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## Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

# Newsletter



Chair: James Bufton  
5284-1344

Treasurer: Chris Winfield  
5369-4214

Secretary: Allan Bartholomew  
5369-4197

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## Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group Meeting

### 1. Speaker: Colin Cook

Phascogales, Dunnarts and friends: finding indigenous wildlife around Balliang! Fauna Surveys using camera “trapping”.

### 2. Planning for 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations: member feedback needed!!!

7.30pm, Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2017,

Balliang Hall, Balliang-Bacchus Marsh Road (opposite CFA)

Have you ever wondered what lives in the hollows of those magnificent remnant gum trees?

Many of our native animals are small, shy creatures and mainly nocturnal so are rarely seen in daylight. We really know very little about their distribution or habits.

However there are two interesting projects underway in our area aiming to find some answers. One project is collecting and analysing “scats” (poo) from predators such as cats and foxes to determine what they are eating in different areas.

The other is an ambitious project by the Friends of the Brisbane Ranges group to use motion sensing cameras to determine where marsupials are located and to install nest boxes with cameras to monitor their movements.

Come to the meeting to hear about the findings of these projects, and discuss the possibility of doing similar work in our area.

## Our Speaker: Colin Cook



Colin up close and personal with a brush tailed phascogale

Colin Cook has many years' experience with fauna surveys with the Friends of Brisbane Ranges and the Geelong Field Naturalists Club. He has been successful developing camera equipment for use on this project. The motion-sensing cameras can also be used for:

- recording native fauna, both in the bush and revegetated areas
- tracking feral animals
- identifying the culprits causing damage to tree plantings etc.
- observing users of nest boxes, dams, burrows, bird feeders etc.

Find out how these cameras work, the preliminary findings of the project and some tips and tricks to improve monitoring success.

Colin is keen to contact BRLG members who would be interested in participating in similar projects.



Brush-tailed Phascogale



Fat-tailed Dunnart

## Our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary is coming up keep Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October Free!

To set the mood for your collection of photos, stories and memories for our anniversary, an extract follows from our first Newsletter describing the founding of the group in 1997:

“Our foundation President, Peter Bufton, did much of the work to bring together landholders from Balliang, Staughton Vale and Anakie who were interested in forming a group and tackling such landcare issues as pest plants and animals, salinity and degradation of natural vegetation. About 20 of us met in the Anakie-Staughton Vale Hall in mid-1997 and chose a name which was distinctive and reflected the most prominent geographic feature of the whole district.”

Bring your memories and photos to the celebratory 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to be held at the Balliang Hall from late morning on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October. Please keep the date free!

## AGM and elections

A few minutes will be set aside during the meeting to hold our formal Annual General Meeting and elections.

Please do consider playing an active role in your Landcare group! We especially welcome new members on our executive committee. Nominations for Executive Committee and Office Bearers may be made at the meeting.