418 389 472.

This is an ideal opportunity to find out about tree planting techniques while helping to revegetate the Balliang area!