



Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

Newsletter

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Visit our web page: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~brlg/membership.html>

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December 2012

Christmas Party

with our

Special Guest: Rebecca Kootstra
(Environmental Projects Officer, City of Greater Geelong)

7-00pm Friday 14th December 2012
Balliang Hall

Don't miss the widely renowned Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group Christmas Party which will be held at the height of the festive season. This year our special guest is Rebecca Kootstra who wants to meet members who are interested in the Victorian Grasslands Project: see next page for more information.

A selection of prime quality meats, courtesy of Alistair Sadler, will be sizzling on the barbeque and sumptuous desserts will be available. BYO salad and drinks.

Cost: Members and their families: Free!

Non-members \$25 per person (hint membership costs only \$25!!!)

Non-members and, especially, any new residents, will be warmly welcomed! Please come and join your neighbours for a friendly Christmas get together.

Rebecca Kootstra: Special Guest at our Christmas Party.

At our August meeting, Matt Aquilina spoke about the Victorian Volcanic Plains Grassland Protection Program. Several of our members were disappointed that the program, at that stage, was available only in Moorabool Shire: but thanks to Rebecca, our special guest at the Christmas Party, Geelong residents will have access to funding for similar projects.

It is possible that, like St George's Balliang (see following article) your property has significant vegetation: particularly if there are areas that have not been cultivated or sown down for a long time. Rebecca will tell members about the program in a short talk and is keen to meet any Geelong residents who might be interested.

Grasslands Project Funding for Balliang!

Since Matt Aquilina from Atlas Ecology spoke at the August meeting about Moorabool's project to locate and conserve remnant grassland, a small area of quality remnant grassland has been found at an unexpected site - the grounds of the Balliang Anglican Church.

Over the last 100 years, the rear portion of the church site has been mowed only occasionally to keep it tidy and reduce fire risk. Small and less accessible portions have rarely, if ever, been mowed. This has allowed some quite uncommon species of herbs and grasses to survive and even thrive. Species include Wallaby Grass, Blue Devil, several species of lily, Columbine, native bluebell and saltbush. The Church and the Council have made an agreement to restrict access to the rear area of the grounds and put in place a mowing regime which conserves the grassland while still allowing fire hazard reduction in summer. The project will also financially support weed control around the conserved area."

Moorabool Shire council has received funds via the Victorian Volcanic Plains Grassland Protection Program funded through the Commonwealth Caring for Our Country grant program.

Seeking expressions of interest

We are looking at investigating funding and then pre-ordering some tubes for autumn plantings next year. This should allow plants to gain a good start before the summer "dry". We hope to organise something similar to the recent "15trees" offer with trees including guards and stakes available for BRLG members. The advantages of this offer were that it allowed for smaller revegetation plantings and was not reliant on satisfying water frontage requirements etc.

If you are interested, or have any queries, please contact Bart at cazbarth@yahoo.com.au or 5369 4197 or 0401 925 886. We need to know approximate number of trees/shrubs required as soon as possible.

A not-so-welcome guest arrives in Balliang: Chilean Needle grass



Photo (and detailed Landcare Note) courtesy of <http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/weeds/other-declared-weeds/chilean-needle-grass>

Members should have received an email about two small populations of Chilean Needle-grass on the Staughton Vale - Balliang Road located by Mark Trengove, now eradicated thanks to James Bufton and his crew herbicidal helpers. More details about this weed at the URL provided above and in our next newsletter. We may have a sample, safely isolated in a glass container, at the Christmas party. Let's hope this isn't the Christmas present that lasts and lasts.