



# Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

## Newsletter

Chair: James Bufton  
5284-1344

Treasurer: Chris Winfield  
5369-4214

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5369-4197

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

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### Paddock to Plate at our upcoming AGM



**AGM: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October  
2018 7.30pm, Balliang Hall**

The BRLG is looking for new faces and new ideas on the Executive. All positions are open for nominations. Please speak to James Bufton on or before the night to find out about how to get involved to keep us active and engaged in our local landscape.

#### **Dry Creek Milling**


Immediately after our AGM, guest speaker, Chris Sharkey, will tell us about how he has teamed up with a local baker to turn Balliang grain into beautiful artisan loaves!




#### **Inside this edition of the newsletter...**

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## Dry Creek Milling Co.



Premium Stoneground Flour



- ✓ The regions first sustainably grown, stone milled and locally baked artisan loaves
- ✓ Single Origin flour
- ✓ No additives or preservatives
- ✓ No traces of chemical residue



**“The secret to Dry Creek Milling Co is the passion of its people.”**



**Our story starts in the red dirt on the open plains, west of Melbourne with a farmer and a baker.**

Hand selected grains are grown by a farming family who have nurtured the land for close to a century.

Once the grain is harvested it's gently stone milled on the farm then baked locally by one of the region's most talented young bakers.

**Our bread tastes like real bread should - dense, delicious, high in protein and packed with nutrients.**

Dry Creek Milling Co is a small team of dedicated professionals who go about each day with a passion and purpose to create no ordinary bread.

What makes Dry Creek Milling Co unique is the collaboration between the farmer and baker. As friends and business partners they respect each other's skills and knowledge and together have learnt the old-age craft of stone milling flour. The result for the customer is an authentic, wholesome great tasting bread.

*Hand crafted artisan loaves are made using single origin, stone milled whole wheat, natural living sourdough culture, sea salt and filtered water. The process requires a long and gentle fermentation. No artificial colours, flavours, additives or improvers. Grain is grown under a sustainable and regenerative farming system.*

**Join the farmer and the baker on their journey of bringing food back to its origins.**

#### General Enquires

M: 0417 134 600 or [mill@sharkeyfarm.com](mailto:mill@sharkeyfarm.com)  
Dry Creek Milling Co  
Balliang East Victoria

Join us on our journey  

## ***BRLG – helping you care for your land and learn what others are doing***

The BRLG plans to start a once a month Sunday morning activity. We will either visit someone's property to help them with a weed control, erosion management or revegetation task, or visit a property where someone has something of interest they would like to share with others – maybe an interesting aspect of their property or something they have developed that they think others would be interested in learning about.

We are looking for ideas to develop the BRLG Activity Calendar!

- Do you need help with a Landcare activity on your property?
- Is there a problem on public land that you think the BRLG could help with?
- Is there something on your property that you would like to share with other Landcare members?
- Have you implemented or trialled something that you think others might be interested to know about?
- Do you know of someone that is doing something of interest on their land?

Please send through your suggestions or requests. We need your input!



Native grass seeder recently purchased by a local contractor



James Bufton talking to the next Landcare generation: [Intrepid Landcare](#)

## ***Weed of the Month – A reminder about Chilean needle grass***

Yes, this is a repeat from an earlier newsletter, but a worthy repeat all the same. Now is the time to be on the lookout for Chilean needlegrass (*Nasella neesiana*) as when it is in flower, it is most easily identified. Chilean needle grass has been increasingly observed in the last few years along roadsides in our district.

This weed has a devastating impact on agriculture, significantly reducing pasture productivity, contaminating crops and hay, and the needle like seed can injure stock or pets. It is a particular problem for sheep, with the seed burrowing into their fleece and skin and cannot be easily removed. This NZ video illustrates the seeds' almost macabre drill mechanism: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zjL4M2EyKY>

Chilean needle grass produces seed in three areas of the plant: the main seed head (up to 22,000 seeds per plant), in the leaf sheafs (5-6,000 seeds per plant) and at the base of the plant.

### **IDENTIFICATION TIPS**

To find this weed you will need to become familiar with a few key identification features described below.

**Flower/seed:** The sharp panicle (aerial) seed is approximately 10mm in length. Covering each seed are 2 purple bracts (wings) which give it a characteristic purple colour in flower.

A corona (raised ring) can be located between seed and tail (see Photo 1). This ring can be many different colours including beige, bluish or purple to dark brown. Native spear grasses do not have a raised ring.

Cleistogene (hidden) seeds can often be found in the nodes (elbows) of flowering stems, including those at the base of the plant. To find these seeds, carefully peel the leaf sheaf back from the stem to reveal approximately 5 small sesame seed-like seeds in a row (see Photo 2).

The awn (tail) winds the seed like a corkscrew to bury or firmly fix the seed in place. The needle-sharp seed can easily pierce the skin of animals (see Photos 3 & 4).

**Leaves:** Narrow, coarse leaves with distinct ribs running from base to tip. Approximately 20-30cm in length with slightly serrated margins (edges). Colouration varies from lime to mid-green, often with yellowish blotches. Plants can look as though they are suffering nutrient deficiencies.

**Form:** Tussock-forming, grassy plant with a dense fibrous root system. Grows to a height of around 50cm depending on its location and management. Heavily grazed or slashed plants will develop a bare centre with age and flowering stems will tend to grow along the ground, rather than upright. (Photos 5 to 7 demonstrate form).



## HOW TO MANAGE AN INFESTATION

The key to successful management of Chilean needle grass is to:

- Learn to accurately identify it
- Take immediate action on new infestations
- Prevent further spread – avoid working in, or having stock in, areas where it is in seed
- Always continue to monitor an area after treatment

## CONTROL OPTIONS

Type of infestation	Chemical	Grazing management	Physical	Rotational cropping
Small infestation in pasture	Spot spray with registered herbicide.	Maintain good pasture cover by carefully managing pasture and not overgrazing.	Remove by hand weeding or chipping; whole plant needs to be removed.	Not suitable.
Well-established and large infestations in pasture	Not suitable.	Use short duration, high intensity grazing followed by long rest periods.	Mowing will reduce seed set but will not remove stem seeds.	Not suitable.
Arable land, moderate to heavy infestation	Not suitable.	Not suitable.	Not suitable.	Plant crops, and use chemical control or cultivation to ensure that seedlings do not flower



Slashing may reduce seed set in the flower heads but it can actively disperse stem seeds if machinery is not kept clean.

Sources: [Publication 1](#) and [Publication 2](#)

## Wine of the Month

Wine of the Month is awarded to Heathcote II Shiraz

Pick up a bottle for about \$35. The 2012 vintage comes particularly recommended.



## Community Cross Promotion

Don't forget the [Balliang Ball](#) on Saturday October 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm  
For more information contact Steve Beggs 0400-419-024

## Landcare Resources

I want to know about...	Here is a good place to start...
Aboriginal cultural heritage location mapping	<a href="https://www.vic.gov.au/aboriginalvictoria/heritage/heritage-tools-and-publications/heritage-tools.html">https://www.vic.gov.au/aboriginalvictoria/heritage/heritage-tools-and-publications/heritage-tools.html</a> then select "online map tool"
Biodiversity mapping and recording	<a href="http://maps.biodiversity.vic.gov.au/viewer/?viewer=NatureKit">http://maps.biodiversity.vic.gov.au/viewer/?viewer=NatureKit</a> <a href="http://natureshare.org.au/">http://natureshare.org.au/</a> <a href="http://avh.chah.org.au/">http://avh.chah.org.au/</a>
Boxthorn	<a href="http://weeds.ala.org.au/WoNS/africanboxthorn/docs/African_boxthorn-national_best_practice_manual.pdf">http://weeds.ala.org.au/WoNS/africanboxthorn/docs/African_boxthorn-national_best_practice_manual.pdf</a>
Chilean needle grass	<a href="https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/publications/guidelines/wons/pubs/n-neesiana.pdf">https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/publications/guidelines/wons/pubs/n-neesiana.pdf</a>
Feral goat control	<a href="https://www.pestsmart.org.au/pest-animal-species/feral-goat/">https://www.pestsmart.org.au/pest-animal-species/feral-goat/</a>
Fox control	<a href="https://www.pestsmart.org.au/pest-animal-species/european-fox/">https://www.pestsmart.org.au/pest-animal-species/european-fox/</a>
Gorse	<a href="https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/publications/guidelines/wons/pubs/u-europaeus.pdf">https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/publications/guidelines/wons/pubs/u-europaeus.pdf</a>
Landcare networks	<a href="#">Moorabool Landcare Network</a> <a href="#">Geelong Landcare Network</a>
Melbourne Water Stream Frontage Grants	<a href="https://www.melbournewater.com.au/community-and-education/apply-funding/stream-frontage-management-program">https://www.melbournewater.com.au/community-and-education/apply-funding/stream-frontage-management-program</a>
Rabbit management	<a href="http://www.mln.org.au/images/PDFS/rabbitactionguide.pdf">http://www.mln.org.au/images/PDFS/rabbitactionguide.pdf</a> <a href="https://www.pestsmart.org.au/pest-animal-species/european-rabbit/">https://www.pestsmart.org.au/pest-animal-species/european-rabbit/</a>
Serrated tussock	<a href="https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/publications/guidelines/wons/pubs/n-trichotoma.pdf">https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/publications/guidelines/wons/pubs/n-trichotoma.pdf</a>
Weeds - identification and control	<a href="http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/weeds/a-z-of-weeds">http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/weeds/a-z-of-weeds</a>
Weed status in Victoria	<a href="http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/weeds/invasive-plant-classifications">http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/weeds/invasive-plant-classifications</a> <a href="http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/protecting-victoria-from-pest-animals-and-weeds/legislation-policy-and-permits/declared-noxious-weeds-and-pest-animals-in-victoria">http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/protecting-victoria-from-pest-animals-and-weeds/legislation-policy-and-permits/declared-noxious-weeds-and-pest-animals-in-victoria</a>

## Last Laugh



Be sure to get the roots or it will grow back...