



Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

Newsletter

Chair: James Bufton Treasurer: Chris Winfield Secretary: Mark Trengove
5284-1344 5369-4214 0428-298-087

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

Number 70

January 2020

Regenerative Land Management

What is it and can it apply in our area?



At our first meeting for the year, **Andrew Gray** (left), Project Facilitator, Barongarook Landcare & Central Otway Landcare Network, will provide an overview of Regenerative Land Management and how it can be applied in our area on small & large landholdings.

7:30pm on Thursday February 20th at the Balliang Hall

Landline background: [Regenerative agriculture pays off for primary producers](#) and [Excess carbon regenerating soils](#)

Inside this edition of the newsletter...

Page 2	Pest of the Month – European Rabbit – A Numbers Game
Page 3	Plant of the Month – Quandong (native peach)
Page 4	News and Views
Page 6	Landcare Resources Last Laugh

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

Pest of the Month – European Rabbit – A Numbers Game

A single pair of rabbits can increase to 184 individuals within 18 months and as few as one rabbit per hectare can impede the normal regeneration of native plant species.

They are also easy prey for introduced predators like foxes so in turn increase their prevalence in the district.

Now is the time for effective control. Other feed sources are low so bait uptake will be maximised.



How BRLG can help: In conjunction with Maude Landcare, BRLG can again help with the purchase (see below), collection and delivery of Pindone bait to your property on each of these dates:

1. Friday, February 28th ,
2. Monday, March 2nd and
3. Thursday, March 5th.

If you are interested or have questions about the program, email newsletter.brlg@gmail.com or phone Robert on 0401-404-899 **by Thursday February 20** with the quantity you require per feed.

PRICES are: 5KG BAG \$27 or 10KG BAG \$42 or 20KG BAG \$72



Special offer for BRLG Members:

Up to \$200 total per BRLG member family is available to fund the purchase of rabbit bait.

About using Pindone rabbit bait: Pindone is an anticoagulant, which works by blocking the blood-clotting mechanism. It is regarded as one of the most humane ways to control rabbits. There is an effective antidote for this poison which reduces the risk to non-target animals. Pindone has a cumulative effect so hence the need to distribute the bait on three closely spaced occasions. All three feeds are required.

Bait should be placed in a shallow trail, made using a ripper, grader blade or by hand using a mattock or garden tool. Rabbits are attracted to disturbed ground but may take a night or two to start eating the carrot.

A **free feed of un-poisoned carrots** beforehand helps to get the rabbits used to going to the trail and helps you see where they are, which means that you don't waste valuable Pindone from your night's poisoning. This is your choice (you will need to supply carrots for the free feed).

There is no permit required for this campaign and if there is any suspicion of accidental poisoning of animals, they should be taken to the vet immediately. Please take all care, and pick up any dead rabbits you find and any leftover bait and dispose of them thoughtfully. Communicate with your neighbours to let them know if you intend to be part of the campaign so that their family pets can be protected. The Landcare Group accepts no responsibility for your rabbit-poisoning campaign.

More info on how to control and manage rabbits: See our [January 2018 newsletter](#).

Plant of the Month – Quandong (native peach)

Did you know that Quandong (*Santalum acuminatum*) was once present in our area?

Prized by the Aboriginals for the bright red inch-long fruit, quandong is an ancient specimen dating back to at least 40 million years ago. The fruit can be dried (for up to 8 years!) or peeled and used to make delicacies such as jams, chutneys, and pies.

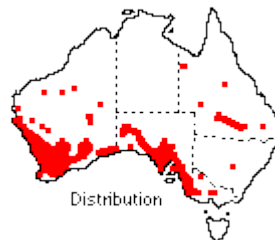
Like most plants in the Santalaceae family, the quandong is hemiparasitic. This means that the plant is partially parasitic and relies on host plants for only water and soil nutrients, not for sugars, which is why such parasites have green leaves. These parasites produce a modified root structure called a haustorium, which attaches to a host root and extracts xylem sap.



In a natural situation, *Santalum* seems to rely on nitrogen fixing trees such as *Acacia* and *Casuarina*, though it's known to parasitise many other legumes, shrubs, herbs and grasses. Quandong normally has more than one host at a time.

Quandong is found in a wide variety of habitats characterised by generally nutrient poor, free draining soils. It is quite drought and salt tolerant and is likely to have frost tolerance when mature. It favours full sun.

The variability of the plant shows in its habit by forming a 1 metre high shrub or a 6 metre high tree.



Stay tuned: a Landcare project regarding quandong may be forthcoming in future months!

News and Views

Fire Recovery Resources

We all know someone who has been impacted by the fires across Australia this season and our thoughts go out to them.

The fire recovery webpages on the Victorian Landcare Gateway <https://www.landcarevic.org.au/resources/fire-recovery/> contain links to a wide range of practical fire recovery land management information on livestock, fencing, pastures, soils, weeds, native vegetation, riparian areas and erosion, wildlife, horticulture, assistance and support services available, and fire research and reports.



Landcare Summer 2020 Magazine

You can download and read the summer edition of the Landcare Victoria magazine. Just click on the image to read.

Among the stories in this issue of the magazine are:

- “How to win at social media,” by Kathleen Brack;
- “Healthy Hectares engaging small property owners,” by Cathy Olive;
- “The Karen refugee community made welcome by Project Hindmarsh,” by Jonathon Starks;
- “Community leads restoration of seagrass at corner inlet,” by Trevor Colvin;
- “Listening to the land – recording our Landcare voices,” by Pam Robinson, & “Tips for groups recording oral histories,” by Peter Evans;
- “Golf course and urban bush renewal,” by Martin Curtis.



You can also access all the back issues and index to all articles [here](#).

BRLG 2021 Calendar

We sold all 70 copies of our Brisbane Ranges Landcare 2020 Calendar and will produce another calendar for 2021...if we receive enough fantastic local images to make it worthwhile.

So get snapping and email your images to our calendar production specialist at fly2nina@gmail.com (aka Nina).



New Climate Webinar Series to keep you informed!

Agriculture Victoria is running a free lunchtime climate webinar series in 2020, where participants will hear from a broad range of expert speakers from Agriculture Victoria, Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), CSIRO and other agencies.

Some of the webinar speakers in February/March include BoM's Luke Shelley who will discuss their new Local Climate Guides for the Victorian regions, and CSIRO's John Clarke will share the new Victorian Climate Change Projections 2019.

Also from BoM, Climatologist Andrew Watkins will discuss the new BoM seasonal forecast products and new multi-week and seasonal outlooks.

The webinars will also be recorded so if you cannot join on the day, you can listen later.

For further information and scheduling details go to -

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/weather-and-climate/climate-webinars>

The Ripple Effect

Mental health is an on-going issue in our society. Farmers, dealing with the vagaries of weather and markets, and working in isolation, are at greater risk. Every farmer knows someone who has taken their life.

To better support our farming community, we need a better understanding of what people on farms are thinking. The Ripple Effect is an online intervention designed by the National Centre For Farmer Health to investigate and support farmers who have been touched by suicide or a struggling with mental health.

To help, visit <https://therippleeffect.com.au/about-us/> and complete the on-line, anonymous survey. The survey results will enable planners, researchers and government to fully realise the extent of the problem.

Tier 1 On-farm Energy Grants Open!

Agriculture Victoria has rolled out On-farm Energy Tier 1 Grants as part of the Victorian Government's \$30 million Agriculture Energy Investment Plan.

The grants will provide support to farmers to replace energy inefficient equipment, install more energy efficient systems and enable own-generation capacity.

Farmers are encouraged to apply early, as grants are available to eligible primary producers until March 2020 or until available funding is exhausted (whichever comes first).

Any farmer wanting to access one of the grants needs to have an approved on-farm energy assessment

For more information go to -

<https://www.business.vic.gov.au/support-for-your-business/grants-and-assistance/agriculture-energy-investment-plan/on-farm-energy-tier-one-grants>

'Meet the Ferals' – ABC Landline

Produced and presented by reporter Prue Adams, this ten-part series will focus on a different feral animal each episode. The content has been gathered from the three decades Landline has been on air, with background information and support provided through the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions.

The series will cover wild dogs, feral cats, goats, rabbits, feral pigs, wild deer, brumbies, cane toads, camels and carp.

The first of five episodes began on December 1, in Landline's Summer Series, and will air each week. The whole series will be available on iView and YouTube soon.

To view go to - https://iview.abc.net.au/show/landline-summer?utm_source=CISS+external+e-news+subscriber+list&utm_campaign=9099ef6d29-

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

