



Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

Newsletter

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Visit our website: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~brlq/>



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Brisbane Ranges Landcare Community Environment Grant: Workshop your application!

Thursday, 17th October, 2013 @ 1930h, Balliang Hall

This month's meeting is an informal workshop to assist members with applications for funding from the Community Environment Grant. Attached to this newsletter is a simple one page application form that you use to jot down some ideas for establishing or extending a biolink on your property.

Projects to be funded could involve activities such as

- establishment of new areas of native vegetation
- weed control or supplementary planting in existing areas of vegetation
- control of vermin such as rabbits in areas where native vegetation is threatened
- fencing to protect new or existing areas of vegetation
- improvement or repair of areas that have been degraded, for example through erosion
- seeding and cultivation of native plants to be used in revegetation
- plus many other activities that promote biolinks.

Our aim is to have a number of "expressions of interest" from members by the end of our workshop that can be considered for funding from our Community Environment Grant of \$50,000. Some members of the Executive, assisted by an independent expert, will decide on the allocation of funding, using the guidelines established at our last meeting on 26th September. These guidelines favour proposals for property that has not previously received funding for similar works, and which are not eligible for support from other sources.

Expressions of interest will include a sketch map of the location of the proposed works, and a rough guide to the project: eg number of plants proposed, length of fencing required, size of areas to be revegetated or conserved: see an example on the last page of this newsletter.

The final date for expressions of interest is 31st October, 2013.

What are “biolinks”

“Biolinks” are areas of native vegetation that will provide a series of “mini environments” based on native vegetation to encourage populations of animals and birds. The idea behind biolinks is that, eventually, a large number of these small areas will be loosely connected and allow for the movement of birds, animals and the spread of native plants throughout our area. They will provide connections between areas of favourable habitat that will encourage a rich diversity of bird, plant and animal life and allow access to larger areas of good habitat, such as the parts of Little River that we have already revegetated.

Although the idea behind biolinks is eventually to provide linkages throughout the landscape, projects may be funded if they provide a basis for such connections into the future. Proposals that encourage cooperation between neighbours, now or into the future, will be very welcome for this reason.

Unlike many of our previous projects, Biolinks do not have to be located on river frontage. Eventually these biolinks will allow access of animals and birds to more extensive areas of good habitat such as the improved Little River stream frontage that has resulted from previous work by our Group.

Weed Control: grants available.

Stefanie Wabnik from Melbourne Water tells us that weed identification activities in the Brisbane Ranges Park have located several infestations of concern. Stefanie asks that we remind our members who have river frontage that Melbourne Water offers Stream Frontage Management Grants to assist with weed eradication. Now would be a great time to get involved as Melbourne Water have begun a five year program to tackle weeds on waterways in the Park.

Stefanie and vegetation specialist, Rob Dabal, are shortly to tour our area to review

our great variety of plant-life, hosted by our Secretary, Allan Bartholomew.

Tasks for October

Our group gets great support from Max Coster, currently on sick leave, and Roger McRaild, who are Landcare Network coordinators for the Moorabool Landcare Network. Max suggests the following activities to think about at this time of the year:

- Place plant orders for reveg/shelter belts with nurseries for next year's planting
- Join community wildflower walks to learn more about local plants
- Decide whether you will cut hay this season (if so, start shutting up paddocks)
- Fence out saline areas
- Start looking out for early seed heads of serrated tussock and Chilean Needle Grass and control spread
- Collect seed of Manna Gums
- Dense infestation of Chilean Needle grass or Serrated Tussock are best controlled by burning or slashing followed by cultivation or spraying during spring and summer.

And, speaking of Wildflower walks:

Susie Inglis who organized the recent successful Little River tour has put together a brochure listing numerous “wild flower walks” this Spring. It is a big document so for a copy, contact the editor at neilathertoday@hotmail.com.

A reminder about the **Brisbane Ranges Wildflower Show**, featuring wildflower displays, workshops, environmental stalls, photographic display, native plants and much more: Sunday October 13th, 0930-1630h Anakie Hall. Visit: www.fobr.org.au/wildflowershow or call 0438 945 399 for further information.



Expression of Interest for Assistance Community Environment Grant

The Community Environment Grant is from Commonwealth Government's "Caring for Country" program. It is designed to encourage community involvement to protect remnant vegetation, improve biodiversity corridors and revegetate urban and riparian zones (waterways).

If you are interested in finding out more and/or gaining assistance please complete this initial Expression of Interest form. The enquiry will be confidential and there is no obligation to proceed with the project.

Please tick the types of assistance you are interested in –

<input type="checkbox"/> Fencing	<input type="checkbox"/> Revegetation
<input type="checkbox"/> Off-stream stock watering	<input type="checkbox"/> Property management advice
<input type="checkbox"/> Channel stabilisation	<input type="checkbox"/> Weed control
<input type="checkbox"/> Exotic tree/willow control	<input type="checkbox"/> Vermin control
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree guards and stakes	<input type="checkbox"/> Loan of weed sprayer
<input type="checkbox"/> Other – please explain	

Rough map of Area

Approximate size: _____

Any other relevant information:

Your Name and address:

Your email and telephone:

For assistance, bring this form to the meeting on 17th October, or discuss with member of BRLG executive, or email to brlandcareg@gmail.com. Check out our website for more information <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~brlg/>.