



Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

# Newsletter

Chair: James Bufton  
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Treasurer: Chris Winfield  
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Secretary: Allan Bartholomew  
5369-4197

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



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## ***Landcare values and sustainable Agriculture: Can we have both?***

Wednesday, 16th April, 2014 @ 1930h,  
Balliang Hall  
Balliang-Bacchus Marsh Road

When he spoke to us last year, Anthony Dufty raised two challenging questions: Why would any farmer or other landholder in a rural area want to take away from the productive value of farmland? How can the Landcare activities our group has undertaken be made compatible with profitable and sustainable agriculture or other productive use of land in our area?

Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (PWCMA) is responsible for the overall management of the catchments feeding into Port Phillip and Western Port. They have a new five year project designed to answer those two questions Anthony posed last year.

This new Landcare and Sustainable Agriculture (LaSA) project has two elements:

- Development of sustainable agriculture: Farmer focused. this project aims to increase the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices by farmers.
- Development of sustainable environment: Landcare focused: This project aims to increase the quality of biodiversity conservation projects undertaken by Landcare groups.

The LaSA project has three key staff:

- A Regional Landcare Facilitator with responsibility across the whole catchment
- Two Sustainable Land Management Coordinators for the Western and Eastern parts of the catchment.

We have the opportunity to hear two of these key staff talk about the project and how it can support Landcare Activities such as our Community Environment Grant, which is funded from the same Federal "Caring for Country" program. **Karen Thomas** is the project's Regional Landcare Facilitator and **Anthony Dufty** is the local coordinator for our Western Region.

## Our speakers

**Karen Thomas** is pictured below with a special friend! Karen is the Regional Landcare facilitator. An important part of her role is to increase the adoption of sustainable land management practices



particularly in cropping and horticulture. This means working closely with both industry and production groups such as the Balliang Cropping Group. Karen has worked with Dept of Environment and Primary Industries in its various forms for 19 years.

Karen is keen to learn more about cropping into native pasture as a practice for the grasslands and improving the use of fertilisers in horticulture. Karen has diplomas in Natural Resources Management, and in Frontline Management. She is completing her bachelor of ecological agricultural systems this year.

**Anthony Dufty**, (Land management Coordinator for our region) is well known



to our group. He heads the local Moorabool Landcare Network and the Pentland Hills Landcare Group. Anthony has experience in implementing a major bio-links project which is

similar in many respects to our own Little River Project, though on a larger scale.

Anthony's group received a Landcare Award for their outstanding success in coordinating a linkage project, due to be completed in 2014, which spans 33 km down the Myrniong and Korkuperrimul creeks. Last year Anthony asked us: "Are we in a fools' paradise to believe we can recreate the plant community of the 1750's?" The new LaSA project may provide an answer!

## Community Environment Grant

Thanks to all those who proposed activities for the \$49,200 Community Environment Grant. Twelve proposals were considered and the selection committee commented on the quality and range of submissions. Three of the proposals were referred onwards to Melbourne Water following consultations with the Exec and this generous funding body. A first stage report has been submitted to the Commonwealth and will be discussed at the meeting.

## Meetings this year

Landcare meetings are scheduled for 1930h at the Balliang Hall for the following dates in 2014:

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Party)

The Executive are very keen to hear from members about any activities or speakers of interest.

At the moment we are negotiating for a speaker from the newly formed Mr Rothwell Landcare Volunteers to explore areas of cooperation and mutual interest. We also are hoping for a "hands on" session from Suzie Inglis on using social media such as Facebook and Twitter which are increasingly important in communications about Landcare Activities.

Expert speakers on local Geology, and the ecology of Grasslands are strong possibilities for later meetings. Finally, our Geelong Network Coordinator Elissa Ashton-Smith has also offered to extend the planning and consultation work so successfully begun last year.

Meetings of the Executive are scheduled for the following dates: 20/3, 15/5, 17/7 18/9 20/11.

### **Presentation to our Founding Chair**



Our founder, Peter Bufton (on left), is presented with a fully framed version of the certificate of appreciation and life membership which we intended to present at our Christmas party last year. Peter not only gave our group its initial impetus, but continues to be very active in Landcare. Chris Winfield is doing the honours.

### **Field trip to a new section of the Brisbane Ranges National Park.**

BRLG members are invited to join with the Friends of the Brisbane Ranges to check out the newest section of the National Park. Thanks to Trish Edwards and Mark Trengove, approximately 20 hectares of previously inaccessible bush backing onto the Little River Gorge have been incorporated into the Park.

Join us to explore this new section of the Park that is otherwise difficult to access. Note that some parts of the terrain are challenging, including steep slopes and trackless areas. Strong footwear and outdoor clothing is advised. There will be soft options available for those who prefer to avoid the difficult parts of the walk.

This will be a great opportunity to access the area through private land and see the beautiful Little River Gorge from a new perspective.

Meet at 10 am Sat. 10<sup>th</sup> May at the Staughton Vale/Murphy's Road triangle. The walk will take 2-3 hours. Phone Mark for further information 0428 298 087..



A view of Little River Gorge that will be a feature of the field trip exploring a newly incorporated section of the Brisbane Ranges National Park on 10<sup>th</sup> May, departing at 1000h from the "Triangle" at the intersection of Murphy's Road and Staughton Vale Road, Staughton Vale. Phone Mark for further information 0428 298 087.





**Do you want a healthy and productive landscape?  
Find out how at the workshop on .....**

# **ANALOG FORESTRY**

**9am - 4pm  
28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

**GUEST PRESENTER and chair of International Analog Forestry Network**

**Mr Milo Faries**

from Costa Rica will be at the workshop to tell us how...



...using the regenerative agriculture technique called Analog Forestry, which integrates conservation and production.

**AGRICULTURE      AGRO-FORESTRY      PERMA-CULTURE      ANALOGUE FORESTRY      NATURAL FOREST ECOLOGY**

**Cost:    Members            = \$60    (landcare groups in the Moorabool Landcare Network)  
         Non-members = \$350 (external participants)**

At the conclusion of the workshop the participating farmers will have:

- an analog forestry design that will look after wildlife and make money;
- a knowledge and understanding of Analog Forestry, and;
- the tools needed for the implementation of AF in Moorabool Landcare Network area..

Contact: Anthony Dufty (Moorabool Landcare Network Inc) for payment and further information on 0402 894 576

