



# Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

## Newsletter



Chair: Robert Hall      Treasurer: Chris Winfield      Secretary: Mark Trengove  
0401-404-899                      0429-484-644                      0428-298-087

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

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### ***BRLG Christmas Break-up - Merry Christmas to all!***

In light of some COVID-19 restrictions still remaining, the BRLG committee have made the regrettable decision to cancel the Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group Christmas break-up for 2020. Instead, the BRLG will commence preparations for all members, (existing and new), in the new year to celebrate a fresh start in 2021. Details of the New Year get-together will be posted in the January newsletter.

### ***BRLG Committee meeting***

Brad Blake from ProCon Pest and Wildlife Management spoke about management of feral animals and protection of local native species such as the Barking Owl. Brad has been involved in the recent pest animal management works in the BR National Park. Brad was introduced by Mark and thanked by Trish.

The modest annual membership fee of \$25 per household, for the 2020-2021 financial year has been waived given the challenging year we have all had. We're looking forward to starting fresh with you all in 2021!!

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## ***Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group – Annual General Meeting***

The BRLG AGM took place on Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm via Zoom. On the agenda was the election of committee members for 2021. Eric Sharkey oversaw the election of office bearers for 2021.

Elected Committee Members for 2021 are:

President: Robert Hall

Treasurer: Chris Winfield

Secretary: Mark Trengove

Newsletter editor: Leena Renkauskas

Committee Members: Jacki Staude, Allan Bartholomew, Tony Wilson

Our 2020 President James Bufton thanked the committee for their support over the 5 year period during his Presidency. Special thanks to James for his contribution to the role of President for the past 6 years. James will continue to be involved with the BRLG as a member, so we look forward to keeping in touch with James during 2021.

Robert thanked the group for supporting the nomination of him as President. Robert expressed that he has lived in the area for 7 years, over which time he has grown to love it. Robert is a fan of group action and sees his priorities for BRLG as being:

1. Landcare as a social hub.
2. Landcare as a hub for ideas.
3. Action on the ground.

Congratulations to Robert Hall on the successful election as President of the BRLG. BRLG Committee and Members are looking forward to supporting you in your Presidency and watching what BRLG can achieve for 2021.

### ***Good Night – not Good Bye!!***

At the recent BRLG Zoom AGM, I stood down as the president after a number of very enjoyable years. I hope the other members have enjoyed the conservation projects we undertook, the guest speakers, the Christmas BBQs but most importantly – I hope you have enjoyed each other's company – as I have enjoyed yours. I think our Landcare group is a very special one as our members are from such rich and diversified backgrounds and professions, yet we all hold the shared value for the care of our local environment and community.

We have enjoyed the support of many fine organisations in our district: 15 Trees, Panna Chocolates, PPWPCMA, GLN, MLN, The City of Greater Geelong, and of course our great friends at Melbourne Water, without who none of our projects would have been possible.

I look forward to seeing the "Triangle" at Staughton Vale develop over the future years as do I other plantings and works we have collectively carried out.

I would like to thank all members for your enthusiasm and involvement, particularly the executive members who have served – in particular Bart and Chris Winfield in your respective roles as Secretary and Treasurer.

I wish President Robert Hall and the committee all the best for the future and look forward to the activities ahead.

PS. I can highly recommend to anyone, joining the Landcare executive in the future – it is a covert wine and cheese appreciation collective!!!

Cheers, James Bufton

## ***Meet the Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group - Committee Members 2021***

Some of the committee members for 2021 have kindly offered to provide a few words to introduce themselves to our members.

### ***President – Robert Hall***



The Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group brings locals together with both agricultural and environmental backgrounds. Whilst these interests are often aligned, they also serve the group with a healthy balancing tension that reflects the challenges of humans living sustainably on the planet. Our landscape supports us and the broader community as a source of food and fibre. The natural beauty of the Ranges are also home to a treasure trove of birds, plants and animals. With my partner, Nina, and her daughter, Evelyn, I moved into the area seven years ago and have become attached to the seasonal contrasts, the agricultural cycles and the prolific bird life. After several years as the BRLG newsletter editor, it is now an honour to

assume the mantle of President and lead the group.

Coming into this role leads one to reflect upon the role of Landcare in our community. For me Landcare can contribute to the community in three important ways. The first is its social aspect, getting together and catching up and in 2020, this has been particularly restricted. The second, very related aspect is perhaps educational but really about hearing interesting speakers and sharing and debating ideas. Our general meetings and newsletters support both aspects and my work at the Port Phillip and Westernport CMA will continue to act as a funnel for information from the broader Port Phillip region. The third is the traditional on-ground action that is the bread and butter of Landcare groups Australia-wide. I am keen for this to continue and would welcome suggestions and ideas for where our efforts might best serve our area.

I would like to especially thank James Bufton for his contribution to the Landcare group as President from 2013 to 2020. His gregarious nature and humour will be missed on the Committee!

I look forward to 2021 when we can meet again in person. Until then have a great Christmas and New Year.

### ***Secretary – Mark Trengove***

I am committed to the care of the indigenous vegetation of the region, through seed collection and propagation, vegetation management, and documentation. I established the Geelong Indigenous Nursery in 1988 and since 2002 I have maintained an ecological consultancy centred within the Barwon region. I have been involved in developing management plans for many areas of native vegetation and contributed to numerous conservation projects.

Trish and I moved from Geelong onto 15ha of land at Staughton Vale 12 years ago and are happy we did. With the exception of the house and food growing areas, we manage the property as habitat for wildlife. The Worin Yalok clan of the Wadawurrung people have never ceded ownership of this land.



It is 2020 and we have a lot to do.

### ***Newsletter editor – Leena Renkauskas***

I moved into Staughton Vale in 2014 with my husband Mark, 2 horses, 2 cats, 3 dogs and 5 chickens. Since 2014 we have added 2 year old Coen to our family, as well as a Shetland pony named Andy. Our vision for the property was to balance grazing livestock, preserving native grasses, revegetating with indigenous trees and shrubs and trying to control a large section of erosion. With very limited knowledge of these concepts, we both became members of Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group to establish community connections and to learn from the community to achieve our vision.

We still have a way to go on our property but thank you to the BRLG we were gifted countless trees and shrubs to assist us to revegetate and to slow water run off further impacting our erosion problems. Apart from the knowledge and support we gain through the Group, we treasure the friendships we have made both in the Group and in this lovely Community.

I'm looking forward to contributing more to the group by taking on the newsletter editor for 2021 and hope I can successfully fill Robert's big shoes! Thank you Robert for your impressive contribution as Newsletter Editor for the previous 3 years.



### ***Committee Member – Jacki Staude***



You may see me on the local roads in a white ute.. returning from our workshop (Metalwork/Engineering) in North Shore or from my weekly dancing session in Melbourne (via train from the 'Marsh').

In our 15 years on a few acres we have created some privacy around our small house through planting lots and lots of trees. I was 'lured' into the BRLG by (much needed) FREE tree guards to protect these trees. I've kept going for the best scones in the district and good steak at the annual Xmas BBQ! Also it has been a great way to get to know many locals who farm, live, grow and love this area. Our meetings are valuable platforms to connect community and explore a range of ever-changing topics and concepts relevant to caring for the land.

I treasure this area: incredible BIG skies, the flat always changing plains the wildlife and of course the wild Brisbane Ranges National Park.

### ***Committee Member – Allan Bartholomew***

Caz and I both grew up in country areas (Kingleake and Kyabram) and started visiting this area at weekends from our home in Mentone. When Caz and I mentioned that we were looking for a "bush block", the local park ranger said we had to check out Landcare, and recommended the local Brisbane Ranges Group as one of the best around.

Today, it is great to see several original founding members of BRLG from 1997 still actively involved with their next generations and assorted newbies like us with shorter histories.

Ranging from large acreage farmers to smaller landowners, we are all united with the common aim of working together to learn and improve our special area for future generations– We saw the strong community spirit of locals during and after the 2006 fires and the sometimes too slow recovery process and now have a new challenge to work on. Let's stay safe and get back into action for 2021.



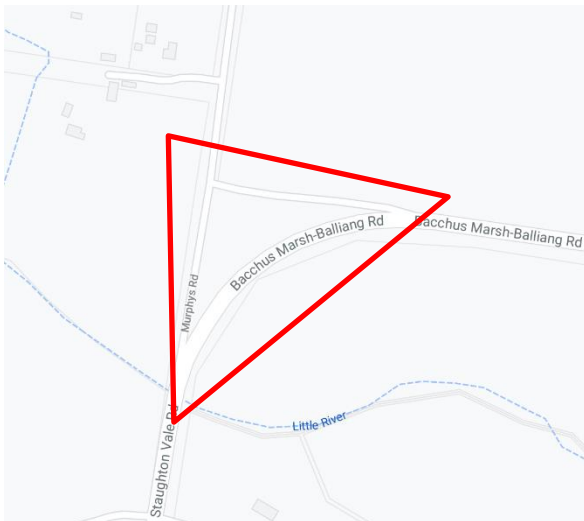
## ***Historical references about our area and landscape – do you know of any?***

Have you lived in the area for a long time? Do you have stories and photographs of the area that you would be happy to share? It is interesting to read old maps and see old photos and imagine how our area once looked and how it has changed. For example, the State Library of Victoria has various [old maps such as this one from 1855](#) describing the north aspect of Granite Hill as “Wooded with Gum.” Do you have any similar references or have access to any old maps or photos? Please send any references to suggestions through to me at [rambling2robert@gmail.com](mailto:rambling2robert@gmail.com) as I would be grateful to know about them or see them. I am interested in collecting them and, if feasible, consolidating the information and making it available from our website.

Thanks, Robert Hall BRLG President

## ***2020 Triangle Christmas Party***

A reminder for all members of the up and coming 2020 Triangle Party. Each year, held at the (triangle) nature reserve at the intersection of Staughton Vale Road, Bacchus Marsh-Balliang Road and Murphy’s Roads. All new members to Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group and community are welcome.



**Date:** As always - 22nd DEC

**Time:** 6pm

BYO Food and Drinks

BYO chairs and/or picnic rugs

**AND DONT FORGET THE Aeroguard!!**

## ***Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group Calendar 2021***



Do you love living and working near the Brisbane Ranges? Do your friends and family visit you often? Or perhaps you visit the Brisbane Ranges to explore all that it has to offer? Why not celebrate this beautiful part of Victoria by purchasing the 2021 Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group Calendar?

The calendar features photos from the Brisbane Ranges and surrounds, taken by locals who love where they live! You will be amazed by this collection of beautiful images which capture the diversity, tranquility and beauty of the land, and the creatures we share it with. The calendar costs just **\$15** so why not purchase one for yourself, and one to send to family and friends who live further afield?

Free delivery for locals or we will post to those further afield (add \$5 for postage).

By purchasing a calendar, you will be supporting the Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group ([brlg.org.au](http://brlg.org.au)), a group of locals who celebrate our local environment.

To place an order or make an enquiry, please contact Nina Ellis, 0433 215 400 or [fly2nina@gmail.com](mailto:fly2nina@gmail.com)

50 Calendars have been printed and will sell quickly, so make sure you get your orders to Nina as soon as possible.

Thank you to Allan Bartholomew, Pam Goble, Nina Ellis, Evelyn Ellis, Chris Lindorff, Helena Lindorff, and Robert Hall who contributed the remarkable photos to make the 2021 calendar.

## ***9000 trees planted in 2020 but koalas are looking for more next year!***

But.....2021 is shaping up to be better.

Koala Clancy Foundation planted 9000 koala trees from June to August 2020, the best year of tree planting yet. The koala food trees, shelter trees and shrubs have been planted on 5 sites from the You Yangs to the Moorabool River, Brisbane Ranges and Balliang.

But the wild koalas of the You Yangs & Brisbane Ranges need more trees. Koala Clancy Foundation are seeking interest for winter 2021 from property owners in the Little River, Balliang, Beremboke, Mount Wallace, Anakie, Maude, Lethbridge, Sutherlands Creek & Gheringhap areas.



Why do koalas need more trees? Existing forest in reserves is mostly on stony, hilly country of low fertility. (Crowther 2009) As the climate dries out, trees on public land are not providing for koalas' nutritional and water needs. Heat waves and drought force them towards rivers and waterholes, which are often on farmland. (McAlpine 2015) But most of our streams and rivers have reduced, patchy tree cover, a fraction of what they once had. Some streams and drainage lines have no fringing forest at all.

Farming land on the Western Plains has tremendous potential to provide habitat for koalas, without loss of productivity. River and stream frontages, if forested, are sought-after habitat for koalas and native trees help prevent erosion and improve water quality. River Red Gum *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* is the koala's favourite tree on the Western Plains. (Duffy 2020)

Ideal sites for a Koala Clancy tree planting project include livestock or crop farms with a fenced-off river or creek frontage. Drainage lines, dams and floodplains protected from stock are also suitable. Large properties with the ability to take 600 or more trees (min 1.5 hectares of new planting) are preferred.

Koala Clancy Foundation are a registered Landcare member, based in Staughton Vale. As a special-interest Landcare member, we regularly work in partnership with local Landcare groups.

**For more information or to find out how to support Koala Clancy foundation, go to the website: <https://www.koalacancyfoundation.org.au/>**

*By Janine Duffy*

President

Koala Clancy Foundation Inc.

T: 0427 808 747

E: [president@koalacancyfoundation.org.au](mailto:president@koalacancyfoundation.org.au)

<https://www.koalacancyfoundation.org.au/>

### **REFERENCES:**

Duffy, Janine (2020) You Yangs Koala Research Report <https://www.echidnawalkabout.com.au/you-yangs-koala-research-report-2018/>

Crowther, M.S., McAlpine, C.A., Lunney, D., Shannon, I. and Bryant, J.V. (2009), Using broad-scale, community survey data to compare species conservation strategies across regions: A case study of the Koala in a set of adjacent 'catchments'. *Ecological Management & Restoration*, 10: S88-S96. doi:[10.1111/j.1442-8903.2009.00465.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1442-8903.2009.00465.x)



Clive McAlpine , Daniel Lunney, Alistair Melzer, Peter Menkhorst, Stephen Phillips, David Phalen, William Ellis, William Foley, Greg Baxter, Deidre de Villiers, Rodney Kavanagh, Christine Adams-Hosking, Charles Todd, Desley Whisson, Robyn Molsher, Michele Walter, Ivan Lawler, Robert Close, (2015) *Conserving koalas: A review of the contrasting regional trends, outlooks and policy challenges*, *Biological Conservation*, Volume 192, 2015, Pages 226-236, ISSN 0006-3207, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2015.09.020>.

## 2020 National Landcare Conference Webinar Series



In place of the 2020 Landcare Conference, this digital webinar series will provide volunteers, groups and facilitators an opportunity to learn and share ideas with their community.

This year's National Landcare Conference wasn't to be, but we didn't want to wait until August 2021 to tap into the expertise of the Landcare community!

To wet your appetite, Landcare Australia has teamed up with some fantastic Landcarers from around the country for the National Landcare Conference webinar series.

With so many great Landcare people and projects to promote, the webinars will provide volunteers, groups and facilitators an opportunity to learn and share ideas with their community.

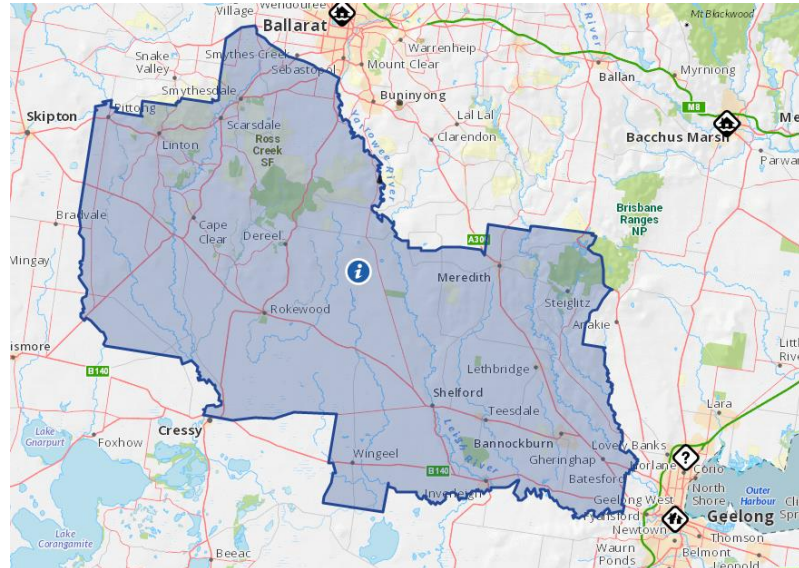
The National Landcare Conference Webinar series will be hosted on online community platform, **Landcarer**. You can register for Landcarer by visiting [www.landcarer.com.au](http://www.landcarer.com.au), however you can still access the webinars without registering.

**To find out more about upcoming webinars click [here](#).**



## ***Avian Influenza outbreaks***

Although it might be old news for our region, Golden Plains Shire, on the cusp of our region, has had two outbreaks of high pathogenic H7N7 avian influenza, and a third farm has had an outbreak of the low pathogenic strain H5N2 and tracing investigations lead to a poultry farm in Bairnsdale. A separate strain of low pathogenic H7N6 avian influenza has also been detected at an emu farm near Kerang. Decontamination of these four sites is underway to ensure all remnants of the virus are eliminated.



Please be aware of the requirements for a permit on the movement of poultry, poultry products and vehicles involved in poultry production within the restricted and control areas. Bird and poultry owners in adjoining Moorabool Shire should be aware of these detections and watch for symptoms such as respiratory distress, coughing or sneezing, rapid drop in food intake or general signs of unwellness.

Poultry farmers, backyard flock and bird owners are urged to report any cases of unexplained bird deaths to the 24-hour Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888, to your local vet or to Agriculture Victoria animal health staff.

More information and regular updates are available on the [Agriculture Victoria website](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au).

## ***In other news.....***

### ***Native wildlife surviving summer***

There are things we can do to support our native wildlife and Connecting Country (Mount Alexander Region) tells us how. Connecting Country Inc is a community-based not-for-profit organisation that operates at a landscape scale to increase, enhance and restore biodiversity across the Mount Alexander Shire and surrounds in Central Victoria. Please click on the following links to find out more about us and how to assist wildlife during the hotter months.

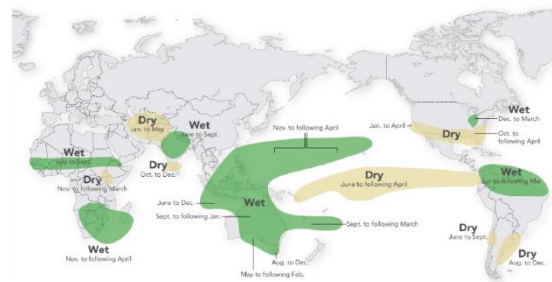
<https://connectingcountry.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/press/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/20123925/P1010095-scaled.jpg>



### ***Late forming La Niña emerges as key global climate influence of 2020-21***

If La Niña events were to establish during spring 2020 it is likely to benefit crop and pasture growth during the summer growing season across the northern half of Australia. This is supported by rainfall patterns seen across Australia during previous late forming La Niña events (2008-09 and 2011-12). To read more, click the following link.

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/research-topics/agricultural-outlook/seasonal-conditions>



### ***Local schools embrace local farms***

Since August 2020, the [Farms2Schools program](#) has delivered 102 online incursions to 5,586 students all across the region. They've learnt about the many aspects of agriculture, including production, farm life, food variety, technology and careers. To read more, Ctrl+click the link above.



## ***Work crews hit the ground***

The Port Phillip & Westernport CMA's six Agricultural and Environmental Works Crews are now on the ground and kicked off this week across the Port Phillip and Western Port region.

The PPWCMA's works crews are a six month project to assist farmers, organisations and community groups to deliver their agricultural and environmental projects and improve their sustainability credentials while providing employment to Victorians. The project is funded by the Victorian Government's Working for Victoria initiative and is employing 44 people. The work crews will be working until April 2021 and PPWCMA is still accepting expression of interest. For more information [visit the Work Crews web page](#).



## ***A handy Weeds Website***

Weeds Australia website is designed to connect you with knowledge to make informed decisions about managing invasive weeds within Australia.

The site includes an extensive list of 398 weeds profiles to help you better identify, plan and manage your weed problem.

<https://weeds.org.au/>



**Reminder:** BRLG own a weed sprayer, available for use by BRLG members. Please contact Chris Winfield on: 0429 484 644 to discuss your spraying needs.

## 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><br><a href="http://natureshare.org.au/">http://natureshare.org.au/</a><br><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><br><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><br><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><br><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*



**Wishing a safe and Merry Christmas to all from the Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group Committee.**