



Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group



Newsletter

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Visit our website for latest news: <http://brlg.org.au>

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BRLG Christmas Party

Friday, 16th December, 2016 from 1900h,
Balliang Hall

Balliang-Bacchus Marsh Road (opposite CFA)

New residents and non-members of the Landcare Group are warmly invited to join BRLG members at this year's splendid Landcare Christmas Party. Last year approximately 60 Balliang locals joined a number of visitors to celebrate the holiday season. It is a great chance to meet your neighbours and catch up with community news and events.

Meat, bread and desserts will be provided so just BYO salad to share, drinks and any other extras you fancy.

Admission is free for members: otherwise \$25 per family ... but why not join the group for \$25 and get free entry to the party as well as access to the many benefits of membership including financial support of landcare activities on your property.

Remember that the group offers all members subsidies on tree planting and vermin control: but most importantly it provides a welcoming network for neighbours to enjoy the great benefits of living in a friendly rural community!

Our local koalas



Clancy, a resident of You Yangs, says “Keep doing what you’re doing landcare folks – we just need more please!”

On Wednesday 9th November, Janine Duffy from Koala Clancy Foundation & Echidna Walkabout Tours was guest speaker at the annual celebration of the Geelong Landcare Network, held in Balliang this year. Here’s a summary of her talk.

Koalas are famous for eating eucalyptus leaves, which are inedible to other creatures. It is less well known that eucalyptus leaves are also a koala’s drinking trough. Healthy koalas do not drink water from pools or rivers – they rely almost entirely on the moisture content of leaves.

Studies have shown that the most important factor for koalas living in hot, dry climates is actually the moisture content of eucalyptus foliage, not which species are present. Increasingly our local area is becoming hotter and drier, and the moisture levels of eucalyptus leaves are dropping. This is already beginning to have a major impact on the future survival of koalas in our local area.

Janine Duffy of the Koala Clancy Foundation believes that, in order to survive, koalas will need native eucalyptus plantings in the river valleys, drainage lines and around water bodies on private land.

Already the You Yangs koala population has seen a 46% decline in 10 years. The Brisbane Ranges koala population has not recovered to the levels it was at prior to the fires in 2006. This is a tragedy, because these koala communities are virtually disease-free, and do not show a tendency to over-population, unlike some other, much-publicised koala populations in Victoria.

Immediate action to increase waterway plantings may ensure a future for local koalas. In addition, there are potential economic benefits through high-yield rural tourism. Landcare, Catchment Management Authorities and Melbourne Water are already doing a terrific job at improving and revegetating streams. But more needs to be done, and quickly.

Janine says small-group, high-yield wildlife tourism is already a substantial earner and job creator for regional communities around Australia. The region west of Melbourne is perfectly suited to this style of tourism, and is already becoming internationally famous for wildlife. But this high-earning export industry relies on the existence of the iconic koalas, kangaroos, wallabies and birds that international visitors come to see.

Koala Clancy Foundation wants to partner with landowners, and land-improvement organisations to bring renewed promotion and publicity, regular volunteers (10-20 keen pairs of hands every 2 weeks!), and potential future revenue from tourism. To learn more or express interest go to: <https://koalacancyfoundation.org.au> or email: president@koalacancyfoundation.org.au

Janine Duffy, Koala Clancy Foundation and Elissa Ashton-Smith, GLN Facilitator

Did you know?

“The many Aboriginal tribes spoke different languages and they had different names for the Koala. Just a few of these names were: colo, koolah, boorabee, karbor, colah, kaola, burrenbong and koolewong. You can see that some of these names are a little similar to ‘Koala’.

It’s thought that the common name the Koala is known by today came from a word for the Koala in one of these languages. It’s commonly thought that it means ‘no drink’ in that language.”

<https://www.savethekoala.com/about-koalas/taxonomy>

Questions for our members

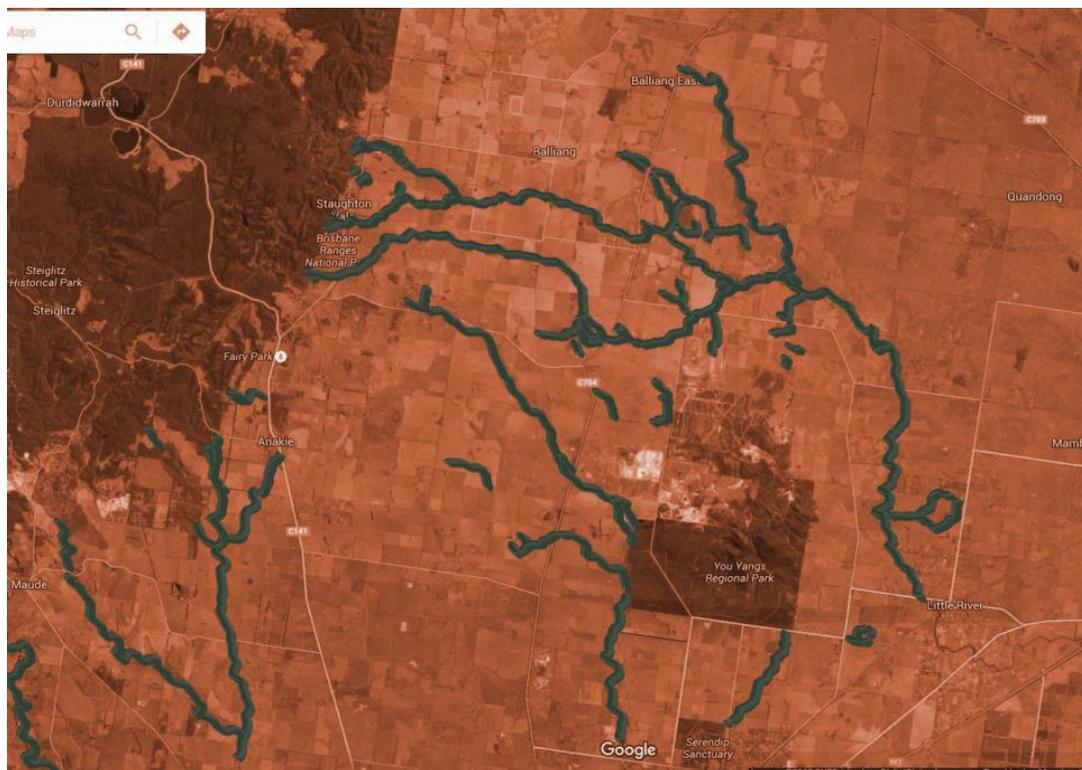
Some members have reported that koalas are eating quite young trees, recently planted. Others think the koalas are not as numerous this year as previously. It could be interesting to compare sightings: something to discuss at our forthcoming meetings.

Also a member has reported sighting what seems to be a spotted quol on the Little River Ripley Road, 800m East of the intersection with Sandy Creek Road.

What our Landcare Group might achieve with targeted habitat regeneration



Above – Koala habitat in 10 – 20 years time. Koalas will have been forced to retreat to just the waterlines in the parks.



But what if we could do this?! Koala habitat in 10-20 years time if we continue and accelerate our revegetation of waterlines outside the parks.