Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

Newsletter

Chair: James Bufton 5284-1344

Treasurer: Chris Winfield 5369-4214

Secretary: Mark Trengove 0428-298-087

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

Number 69 December 2019

BRLG Christmas BBQ Breakup

BBQ provided; bring a salad or dessert; BYO drinks

Friday December 20th

6:30pm for a 7:00pm start

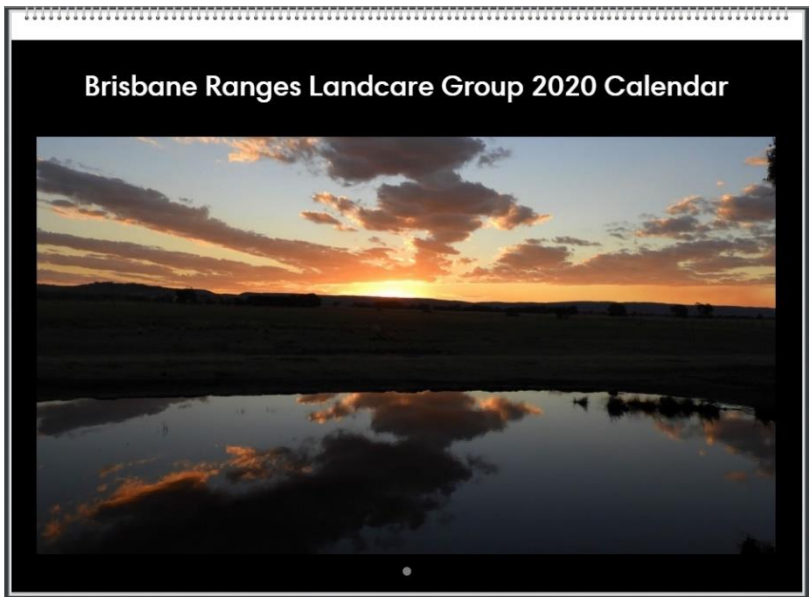
Hope to see you all at the Balliang Hall.

Inside this edition of the newsletter…

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

BRLG 2020 Calendar

T?.he Brisbane Ranges Landcare 2020 Calendar has just about sold out. Email newsletter.brlg@gmail.com for your copy and collect at the Christmas breakup BBQ. Alternatively, you can pickup a copy at the Anakie Community House….whilst stocks last!



What's so good about our calendar?

- All local photographs
- All photographs taken by local photographers
- 30 cm x 20 cm flip at top
- Quality production
- **$15 each**

Payment can be made with cash or direct deposit.

Staughton Vale and Balliang Community on Facebook

Did you know that a new Facebook page has been launched for the Balliang and Staughton Vale communities? We recommend you follow this page to get up to date information on what is going on in our area.

https://www.facebook.com/Staughtonvaleandballiangcommunity/

Whilst Leena Renauskas is the administrator, it is setup so that you can post directly to the page if you want to advise the community about an event or other activity. Please use it!

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

Weed of the Month – South African Weed Orchid (Disa bracteata)

South African Weed Orchid, *Disa bracteata,* is flowering now and if you're quick you can help stop the spread of this emerging and highly invasive weed in our area.

South African Weed Orchid is a perennial terrestrial orchid with underground tubers. Dormant for much of the year, it sprouts in early spring with a rosette of leaves, followed by flower spikes developing into seeds as conditions dry out during summer.

South African Weed Orchid – whole plant, roots and bulbs. Photo: Bonnie Humphreys

Stems – erect and fleshy usually 30–50 cm tall. Leaves – a rosette of green leaves with purple undersides, tapering from a broad base to an pointy tip, 5–15 cm long. These weeds are distinct from indigenous Onion Orchids (*Microtis* spp.) as they have a rosette of leaves, while the native Onion Orchids have one round leaf, often extending above the flower spike.

Flowers – from late October through to December in Victoria. 15–30 flowers grow on a thick cylindrical spike 5–20 cm long, which resembles a greenish-brown asparagus spear. Flowers very dense and are mostly reddish-brown and yellow with a leafy bract.

Seeds – black, minute and dust-like, contained within the capsular fruit. The species is autogamous (self-pollinating) and thus produces a large amount of seed per plant. The main form of dispersal is wind, but seed can also be spread on shoes, clothing and vehicles, as well as in water and through animal and soil movement. The seeds can remain viable for years. (This means that one seeding plant this year means many weeds for many, many years to come.) Seed set and dispersal starts at the end of November or as the weather drys out. The seeds continue to mature even if the flower head is picked.

Tubers – generally thought to have 1–3 tubers, similar in appearance to a small potato, about 20 mm in size. The plant also has a mass of fleshy roots and there is no main tap root.

The weed orchid has 1–3 tubers about 20 mm in size also has a mass of fleshy roots and there is no main tap root. Photo: Bonnie Humphreys

Treatment by digging out and carefully bagging plant matter is useful in containing the spread of this invasive weed. Photo: Bonnie Humphreys

Treatment – Manual removal requires digging up and removing all parts of the plant, including the tuber, leaves and flowers. The plant material must be bagged securely (e.g., in a snap-lock bag) to prevent the fine dust-like seed from spreading further.

This article has been reproduced with permission from https://connectingcountry.org.au/

Biosolids coming to a paddock near you

Melbourne Water's Biosolids for Land Application in 2020

In 2018, EPA Victoria placed a new requirement for Melbourne Water to achieve 100% reuse of annual production of biosolids from the Western Treatment Plant (WTP) within the next 12 years. Melbourne Water (MW) has implemented a research and development programme focussed on identifying suitable biosolids reuse and resource recovery options for its biosolids output.

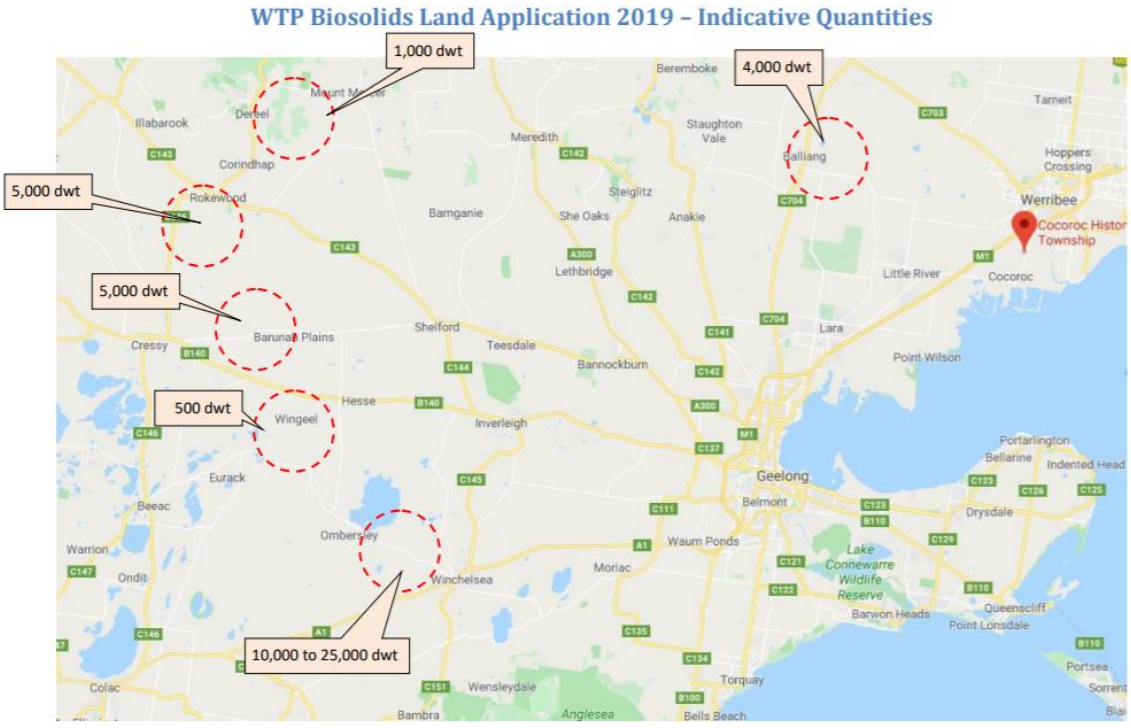
In the last three years, land application trials on Balliang East farms have demonstrated that MW's Treatment Grade 1, Contamination Grade 2 (T1C2) quality biosolids can be safely used, in accordance with EPA Publication 943. Whilst other resource recovery options are still under investigation, MW decided this year to expand the land application option.

The use of biosolids for soil improvement on farms is a well understood practice, closely regulated by EPAV. It contributes to the sustainable farming concept and is particularly valuable in Australia where most soils are depleted of carbon, nutrients and trace elements. Click here to view the fact sheet about the biosolids material that will be used.

Based on initial interest from farmers and subsequent market development, MW are in a position to potentially deliver up to 40,000 dry tonnes of biosolids, to the area west of Geelong between January and March 2020. The indicative delivery locations and tonnages are shown on the map below. The actual amount of biosolids allocated to selected farm paddocks will be subject to constraints from soil assessments and provision of mandated buffers to waterways, native vegetation and other sensitive receivers, as provided for in EPA Publication 943.

MW's Contractor for this delivery programme is Loop Organics Pty Ltd and they have engaged Mahonys Transport, a very experienced transport company based in the Western District of Victoria.

If you have any queries, or would like more information, please contact Peter Bishop, Project Manager,Integrated Planning Group, Melbourne Water on 0438 116 282 or peter.bishop@melbournewater.com.au



**Indicative Quantities as at 28-10-19 subject to soil analysis results.
***Deliveries in January, February & March 2020 (40,000 tonnes in 50 days = 800 tonnes/day = ~20 trucks per day)

Plant of the Month – Bacchus Marsh Varnish Wattle

This is a new topic for the newsletter. We talk a lot about the bad stuff – the pests and weeds – but how about the lesser known highlights of our native flora and fauna. Send through your suggestions.

Acacia rostriformis is confined to the Bacchus Marsh area (Lerderderg Gorge, Long Forest, Coimadai, Balliang and Werribee) where it occurs in low hilly areas in Eucalyptus woodland.

In other words, relatively common where we are but nowhere else!

First formally described in 2009.

Flowering between August and October, this shrub or small tree grows to 6 metres in height.

It is referred to as the fourth variant of *A. verniciflua* by B.R.Maslin, *Fl. Australia* 11A: 597 (2001). This species is characterized by its rostriform, excentrically mucronate phyllode apices and densely hairy pods (at least when young).

Look out for it in your local travels!

More images can be viewed on natureshare.org.au

Acacia rostriformis occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living Australia (https://www.ala.org.au).

BRLG Exec Committee 2019-2020

At our recent AGM, the following positions were confirmed:

President:	James Bufton (welcome back)
Secretary:	Mark Trengove (welcome to the role)
Treasurer:	Chris Winfield (don't ever leave)
Other gigs:	Bart Bartholomew, Jacki Staude, Leena Renkauskas, Tony Wilson and Robert Hall

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*