



Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group



## Newsletter

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### ***BRLG Christmas Party***

Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 from 1900h,  
Balliang Hall  
Balliang-Bacchus Marsh Road (opposite CFA)

This year's BBQ is a great chance to meet your neighbours and share the festive spirit!

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. By some strange and unforeseen quirk of circumstances, it is free to attend the barbeque even if you are not currently a member! This is because, as part of their membership drive, the BRLG are offering a **free** first year membership to anyone joining the group. If you aren't already a member, join up for free as you enter our famed sumptuous Christmas barbeque!

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!

## BRLG Meetings in 2016

The group holds meetings at the Balliang Hall on the third Thursday of every second month, featuring interesting speakers or activities of value for members who want to enjoy the benefits of living in very special rural environment.

Meetings next year will be held on the following dates in 2016:

Thursday February 18

Thursday April 21

Thursday June 16

Thursday August 18

Thursday October 20

with end of year BBQ on Friday December 16

We are constantly on the lookout for speakers or presenters who have stories to tell that will interest members. If you know of any likely speakers, or, even better, if you yourself have information or skills you would like to share, please contact a member of the Executive: contact details at the head of this newsletter.

Meetings of the executive committee will be held on the following dates in 2016:

Thursday 28 January

Thursday March 17

Thursday May 19,

Thursday July 21,

Thursday September 15,

Thursday November 17.

## Balliang Food and Fibre group

The young farmers of Balliang have a Food and Fibre Group which has some interesting projects underway - including a nitrogen tracking trial.

This trial involves an initial soil testing program which allows precise matching of nitrogen application, soil and crop requirements.

The aim is to maximise yields while minimising waste and environmental impact. Stay tuned for more details.

## BRLG tools and equipment

The weed spray trailer is back in action again, thanks to John Anderson for organising repairs. This unit makes weed-spraying very easy and is available for hire to members for those weed spraying activities that are more efficiently done with a larger capacity unit.

We also have available for loan various tree planting equipment and other implements.

If you require special tools for a landcare type activity contact our executive: chances are someone can supply the gear you need, or the group could well decide to purchase items that are in demand and within our budgetary scope.

## BRLG Speakers 2015

We have had a number of entertaining speakers this year and are always looking for themes for next year. Note that several of our speakers are members of our group or Balliang locals. Any ideas for speakers in 2016 are welcome. Contact an Exec. Member if you have ideas for speakers, or, especially, if you could talk.

We started the year with **Zeke Hartland** relating his experiences with erosion research at Mt Elephant in particular the importance of ground cover to prevent loss of soils. **Chris Sharkey** drew our largest crowd and managed to simplify the complicated subject of council rate systems as applied to our landowners and generated a lively discussion. Another local, **Mark Trengove** provided examples from our area and imparted his extensive personal knowledge during our weed identification night. **Reg Abrahams** from the Wathaurong Indigenous Co-op explained their work involving young koories in landcare activities. **John Morgan** (an ecologist who knows our area well) took us on a bus trip of local sights. He highlighted the diversity of our local vegetation, analysed a variety of soils and explained why certain plants are growing where they are. **Janine Duffy**, local Koala expert, talked about the habits and habitat of Koalas. She offered to work with landcare to help us improve habitat and engage people.