



Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

Newsletter

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Newsletter

Community Planting Day & Direct Seeding comes to Balliang (plus free lunch!)

Sunday 28 September 2014 @ 1000h,
Balliang Hall
Balliang-Bacchus Marsh Road
(opposite CFA fire shed)

Your Executive and the Hall Committee have organized a major revegetation exercise in the grounds of the Balliang Hall for next Sunday 28/9/14. As well as conventional planting activities, Chris Sharkey is to demonstrate an experimental approach to revegetating using a single tyne direct seeder which he uses to sow at 6km an hour! Direct seeding can do revegetation very efficiently ... but come along and see for yourself! The Landcare Group may consider getting involved with more local direct seeding tasks as a lot less labour is required!

Barbeque lunch provided from 1200h. Join your neighbours at this special Spring event and help keep our Hall looking great!

Next Meeting

We are negotiating with an exciting local speaker who promises to tell us about a major project in the Balliang area. Our speaker is not confirmed as yet and full details will be announced shortly. The meeting details are:

Thursday, 16 October 2014 @ 1930h,
Balliang Hall, Balliang-Bacchus Marsh Road
(opposite CFA fire shed)

**Balliang Food and Fibre:
an invitation from James Bufton**

Who??? you say. Through a funding opportunity via Karen Thomas and the PPWCMA (the Catchment Management Authority) a group of young local farmers have held a couple of early morning brekky meetings to discuss ideas based around sustainability. Although we agree sustainability is a very broad reaching term, the group is looking at ways to enhance social, economic and environmental interaction on a personal, business and whole of district level.

The aim of the first two meetings was to simply have people turn up and start talking – this has proved to be a great success as on both occasions participants were still “chin-wagging” some two hours after the official meeting has finished!

A web based “group” has been set up for the exchange of information – both serious and humorous. Also a field-day bus tour has been planned as has a light-hearted end of season dinner and “awards night”. Although the group is currently made up of farmers, anyone is welcome to attend the next meeting – date to be determined.

For further information please ring Chris Sharkey on 0417 134 600

James Bufton.

Trish Edwards tells it all:

THE ROCK GOD TOUR!

(Neville Rosengren Geology Seminar and Tour 23rd August 2014)

Missing the Neville Rosengren Geology Tour is akin to missing a Leonard Cohen concert. Rosengren is to geology what Jamie Oliver is to cuisine – only better.

The Tour kicked off with a full house seminar at the Mt Rothwell Interpretation Centre. Neville – all cool dude in leather hat and vest – might have walked in from the Rothwell Ned Kelly set. Captivating from his first sentence. I invariably tumble from my back row seat 5 minutes into a

scientific ramble and sleep peacefully until I hear the applause. Not this time!

There is a whole bunch of new terminology in this field and Neville applied this to our local turf and held our attention with the mesmerising hand gestures of a mime artist. At the end of his talk there was a battery of questions which persisted throughout the day. First stop, the granite outcrops on Mt Rothwell where Manager Annette Rypalski discovered she was the proud owner of xenoliths. Wow!



We saddled up and headed to the summit of Mt Anakie for lunch and more questions for the tireless Neville. We followed him like rats after the Pied Piper and despite the arctic winds stood while he did a 360 and told us how our land was formed and explained why a couple of us won the lottery and have great soils and are now enjoying the best vegetables.

Next we galloped to see the Maar in Mount Road, probably formed after the Anakies. The Maar is a unique feature in the region, there being very few in Victoria. I won't forget the Maar because apart from our photographer we became the target of Neville's mischievous sense of humour. While everyone was laughing Bart fessed up that he had left the key to the next site in his car at Lara.

No matter, we went to Anakie Gorge where Neville taught us yet again that looking is not seeing. What appeared to be a messy concreting job proved to be

related to upheaval from the Rowsley Fault.

Some quartz rocks prompted Neville to explain the chemical and physical conditions that cause quartz veins. Despite cold, battle fatigue, crossed legs and hunger, the troops were still asking questions and Neville would have answered them until the cows came home, which on the neighbouring properties, they had already done.

We are still fielding texts, emails and phone calls saying how enjoyable the day was and how understanding has been advanced, and when can he come back.

Our expert: Neville Rosengren

Neville Rosengren is an earth scientist with a Masters thesis on the geomorphology of the Gippsland coast and Ph.D. studies on volcanic coasts in Indonesia, New Zealand, Iceland and Santorini.

His career includes teaching and research in geomorphology and environmental studies at Melbourne, RMIT and La Trobe Universities. He is an Honorary Associate at La Trobe University and maintains consultancy and community teaching engagements in Australia and overseas. He has a long association with the Brisbane Ranges, Little River and the Balliang Plains as teaching and research sites.

(Article written by Trish Edwards)

What are they doing?? First ever Balliang Landcare Newsletter competition! Enter by email to the editor neilathertoday@bigpond.com. Best entries so far: "Neurological test of finger-tip motor coordination as base line measure in case of injury from falling rocks ... part of public liability insurance requirements for geological tours!"

