



Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

# Newsletter



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**Number 4**

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**October 2007**

## **NEXT MEETING**

**Wednesday 3rd October**

7.30 pm at the Balliang Hall

**MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS WELCOME**

(Note the change of night for the meeting!)

*Should ratepayers who are good land managers pay lower rates?*

**Speaker: Peter Gibbs, City of Wyndham**

*Peter Gibbs manages a rate rebate scheme for the City of Wyndham to encourage landowners effectively to manage their properties. He will tell us how it works, how many ratepayers participate and why this scheme makes good sense for the Council.*

*Should our landcare group lobby other councils similarly to reward good land managers? This issue has been considered by neighbouring councils in the past. If you want to pay lower rates, you should be at the meeting!*

## How should BRLCG spend its time and money?

At the last AGM we canvassed a number of priorities for projects. Improvements to the area around the hall were considered. Other members and non-members have since made suggestions: eg subsidizing rabbit baiting campaigns, providing a spray trailer for hire with a boom spray for larger areas in addition to the spot spraying unit that is currently operational.

In an open discussion you will be invited to put forward ideas that will help ensure you get best value out of your local Landcare group. While not in Global Corporation league of players, the group is in a sound financial position and able to undertake projects, as long as these have the support of members.

## Tripping with Landcare

Melbourne Water are offering financial support for our group to arrange trips or similar activities on a land management theme. Any suggestions welcome at the meeting!

## Supper!!!! (2100h sharp!!)

*Denise is having her arm twisted to produce another batch of her revered sausage rolls for supper ... if that wont bring you to the meeting, nothing will!*

## News and Gossip.

### Goodbye Lisa Hello Ian

Our friendly Melbourne Water coordinator is soon to leave us for pastures new ... Lisa Deppeler has been warmly welcomed by many Landcare members grateful for generous support of Melbourne Water for various projects. Lisa reports that she has been assigned to the Maribyrnong catchment as the size and scope of Melbourne Water projects expand. The focus that Lisa and Melbourne Water has brought to the Little River as been particularly important for the BRLCG.

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expand. The focus that Lisa and Melbourne Water has brought to the Little River as been particularly important for the BRLCG.

The silver lining is that Lisa's role will be taken on by Ian Garsed. Ian has crammed a lot of very interesting experiences into a busy career since winning the VFF "Farm Apprentice of the Year" in 2001. He has run a family farm, taught farm apprentices in TAFE as well as working for the CMA. Ian will be responsible for the Community Grants and Corridors of Green programs, in addition to the Stream Frontage Management

program. We are hoping to get Ian to talk to us at a forthcoming meeting. Ian and Lisa stress that Melbourne Water will consider applications for funding to maintain and extend existing programs ... for example providing continuing support for weed and vermin control. New proposals very welcome



**Ian Garsed,**  
*Water Watch Coordinator:  
Watching some Water!*

## Friends of Brisbane Ranges Wildflower Show and Tour. 1000h-1630h Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October

The Friends of the Brisbane Ranges in partnership with Parks Victoria are holding their annual wildflower show and the inaugural photographic exhibition & sales. In addition, there will be a wildflower & historic bus tour of

the Brisbane Ranges National Park departing from the Anakie Staughton Vale Hall, 1000h and 1400h. Booking essential for the bus trip, call 5366 0000 ask for Peter Box or Judy Locke.

### The Ranges have a rich variety of flowers, two of which are pictured below: Spring Wild Flower Walks: Little River



Presented by Werribee Waterways Management Committee

**First walk:** Saturday, 27 October, 1.30 pm Boadles Lane, Little River  
800 mts east of the Edgars Rd Boadles Lane junction (**Melways Map 200 F3**)

**Second Walk:** Saturday, 27 October, 3 pm Bulban Rd, Manor (**Melways Map 407 E2**)

Mark Trengove, a highly regarded ecologist with considerable knowledge of the local grasslands will lead the walks and be available to answer your questions. Afternoon Tea will be provided, please bring a cup and a chair.

**Enquiries** to Jennie Epstein 5283 1440, Little River Improvement Society, or Alex Smart 9741 2351, Werribee River Association.

### Spring wildflower walk: Parwan paddock

**Sunday 11 November** 9.30 - 11.30 am, next to Parwan Fire Station, (**Melways Map 340 F3**)

Enjoy the spring wildflowers on the Victrack owned paddock beside the Parwan Fire Station which has been managed by Pinkerton Landcare & Environment Group for the past few

years. View the weed control experiment using sugar to lock up the excess nutrients in the soil. From here, we will visit a nearby private property in which the rare feather heads are found.

Mark Trengove, will lead this walk also. Morning tea will be provided, please bring a cup.

**Enquiries:** Daryl Akers 9743 2495 or Frances Overmars 9748 1294

## Meet our Members – Garry Heath

Garry Heath arrived in Balliang in 1957 at the ripe age of six years. The family moved from Sheep Hills after purchasing land from Garry's Mother's Uncle James Fry. Although they were not born in the district, Garry's Great Grandparents moved to the Balliang area when Balliang was opened up, 100 years ago next year. He and wife Pam, a Bacchus Marsh girl originally, continue to farm pretty much the same ground these days with the help of son Wayne and daughters Susan and Amanda.



*Garry indicates area to be revegetated*

The farm combines a Poll Dorset stud with prime lamb and cropping operations. Garry sells oat seeds locally and throughout the State. In the unlikely event you see a flourishing oaten hay crop in the district this season, chances are (a) it has rained and (b) Garry's Algerian oat seeds got it started.



*Garry says the kill of gorse has generally been good.*

About 2 km of the Stoney Creek winds its way through Garry and Pam's property. Gorse infestation has been a long running issue. In 2006 Garry and Pam decided to tackle the problem with assistance from a Stream Front Management grant from Melbourne Water. A contractor sprayed areas of dense infestation for about a kilometre. The kill has been impressive although there is still some recovery and this shows how difficult the task of controlling gorse can be. Garry plans to follow up with a burn to put paid to any regrowth.

Garry received funding from the same source to revegetate a selected area of the stream frontage where the gorse was sprayed: 450 trees are planned including redgums, various wattles and some smaller shrubs such as Busaria and Hop Bush. In the photo Garry is indicating the area to be revegetated: an area of alluvial flat which is rarely inundated when the river floods. Lets hope this becomes a major worry very soon!

## Grow West grows

Assisted by a fulsome endorsement from local landcare groups, Grow West has secured funding for a full-time farm forestry officer for twelve months. The position has been advertised and will shortly be filled. Several BRLC members have already received

generous funding for farm forestry projects from Grow West. Matt Lamanna says Grow West will be actively seeking new participants in their programs, and invites any members interested to contact either him or Matt Mooney on 5366 0058.

**Grants Received** - Moorabool Shire Council have provided the annual \$200 Administration support Grant for 2006/7.

## Recent BRLG Meetings

### Thursday 24th May 2007

Elise Michelmore from Perpetual gave members an interesting run down on recent changes to superannuation laws that might be relevant to the

way we save for retirement. She left copies of information sheets with the Secretary.

### Wednesday 30 May 2007

Several members enjoyed a bracing morning expedition to the Western Treatment Plant (formerly Board of Works Farm). Chris Coghlin showed us new conservation works on high value areas previously grazed from time to time and the stretches of the Little River which are suffering from salinity. Lake Borrie and the mouth

of the Little River are amazing sites to observe water birds of many species. An excellent morning tea was enjoyed at the Education Centre on the outskirts of Werribee after a drive through the water treatment areas near the old settlement of Corcoroc.

### Thursday 19 July 2007

This was the Annual General Meeting. Matt Mooney from Grow West spoke about the new \$200,000 grant Grow West has received to work with BRLG and other local Landcare Groups to promote farm forestry through plantings and trials of cultivation practices.

Neil Day succumbed to some very gentle pressure and agreed to take on the position of

President. Thank you Neil we know that you will do a splendid job.

A big thank you to John Anderson for all the work he has put into our Landcare group as President over many years. And thank you Denise for all the wonderful sausage rolls you have made for many, many suppers.

## Interesting items from recent Moorabool Landcare Advisory Committee meetings – August 2007

The Committee is concerned at the apparent inadequate number of places in free training courses on the new regulations for 1080 use. These courses are for landholders who already hold ACUP licences and enquiries are being made about additional course providers. Contact DPI for more information.

Chris Pitfield (DSE) spoke to the August meeting about the Bushbroker project in the Melton, Moorabool and Wyndham Shires. Expressions of interest are presently being sought from landowners with appropriate classes of remnant native vegetation for sales of offsets to urban land developers.

## Future Landcare related events

*Friends of the Brisbane Ranges National Park*

**Annual Wildflower Show**

**Photographic Exhibition & Sales**  
**Sunday October 14<sup>th</sup>**

Enquiries to CathyPowers on 5369 4302

**Weedbuster Week – October 6-13**  
For more info go to  
<http://www.weedbusters.info/>

[National Water Week – October 21-27](http://www.nationalwaterweek.org.au)  
For more info go to  
<http://www.nationalwaterweek.org.au>

**The Penny Wallaby Fence** is effective as protection for new plantings against Wallabies. It can be moved as plants grow and used many times over.

Materials: • 50m x 1.200 heavy grade mesh (1.4 grade wire)

- 16 x 1.8m star pickets
- 150m high tensile wire

Space the star pickets approx 4m apart. Bang posts approx 400mm into the ground.

Wrap the mesh around the picketed area to form a

*Like any fencing to control the movement of animals (wild or domestic stock), curving the shape of fences where ever possible rather than creating straight barriers will encourage wildlife to 'go around' rather than through the fence.*

fence, leaving a small apron of mesh folded out flat on the ground to prevent animals digging under the fence. (approx 20-30 cm).

Secure with tie wires.

Run a line of high tensile wire along the top and bottom of the mesh.

String an additional line of wire through the top hole of the pickets.

This wire has proven critical in deterring wallabies. Use additional star pickets as stays for the corner posts.

Approx. cost \$250

**Equipment available for hire** (contact John Anderson 0418518697)

Spray trailer 600 litre tank with hand gun and spray boom

Spray trailer 400 litre tank with two hand guns

Pottiputki – tree planter

**Meeting dates for 2007**

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Balliang Hall

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November

## **New members very welcome**

### **BRISBANE RANGES LANDCARE GROUP**

#### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_

I enclose the membership fee/ Please invoice me/us. Membership Fee July 2007/June 2008 \$25

Please return to Chris Winfield, Hon Treasurer, BRLG,  
70 Murphy's Road, BALLIANG, Vic 3340. Ph: 5369 4214