



Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

Newsletter



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**Brisbane Ranges Land Care Meeting
7-30pm Wednesday 30th June, 2010
Balliang Hall**

Speaker: Mr Rodney Thomas, City of Greater Geelong



Rodney Thomas is the Manager Environment and Natural Resources at the City of Greater Geelong. His areas of responsibility include climate change, management of environmentally significant land, land and waterway restoration, environmental education and development of Council's environment strategies. He has previously worked in environment and land management roles for several councils, most recently Melton. Rodney has a Bachelor of Applied Science degree.

Important topic for the 30th June meeting

At this meeting we will be discussing the possibility of some locally available funding to support members in their landcare-related activities. Thanks to the active support of our members, we may have money available that has been saved from some of our grants: this can happen for example, when we do voluntary work.

If you are a small property owner, or don't have a waterway, it is likely you have had difficulty getting financial support in the past ... here is a good chance to make suggestions that will achieve landcare objectives, and support land holders who might otherwise miss out on funding. Among the suggestions so far: financial assistance for fencing costs associated with revegetation and, secondly, minor works for erosion control in sensitive remnant vegetation areas.

Come to the meeting and have your say about how we should allocate any local funds that become available!!

BRLCG executive: More New blood

This month we profile our second new executive member Allan Bartholomew who joined the executive at the AGM last year. Allan Bartholomew [Bart] fell in love with the Brissies a few years ago and decided to take on the many challenges of creating a family home on a multi-overlaid property in Staughton Vale along with daughter Janine and her partner Roger. It was intended as a weekender but he and Carole [Caz] couldn't resist. They left the beach at Mentone (and, unfortunately, 2 grandchildren) and headed for the hills fulltime.

Building is a real family affair and Bart gave up his Food Technology job to help son Peter on the building designed by Janine and project managed by Roger. After a career as Food Technologist in the dairy industry he has just returned to work with food safety and quality in Bacchus Marsh.



Allan Bartholomew

Bart had a native garden in Mentone but is now learning about the local plants and particularly native grasses. He has also joined the Balliang CFA. He is an animal lover and a lapsed scuba diver/photographer.

Even More Free Money!!!

The BRLCG subsidy to assist with small scale tree planting has recently been increased to \$200 per member family. Contact our treasurer, Chris Winfield 53694214 for information.

A favourite local plant

The Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*), our national floral emblem, will soon be filling the bush and roadsides with a bright hue of green and gold. A fast growing (but short lived), shrub to small tree in size (4-10m high) and able to grow in a range of soil types, it makes a great understorey addition to windbreaks. The flowers attract bees, other insects and birds. It will regenerate easily after a bushfire

and can be propagated from seed found in the long seed pods. Seeds need pre-soaking in hot water to soften the hard black seed coating. Leave over night then sow in a mix of sand and peat moss and cover with plastic to create a hothouse environment until they emerge. They don't like root disturbance, so planting is best done while the seedling is quite young. The strong, sweet smelling flowers have been used in perfume production and it has been grown for the high quality tannin found in the dark brown/grey bark. The golden wattle is found from Eastern SA through to the ACT to the South East of NSW and throughout Victoria.



Golden Wattle

Little River Project

This project, generously funded by Melbourne Water and Vision for Werribee Plains, aims to fence off about 14 kilometres of the Little River. The project is progressing well. Fencing work has been largely completed, and herbicide has been sprayed on areas selected for revegetation.

Contractors for planting are being selected, and our group needs to start thinking about ongoing work to maintain and possibly extend this project: the largest one ever undertaken by our Landcare Group.

For your diary: meeting dates for 2010

30 June, 25 August, 27 October, 16 December. All meetings in Balliang Hall, 1930h.

Joining Landcare

You don't have to be a member to participate in Landcare activities, but it is well worth joining to access subsidies such as \$200 towards some tree planting costs, and \$50 for vermin control. If you are interested in joining, contact our Treasurer or

Secretary, contact details at the top of this newsletter.