



Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

Newsletter

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

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Sick of the cold weather?

Come and join us for some Winter Warmth: meal, Landcare updates and social evening.

From 6:30pm this Thursday 15th August.

Soup, BBQ and dessert provided. BYO drinks.



Inside this edition of the newsletter...

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For feedback, comments and letters to the editor: newsletter.brlg@gmail.com

Our Recent Planting at the Triangle

Despite inclement weather predictions, our morning planting on Sunday 21st July heralded perfect weather. We smashed the planting of 110 trees, shrubs and groundcovers in record time and were all done before lunch! Thanks to everyone who came along and helped with our current project.



Our next working bee will be held here on Sunday 15th Sept. Please come along.

Pest of the Month – European Fox

Thanks to humans, the European Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) is now the most widely distributed carnivore in the world (originally native to Europe, Asia, North Africa and the coniferous regions of North America). They are opportunistic predators and scavengers that have few natural enemies in Australia. They were originally introduced to mainland Australia in the 1850s for recreational hunting and spread rapidly. Today, they are abundant in all states and territories except Tasmania, where they are still at low density.

Foxes exhibit considerable variation in size, as body length can range from 45 to 90cm, tail length from 30 to 55cm and body mass from 3 to 14kg.

Red foxes prey on poultry, lambs and goat kids. Native species impact is very high with evidence suggesting that red foxes are a primary cause in the decline and extinction of many small and medium-sized rodent and marsupial species in Australia. They also prey on many bird species.



Photo: Tim Bloomfield (Why jump over the fence when you're good enough to jump through it)

Breeding occurs between June and October. Litter sizes range from 1 to 12, with average litter sizes being 3 to 6 pups. Females can breed before one year of age in areas of low density. Red foxes can live up to 9 years, although few individuals live more than 6 years in the wild, with many not surviving beyond 2 years. Dispersal happens between December and May. Males disperse further than females with dispersal distances up to 50km.

Foxes are highly secretive and cryptic animals. They are wary of humans, highly mobile and occur at relatively low densities across the landscape. These factors mean that attempts to manage them often occur without a full understanding of the fox's behaviour, potentially limiting the effectiveness, and making it difficult to accurately evaluate the success of any management actions.

Generally, no single strategy or control technique will completely eradicate foxes from an area, so integrated fox management relies on a combination of strategies and techniques to keep on top of the fox problem. Here are a few tips and links regarding the control options:

Control Option	Fox Facts	Implementation Advice
Develop an overall management plan		Glovebox guide for managing foxes
Fencing	Excellent diggers, climbers and jumpers (jump over a standard 900mm fence). Can chew through wire of 0.9mm diameter!	Fencing for fox control
Poison baiting	Will readily dig and consume buried food items, whilst few native animals are inclined to excavate and eat buried baits.	Baiting for fox control A field guide for baiting
Shooting		Fox shooting and hunting Standard procedure
Trapping	Cage traps are generally not effective in rural environments where foxes are more suspicious of man-made structures.	Padded jaw traps Cage traps
More information		Pest Smart - Foxes



Acknowledgement: most of this information originates from the [PestSmart](#) website.

Why are native bees 'the bees knees' of Australian ecosystems?

Monday 26th August 2019
6.30pm-8.30pm

Darley Civic and Community Hub
182 Halletts Way, Darley Vic

Speakers:

Kit Prendergast
PhD candidate, Curtin University WA (via video)
Native bees and protecting their habitat

Dr Katja Hogendoorn
Research Associate, University of Adelaide
Native bees and crop pollination (canola, fruits and vegetable production)

Karen Thomas
Port Phillip & Westernport CMA
Hover flies and other important invertebrates



Exoneura on Rubus. Photo credit: Alison Hoelzer



Lasioglossum on Leptospermum. Photo credit: Alison Hoelzer

Free event. Canapés provided. Registrations essential.

Register online at www.ppwcm.vic.gov.au/beesknees or contact

Karen Thomas M: 0427 480 170 E: karen.thomas@ppwcm.vic.gov.au

Landcare Resources

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

Last Laugh



It's important to diversify. Here's an idea:

