



Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

Newsletter

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



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Annette Rypalski

Mt Rothwell Biodiversity Centre

Thursday, 19th June, 2014 @ 1930h,
Balliang Hall
Balliang-Bacchus Marsh Road



A chance to meet a land manager with a difference! Annette Rypalski is the manager of Mt Rothwell Biodiversity Centre. She will give us insights into some of the challenges and successes of breeding endangered species.

Many of our members have joined night-time tours of Mt Rothwell. This meeting is your chance to find out what is happening behind that tall wire fence on the Little River Ripley Road!

Mt Rothwell has recently established its own volunteer Landcare group, so we may also hear about activities of a new neighbouring Landcare Group working in a very different environment.

Community Environment Grant update

The Melbourne Water crew has visited several sites and are planning Stream Frontage assistance for properties along the Little River, Stony Creek and tributaries, including gorse control. The attention to waterlines regarded by MW as tributaries extends the range of these generous grants.

Stefanie Wabnik from MW has mentioned a possible letter drop to eligible properties and can be contacted on 0405 492 686. Hear more at our next meeting on Thursday 19th June.

Analogue Forestry

Our Secretary Allan (Bart) Bartholomew and Max Coster attended a 3-day course on analogue forestry in April, and it is interesting to see landowners seeking ideas for crops and enterprises that could be developed in association with biodiversity plantings. Bart will tell us a little about this workshop which he attended at the request of BRLG executive.

Asian Black Spined Toad

Almost 80 years after the cane toad was deliberately introduced to control sugar cane pests in Queensland, a close relative, more tolerant of cool climates, has our biosecurity officials worried.



Asian black-spined toads are stocky, medium to large, with a relatively small head and short hind limbs. Adults look very similar to the cane toad; however they do not grow as big.

The Asian black-spined toad has the potential to cause environmental havoc similar to the cane toad, and one has been found in a dog's water bowl at Sunbury. It's the latest in a long list of unwelcome environmental visitors, which threaten to kill native species and dramatically alter Australian habitats.

If you encounter a suspect, contact DEPI on tel. 136 186. More information at DEPI website: [click here for web link](#). (Note: if you are reading the emailed version of this newsletter, clicking on the blue link above should take you to the website.)

Forthcoming events of interest:

Contact the [MLN website \(click here\)](#) or our Secretary (details on first page) for more information.

Fri 13 June: Protecting biodiversity on farmland. Field day at Yaloak Estate, Glenmore. Showcasing innovative farming and forestry techniques.

Sun 22 June: Tree planting at Old Gun Club site at Maddingley. Rowsley

Sun 29 June: Community planting day. Friends of Werribee River Through Bacchus Marsh

Sun 20 July: Grow West Community Planting day at Yaloak.

Sun 8 August: Pentland Hills Community Planting day.

Sat 23 Aug: BRLG geology field day with Neville Rosengren, details closer to the day

Sat 25 October: Landcare Expo. Moorabool Landcare Network

Recreating the Country

A few years ago, we had Stephen Murphy as a visiting speaker telling us about his book *Recreating the Country*. Steve's ideas were of great interest and his practical suggestions for developing sustainable landscapes have had great influence. Now a demonstration project, Biorich Plantation has been established at Lal Lal by Ballarat Regional Tree Growers.

There is an interesting video describing the project. [Click here for video](#)

(Acknowledgements: Thanks to Allan Bartholomew, Mark Trengove, Chris Winfield, ABC Landline program & DEPI for text for the newsletter.)