



Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

Newsletter

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Number 5

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December 2007

Next Meeting and Christmas Party

Wed 5th December
(7.30 pm Balliang Hall)

Members and Non-Members Welcome

Guest Speaker – Ian Garsed (Melbourne Water)



Ian has recently taken over as our community contact with Melbourne Water: a very generous and supportive funder of local landcare initiatives. He is responsible for the Community Grants and Corridors of Green programs, in addition to the Stream Frontage Management program.

BRLCG Christmas Party

A Christmas Party will be held in conjunction with the meeting, at a charge of **\$10 per person** which covers a choice from the celebrated prime meat barbeque, a dessert, tea or coffee and non-alcoholic drinks.

If you can attend, an email to neilday@bluemaxx.com.au or a call to **53 694 313** will help us with catering

BRLCG Potential Projects

At our last meeting suggestions for possible projects were put forward by members. These included:

- ***Campaigning for discounted council rates for properties run on landcare principles, as practised in Werribbee.***
- ***Support for a community bore.***
- ***Baiting for rabbit and foxes, including subsidies for poison baits.***
- ***Contribution for fencing of Balliang Hall.***
- ***Repair spray units (one has 20 ft boom, one has hose reels).***
- ***Brochure to introduce the BRLC group to new residents***

The executive will report progress on these and other activities at the meeting on the 5th December. Please come to the meeting to discuss the options, or contact a member of the executive if you are interested in any of the proposed activities.

Barbeque Evening

A barbeque evening at the Earth Sanctuary is being organized for February. This is a really great night so at the next meeting we will be looking to see how many are interested in attending.

Landcare Network Meeting

The Landcare Network meeting was held at the Bannockburn Golf Club recently. Neil Day, John Anderson and Les Bufton attended. The purpose of the meeting was to select a committee from 150 local Landcare groups. James Pettit, from Woolamanata, is the president. We would hope to benefit our club through this organization.

Some Rain At Last

In recent weeks parts of our district have seen substantial rainfall and even flash flooding. The Little River is running for the first time in eight years. How exciting this for all the properties along its course. What a difference rain makes. The water flow has come in the nick of time for all the beautiful old Red Gums which were definitely under stress. Koalas have been seen again and so many frogs. The noise from the frogs is astounding. Where have they been all the time?

The area between Hannans Road and Murphys Road in Staughton Vale experienced the

heaviest flooding on over 30 years. Water roared down from the Range through the valleys in huge torrents. In its wake were deposited massive boulders, burnt tree trunks and debris. Many pieces of equipment (trailers etc) were swept away never to be seen again.



Flood water in usually dry creek bed - Peg Allens property Staughton Vale

150 Year Celebration

The Hall Committee is well into the plans for the 150 year celebration to be held in late 2008. The hall has been painted inside and a new mural at the back stage has been painted by a local artist. The floors have been sanded and finished. The new front fence that our Landcare group are committed to pay for is still under way.

Member Profile -



Stuart Wilson

Stuart was born in Bacchus Marsh. He attended the Balliang East Primary School, went on to the Bacchus Marsh High School and then finished schooling at St Pats, Ballarat. He has grown up on, and now owns, the property - on the Bacchus Marsh Road - called '**Elanstan**'. His parents - *you guessed it* - were Ellen and Stan.

Stan and his brother Gordon were World War 1 Veterans. Stan was sent to the Middle East and was involved in the charge of the Light Horse at Bethsheba. Gordon was at the

Gallipoli landing. After the war they both obtained Soldier Settlement land grants of 160 acres each. Their properties were opposite each other. Eventually Stuart bought 'Mountview' and combined them into one with further purchases along the way.

Stuart and Denise were married in 1967. Stuart tells the story of meeting Denise, a Bacchus Marsh girl, at the many balls they both attended. Those were the days!!

They have three children, Kathy, Debbie and Tony, and they have one grandchild. Tony now works on the farm which is cropping and sheep.

Stuart has done many and varied work in his time. He has worked in shearing sheds. He operated a business delivering fuel and spreading super for about 20 years. The busiest Stuart was during this time was

when the Bacchus Marsh bypass was being constructed. He also did contract harvesting, drove a stock transport truck and a Tournapull (a large excavator) at the Cairn Curran reservoir and at the coal mine in Winsleydale, out of Winchelsea. Stuart was the Captain of the Balliang Fire Brigade for 16 years and he is still involved as a volunteer. His main interests are his family and the property.

Stuart has seen many droughts in his time. The year 1967, when he was married, was the start of a big drought and again when he bought 'Mountview' in 1982 was the start of a big drought. You need to be very philosophical to be a farmer!! Stuart has a great knowledge of the history of the area. He knows the names of most original property owners, so if you need any information about Balliang keep Stuart in mind.

Landcare Events and Training

Waterwatch Advanced Training Sessions - Werribee

When: Saturday 1 December 2007

Where: Western Treatment Plant, Werribee

Details:

Waterwatch aims to increase community understanding, participation, and ownership of river health issues. It provides a broad range of structured activities, encouraging groups to become actively involved in monitoring the health of rivers, creeks and wetlands. Monitoring by Waterwatch groups can help identify pollution sources, determine the major issues facing their local river, creek or wetland, and establish what needs to be done at a local level to improve its health. The advanced training sessions aim to equip volunteers with the skills to monitor water quality.

More info: [contact Kirsten Lingard tel: 9235 1409, email: Kirsten.Lingard@melbournewater.com.au](mailto:Kirsten.Lingard@melbournewater.com.au)

Denise's Joke Page (Contributions to this page are very welcome) – Please !!!!

A father passing his sons bedroom, was astonished to see the bed made and every thing picked up. Then he saw an envelope addressed to "Dad". With the worst premonition, he opened it with trembling hands.

Dear Dad.

It is with great regret that I am writing. I had to elope with my new girlfriend because I wanted to avoid a scene with Mum and you.

I have found real passion with Stacie. She is so nice, But I knew you would not approve of her body piercing, her tattoos, her motor bike clothing and because she is so much older than I.

Also she is pregnant.



Stacie says we will be very happy. She owns a trailer in the bush and has a stack of wood for the winter. We share a dream of having many more children. We pray that science will find a cure for aids so

that Stacie can get better. Do not worry Dad I am 15 and I know how to look after myself.

Someday I will come back so you can get to know your grandchildren. Love Johnny.

P.S. Dad, none of the above is true. I am over at Toms house. I just wanted to remind you there are worse things in life than the school report on your desk. I love you! Call me when it is safe for me to come home.

New members very welcome

BRISBANE RANGES

**LANDCARE GROUP
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Postcode _____
Fax _____

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**