



# Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

## Newsletter

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

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### BRLG Tree Planting – Sunday 21st July 9am at the Triangle

We will shift gear on Sunday July 21 and plant and guard a total of 125 trees, shrubs and ground covers. Our main aim for this planting is to protect the oldest redgum in the City of Greater Geelong! A big thanks of appreciation to Colleen Filippa from [Fifteen Trees](#) for her generous support funding the plants.

Please come along and help our local community project. Meet from **9am** and we will run through to a BBQ lunch. Bring gloves, trowel or other digging implement, and a hammer or mallet for the stakes. Many hands make light work!

Also, thanks to all that came along to our second working bee last month at the site. We made great progress removing elm suckers.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Quantity
<a href="#">Acacia melanoxylon</a>	Blackwood	5
<a href="#">Atriplex semibacatta</a>	Berry Saltbush	10
<a href="#">Banksia marginata</a>	Silver Banksia	5
<a href="#">Bursaria spinosa</a>	Sweet Bursaria	5
<a href="#">Correa reflexa</a>	Common Correa	5
<a href="#">Dianella admixta</a>	Black-anther Flax-lily	10
<a href="#">Einadia hastata</a>	Saltbush	10
<a href="#">Einadia nutans</a>	Nodding Saltbush	10
<a href="#">Eucalyptus camaldulensis</a>	River Red Gum	10
<a href="#">Eucalyptus leucoxylon</a>	Melbourne Yellow Gum	5
<a href="#">Eucalyptus melliodora</a>	Yellow Box	5
<a href="#">Goodenia ovata</a>	Hop Goodenia	5
<a href="#">Lomandra longifolia</a>	Spiny Mat-rush	10
<a href="#">Melicytis dentatus</a>	Shrub Violet	10
<a href="#">Myoporum parvifolium</a>	Creeping Boobialla	10
<a href="#">Senecio cunninghamii</a>	Branching Groundsel	10
		<b>125</b>

Inside this edition of the newsletter...

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For feedback, comments and letters to the editor: [newsletter.brlg@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.brlg@gmail.com)

## ***The Importance of Insects***

Insects are everywhere. They are, by far, the most common animals on our planet. More than 1.5 million species of insects have been named. This is three times the number of all other animals combined. Even so, some say that the insects that have been given names are only a small fraction of the insects in nature. Many are yet to be discovered. We can find insects in almost every conceivable habitat. Their size, shape, color, biology, and life history are so diverse that it makes the study of insects absolutely fascinating.

Without insects, our lives would be vastly different. Insects pollinate many of our fruits, flowers, and vegetables. We would not have much of the produce that we enjoy and rely on without the pollinating services of insects, not to mention honey, beeswax, that insects provide.

Insects feed on a seemingly endless array of foods. Many insects are omnivorous, variety of foods including decaying organic matter, and encounter in their environment. Still others are specialists in their diet, which means they may rely only on one particular plant or even one plant to survive.

Many insects are predatory or parasitic, either on plants or on other insects or animals, including people. Such insects are important in nature (insects or weeds) at a tolerable level. We call this the balance of nature. Predatory and parasitic insects are very valuable when they attack other animals or plants that we consider to be pests.

Insects are very important as primary or secondary decomposers. Without insects to help break down and dispose of wastes, dead animals and plants would accumulate in our environment and it would be messy indeed.

Insects are underappreciated for their role in the food web. They are the sole food source for many amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Insects themselves are harvested and eaten by people in some cultures. They are a rich source of protein, vitamins, and minerals, and are prized as delicacies in many third-world countries. In fact, it is difficult to find an insect that is not eaten in one form or another by people. Among the most popular are cicadas, locusts, mantises, grubs, caterpillars, crickets, ants, and wasps.

In spite of all their positive attributes, some insects can cause problems, particularly in agricultural production. Most people are more aware of the few insects that cause problems than they are of the many beneficial insects. Not all insects are bad and all are in need of control. We must always keep in mind that the good done by the many beneficial insects far outweighs any bad caused by a few pest species.

The Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (PPWCMA) has produced a guide to the [Common Pollinators and Beneficial Insects of Victoria](#). Click the link to learn more.



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## Weed of the Month – Serrated Tussock

Serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*) is a perennial tussock-forming grass. It is a prolific seeder with 90 per cent of the plant self-pollinating. Seed heads of the plant are carried along the ground and in the air and may be blown considerable distances; up to several kilometres.

Seed production of serrated tussock is abundant and a hectare of dense tussock growth can produce more than two tonnes of seed annually. Large plants can produce 100,000 seeds a year. Seeds can remain dormant in the soil for up to 15 years and sometimes longer.

Serrated tussock is a serious weed of pasture with significant impacts on carrying capacity and a reduction in agricultural return. Its presence greatly affects land value. Livestock are unable to digest the plant due to its high fibre and low protein content, resulting in a loss of condition. The seeds of serrated tussock also lower wool quality.



The icons on the calendar below represent the times of year for flowering, seeding, germination, the dormancy period of serrated tussock and also the optimum time for treatment.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Flowering												
Seeding												
Germination												
Dormancy												
Treatment												

Treatment options include:

- Application of a registered herbicide
- Cultivation
- Physical removal

Please refer to the [Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party website](#) for a comprehensive guide to controlling serrated tussock.

Look out for it seeding in a few months' time. Fluffy seed heads are a tell-tale sign.



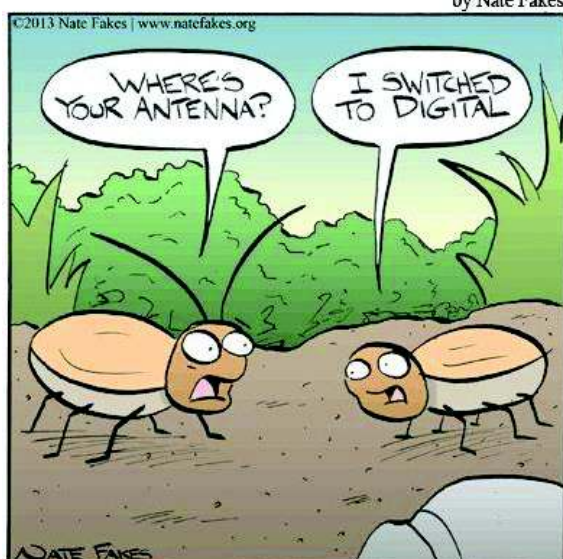
## Landcare Resources

I want to know about...	Here is a good place to start...
Aboriginal cultural heritage location mapping	<a href="https://www.vic.gov.au/aboriginalvictoria/heritage/heritage-tools-and-publications/heritage-tools.html">https://www.vic.gov.au/aboriginalvictoria/heritage/heritage-tools-and-publications/heritage-tools.html</a> then select "online map tool"
Biodiversity mapping and recording	<a href="http://maps.biodiversity.vic.gov.au/viewer/?viewer=NatureKit">http://maps.biodiversity.vic.gov.au/viewer/?viewer=NatureKit</a> <a href="http://natureshare.org.au/">http://natureshare.org.au/</a> <a href="http://avh.chah.org.au/">http://avh.chah.org.au/</a>
Boxthorn	<a href="http://weeds.ala.org.au/WoNS/africanboxthorn/docs/African_boxthorn-national_best_practice_manual.pdf">http://weeds.ala.org.au/WoNS/africanboxthorn/docs/African_boxthorn-national_best_practice_manual.pdf</a>
Chilean needle grass	<a href="https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/publications/guidelines/wons/pubs/n-neesiana.pdf">https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/publications/guidelines/wons/pubs/n-neesiana.pdf</a>
Feral goat control	<a href="https://www.pestsmart.org.au/pest-animal-species/feral-goat/">https://www.pestsmart.org.au/pest-animal-species/feral-goat/</a>
Fox control	<a href="https://www.pestsmart.org.au/pest-animal-species/european-fox/">https://www.pestsmart.org.au/pest-animal-species/european-fox/</a>
Gorse	<a href="https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/publications/guidelines/wons/pubs/u-europaeus.pdf">https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/publications/guidelines/wons/pubs/u-europaeus.pdf</a>
Landcare networks	<a href="#">Moorabool Landcare Network</a> <a href="#">Geelong Landcare Network</a>
Melbourne Water Stream Frontage Grants	<a href="https://www.melbournewater.com.au/community-and-education/apply-funding/stream-frontage-management-program">https://www.melbournewater.com.au/community-and-education/apply-funding/stream-frontage-management-program</a>
Rabbit management	<a href="http://www.mln.org.au/images/PDFS/rabbitactionguide.pdf">http://www.mln.org.au/images/PDFS/rabbitactionguide.pdf</a> <a href="https://www.pestsmart.org.au/pest-animal-species/european-rabbit/">https://www.pestsmart.org.au/pest-animal-species/european-rabbit/</a>
Serrated tussock	<a href="https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/publications/guidelines/wons/pubs/n-trichotoma.pdf">https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/publications/guidelines/wons/pubs/n-trichotoma.pdf</a>
Weeds - identification and control	<a href="http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/weeds/a-z-of-weeds">http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/weeds/a-z-of-weeds</a>
Weed status in Victoria	<a href="http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/weeds/invasive-plant-classifications">http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/weeds/invasive-plant-classifications</a> <a href="http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/protecting-victoria-from-pest-animals-and-weeds/legislation-policy-and-permits/declared-noxious-weeds-and-pest-animals-in-victoria">http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/protecting-victoria-from-pest-animals-and-weeds/legislation-policy-and-permits/declared-noxious-weeds-and-pest-animals-in-victoria</a>

## Last Laugh



by Nate Fakes



### Note from the Ed:

Got a wine of the month you would like to recommend?

Please send your recommendation through to [newsletter.brlq@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.brlq@gmail.com)