



Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

Newsletter

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Number 1

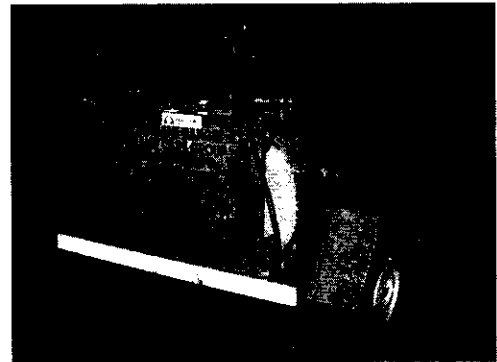
August 2006

Editor: Peggy Allen Phone: 5369 4283

Many thanks to Melbourne Water who have given us a grant to fund this newsletter. We will be sending out two or three a year, and would appreciate contributions from members

A brief history of the group

As this is the first issue of our newsletter, the editor thought that a short outline of the history of the Group would be interesting, particularly to those members who have joined since we began.



Our foundation President, Peter Bufton of Staughton Vale, 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. We also agreed to become a member group of the VFF Farm Tree & Landcare Association, so that we could access the resources available from a larger incorporated body such as advantageous insurance rates and technical information.

Our first project was to construct a sprayer trailer (above) with a grant of \$3000 from the Dept of Natural Resources & Environment. This has been invaluable and has had a lot of use in spot spraying noxious weeds such as serrated tussock. It is still available for members to hire for a small fee. Baiting campaigns against vermin have also had priority. We have sponsored or made a number of project applications since then to support members in various revegetation and salinity control projects.

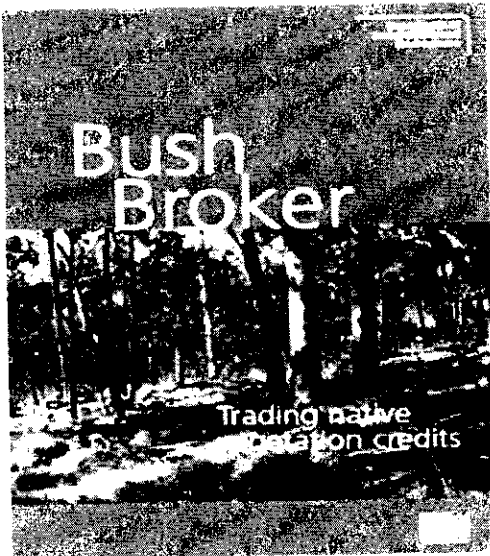


Production of this Newsletter is funded through Melbourne Water's Community Grants Scheme

Recent Meetings

April Meeting: At the April meeting this year Lisa Deppler spoke to us about the Stream Frontage Management Program being conducted by Melbourne Water. MW makes grants available to land owners to help with the development of land along waterways. Three of our members have since received grants to plant trees.

June Meeting: At the June meeting Max Coster from the Department of Sustainability and the Environment explained the Victorian Government's Bush Broker Scheme. This scheme enables the land holder to register and trade native vegetation credits which will provide a new source of income for landholders and a convenient source of offsets for applicants seeking planning approval to clear native vegetation. He encouraged members to lodge an expression of interest



Field day

On Sunday 24th September 2006 at 12 Midday

There will be a Field Day (funded by Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group) on John Anderson's property at **460 Box Forest Road Balliang.**

The purpose is to look at the Farm Forestry project that was partly funded by Grow West

A BBQ will follow. New members very welcome.

Contact John on 0418 518 697 or 5369 4301

Equipment Available for Hire

Spray Trailers

Our spray trailer is back and available for hire. Many thanks to Les Buffon who has put a lot of hours into repairing it.

We now have two trailers. One is a 600 litre tank with a hand gun and a spray boom.

The second trailer has a 400 litre tank and two hand guns.

Please phone John Anderson (0418 518 697) if you want to use one of these spray units.

Pottiputki

We also have a Pottiputki which makes the planting of trees so much easier.



Working Bee

Stony Creek (East side of Staughton Vale Road)

A working bee is planned for this spring to spray Box Thorn along Stony Creek. The recent fires destroyed a considerable amount of this invasive weed but we need to keep working to keep it under control. All help would be gratefully appreciated.

Bits and Pieces

Chris Worrell – Ranger in Charge of the Moorabool Parks Management area (includes Brisbane Ranges and Steiglitz) has recently changed jobs and is now working from the You Yangs as a ranger. Peter Box will continue his great work and support in the Brisbane Ranges.

Grants – Three members have received grants from Melbourne Water through their *Stream Frontage Management Program*. Congratulations to those members.

Think You've got Problems?



We were talking to a farmer the other day when he told us about his troubles.

he told us about

"It all started back in '66 when they changed from pounds to dollars and me overdraft doubled.

I was just getting' used to this when they brought in kilograms instead of pounds, and me flamin' wool clip dropped by 'alf.

Then they changed rain to millimetres and we haven't had an inch of rain since. So what do they do? They bring in a thing called Celsius and it never gets hotter than 40 degrees in mid summer. No wonder me wheat won't grow.

This wasn't enough, they had to change us over from acres to hectares, and I end up with 'alf the flamin' land I had.

So one day I sat down and had a think, I reckon that with daylight savin' I was workin' seven extra hours a week for nothin'. So I decided to sell out.

But to cap it all off, I'd just got the place in the agent's hands when they changed from miles to kilometres, and now I find I'm too flamin' far out of town for anyone to buy the bloomin' place."

Source Unknown

Interesting items from recent Moorabool Landcare Advisory Committee meetings

DPI 1080 Baiting Program

A DPI representative outlined recent changes to the program and distributed a fact sheet (available from DPI offices).

Important changes are:

- 1080 poison for rabbits only applied to oats
- Two commercial fox baits are now available
- Hotline service for individuals to book collection of baits.

DPI still supports Groups (min 7 landholders) in control programs, otherwise support and enforcement is mainly through Multiple Outcome Projects (MOPS).

Review of Code of Forest Practice (farm timber plantations)

Moorabool Shire Council is concerned about certain aspects of the management of farm timber plantations. These include the spread of (pine) wildling trees into remnant vegetation areas and roadsides, spread of weed seeds which have previously collected under plantations (such as serrated tussock) during harvesting, and control of these weeds on plantation sites after harvesting has been carried out.

A submission addressing these issues has been made to a State review of the Code of Practice: recommendations for 40m tree-free boundary breaks around forestry plantations; plantations to conform to Council Fire Prevention Plans; 50m wide wildling control zone outside property boundary.

Galenia Weed Infestation

The Pentland Hills Landcare Group in particular is concerned about the increasing problem of the spread of the weed Galenia around Bacchus Marsh. Despite LC Groups highlighting the problem to agencies nothing has been done in a

coordinated manner to control the weed on public or private land over 10 years.

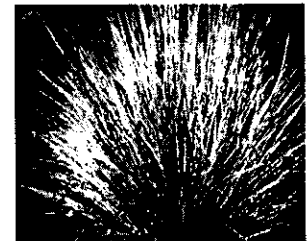


Pentland Hills LG want to control the spread by educating landholders and possibly seeking rates concessions for those who undertake control. Ways of increasing awareness and informing landholders of control practices are being looked at.

Serrated Tussock control update

DPI Geelong staff recently outlined developments in the Serrated Tussock control program in the Corangamite and Port Phillip Catchments. Staff have recently been appointed to the Bacchus Marsh office to work in the Port Phillip catchment.

Committee members impressed on the DPI



representatives that there was still a need for effective follow up to compliance notices issued to landholders because uncontrolled infestations make surrounding landholders control works a waste of time and money. It was explained that effective compliance action had been hampered by staffing problems and the legislated need to recommence compliance activities each year (previous years activities don't carry over).

Landcare Groups (through MLAC) can identify additional roadsides where control spraying could be carried out.

Future Activities in the PPWCMA Area

(As notified by John Robinson, Landcare Coordinator, PPWCMA)

Unmuddying the Waters

(The Aquatic Environment)

Victorian Friends Network Seminar 2006

When: Saturday 19 August 2006

Time: 8:30am-4pm

Where: Melbourne Water Discovery Centre, Western Treatment Plant, New Farm Road, Werribee (Melway 205 E12). Melbourne Water Discovery Centre is off Old Geelong Road, 2.5 km from Werribee Railway Station.

Details: This Victorian Friends Network 'CAN DO' seminar on positive practical involvement in our aqua areas, is being hosted by Melbourne Water. Confronting confusion and contamination - who is responsible? Constructive partnerships - what Friends can do. Water quality and habitat, frogs, platypus and native water rat.

Program:

8:30am - Registration

9:00am - Welcome

9:10am - The changing culture of Melbourne Water and its relationship to volunteers:

Cheryl Batagol (Chairman, Melbourne Water)

9:40 am - Case study of agencies & Friends working together

10:45am - Panel: Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria, PPWCMA, EPA, and municipalities "Who is responsible for what along our waterways?"

11:30am - 2006 Best Friend Awards

12.00noon - Lunch and time to explore the Melbourne Water Discovery Centre

1:00pm "Realistic riparian rehabilitation" - Damien Cook (Australian Ecosystems)

1:30pm "Water quality & content, Waterwatch" - Keir Jarvis (Waterwatch Coordinator, Melbourne Water)

2:00pm "Frogs and Friends" - Robert Bender (Friends of Organ Pipes & Friends of Wilson Reserve)

2:30pm "Platypus and Rakali" - Geoff Williams (Biologist, Australian Platypus Conservancy)

3:00pm - Final thanks and afternoon tea, leading into "The Melee" when you can meet informally with the speakers & other attendees

4:00 pm - Final Siren

Cost: \$10.00 payable in cash on the day

includes lunch & refreshments, receipts will be available.

Bookings are essential as places are limited. Bookings & more information:

Thelma Christensen tel: 9770 0996, email: friendsvic@hotmail.com

Environmental Management Systems (EMS) Training

When/Where: to be arranged at a mutually convenient time and location

Who can access EMS training: landholders and groups from across the Port Phillip and Western Port region can access the training

Details: Environmental Management Systems (EMS) is a process to assess and improve environmental performance within your farming business. The Department of Primary Industries, in partnership with the Victorian Farmers Federation and the Department of Sustainability and Environment, is delivering EMS training to landholders to enable them to plan, implement and review their management practices to improve sustainable farming

Why should landholders become involved:

- § To gain some recognition for environmental works they are already undertaking
- § Benchmark their current practices
- § Document future projects
- § Gain ideas from other landholders
- § Be better positioned for a "marketing edge"

What's on offer:

- § An introductory talk on EMS to your Group
- § FREE Workshops (including an aerial photo of your property) to implement a self-assessment questionnaire (benchmarking) and Action Planning

More information: please contact Carmen Zerafa (EMS Pathways Officer - Port Phillip and Western Port, Department of Primary Industries), tel: 5366 0057, email: carmen.zerafa@dpi.vic.gov.au

Coming Events

Next Meeting:

Thursday 10th August 2006

Time: 7.30pm

Place: Balliang Hall

This is an election meeting.

The guest is John Robinson from the Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority. He will be speaking about available grants.

Field Day

Sunday 24th September 2006

Time: 12 Midday

Place: 460 Box Forest Road (John Anderson's) Ph:0418 518 697

BBQ to follow

October Meeting

Thursday 12th October

Time: 7.30pm

Place: Balliang Hall

New members very welcome

**BRISBANE RANGES
LANDCARE GROUP
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Signed _____