



Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

Newsletter



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***How can Landcare help you?
Roundtable on Brisbane Ranges Landcare
and Geelong Landcare Network
Annual General Meeting***

Special Guest: Elissa Ashton-Smith; Chair: James Bufton

Thursday, 22nd August, 2013 @ 1930h
Balliang Hall



More trees? more help with rabbit control? more support for weed management? better roadside maintenance? more involvement with local planning issues? How can Landcare help you? The Geelong Landcare Network represents all our neighbouring Landcare Groups and has the clout to get things done.

Elissa has recently been employed as the Network coordinator following the retirement of Bronte Payne. We wanted a chance to meet Elissa and hear about her ideas, and Elissa, reciprocally, wanted to hear how we would like to see Landcare supporting our area. Elissa suggested a round table discussion which is your chance to have some say on setting priorities.

Non-members will be specially welcome to this session as we want new and fresh ideas. This meeting is also the Annual General Meeting and elections for office bearers and committee members will be held.

Our Speaker, Elissa Ashton-Smith writes:

I have a strong interest in nature conservation and management of rural landscapes. Since moving to the Geelong region about ten years ago, I've become very attached to, and curious about the beautiful local landscapes. My grandparents were farmers in Kyvalley and I grew up having school holidays on the farm. This gave me a small but memorable experience of rural life. My professional background is in policy, governance and communication. I've been actively involved in community environmental activities, running a couple of conservation campaigns in the Barwon Heads community, participating in the Geelong Field Naturalists Club and doing volunteer work with the Environment Defenders Office in Melbourne. I'm currently undertaking a Master of Social Science (Planning and Environment) at RMIT University to further my knowledge of rural environmental issues.

Little River Tour Sunday 14th of July

On a day when the weather surprised us all by being onside, a bus full of BRLC members and friends trundled down the Little River to inspect the progress of the Little River Project and other wonders.

First stop, at the foot of the Ranges was Staughton Vale. After morning tea, with an optional slug of (purportedly fine) whiskey, James Bufton gave us an overview of the history and current use of the property. He's quite proud of his dirt. We looked at a section of the River that has been fenced and revegetated. The new plantings are designed to stabilize the river banks and to increase the habitat value of the river corridor by linking up the existing mature trees and adding diversity. Over the years Staughton Vale has been subject to numerous tree planting exercises. The current plantings are growing well.

The next stop down the River was where Ripley Vale adjoins Oak Park. Neil Day,

Chris and Eric Sharkey showed us recent plantings, proposed planting sites and majestic old River Red Gums, River Bottle-brush, Shrub Violet and native grasses, growing among the basalt rock of the Little River and escarpments.

We then travelled to Wurdi Youang, the site of what is now considered to be possibly the world's oldest stone arrangement with solar alignments. The Wathaurong folk provided a fine BBQ lunch, the timing of which kept us inside their new shed for the only rain that day. Reg Abrahams, the Wathaurong cultural officer, then took us on a tour of this remarkable site.

The final stop for the day was to the Pettit property at Little River. There we undertook some leisurely revegetation on banks of the River.

On behalf of Brisbane Ranges Landcare, thanks to Suzie Inglis for organizing this successful day. Thanks also to the landholders and everyone who helped.

Mark Trengove.

Some references to Wurdi Youang:

<http://aboriginalastronomy.blogspot.com.au/2011/03/wurdi-youang-aboriginal-stone.html>

<http://arxiv.org/pdf/1210.7000v1.pdf>



The alignment at Wurdi Youang is comprised of more than 100 basalt stones. These stones mimic the Anakies.