



Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

Newsletter

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

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**** Double Feature ****

**Thursday October 17th
7:30pm**

Our AGM

**(all positions open and all
welcome to join the
committee)**

PLUS

**Guest Speaker from
VicRoads**

Not to be missed!

See you all at the Balliang Hall.



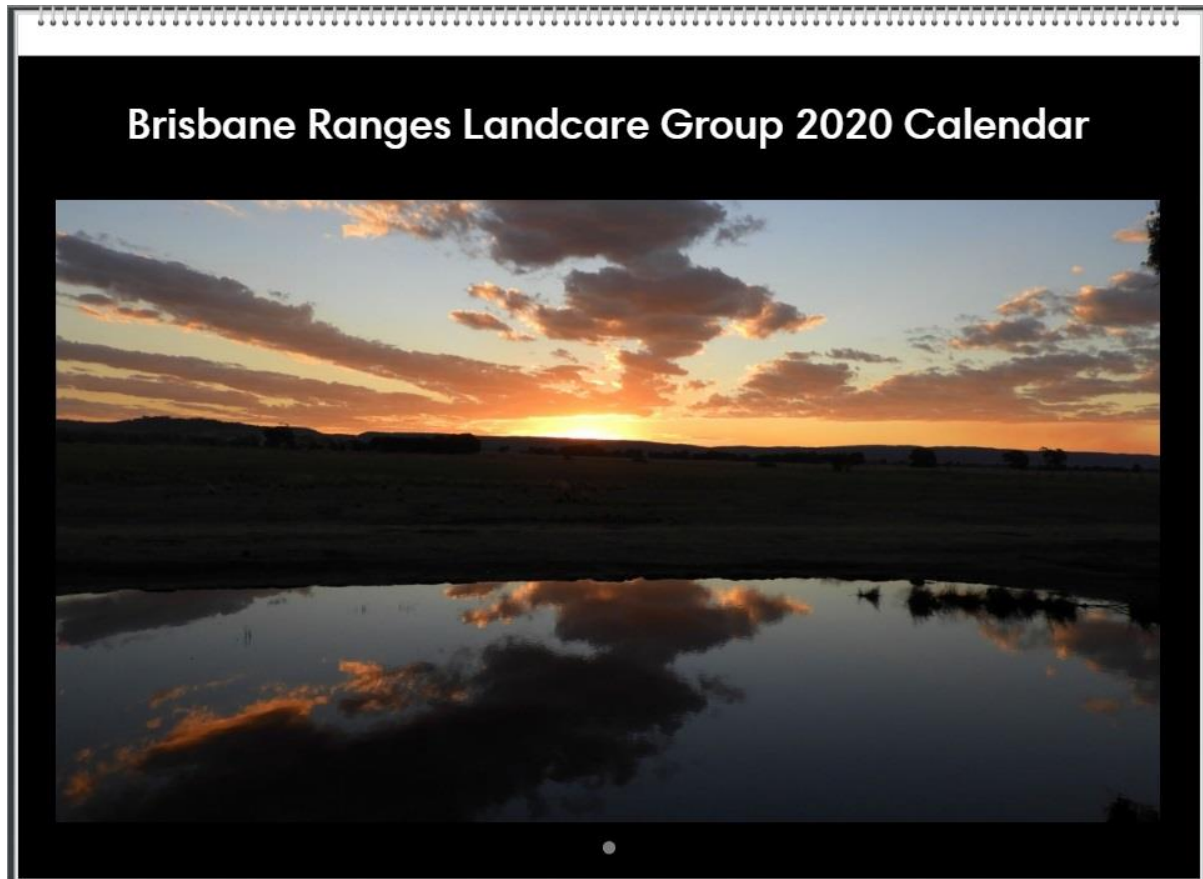
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For feedback, comments and letters to the editor: newsletter.brlg@gmail.com

BRLG 2020 Calendar

The Brisbane Ranges Landcare 2020 Calendar has been produced! Thanks to all contributors, and Nina Bird for pulling it all together.



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 and only \$15 each!

Buy one for yourself and many for your family & friends to showcase our area.

What a fabulous Christmas present!

Send through your order quantity to newsletter.brlg@gmail.com or come to the next meeting.

Payment can be made with cash or direct deposit.

Delivery by early December.

Weed of the Month – Time again to look out for 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=8zjL4M2EyK>



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. (5 to 7).

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



News and Views



LITTLE RIVER GORGE WALK WITH MARK AND TRISH

Sunday August 25th

The upside-down walk kicked off with an Alpine descent through scruffy bush and loose rocks which sharpened the group focus.

Survivors emerged by the rock pool at the base of the last big cliff face in the gorge. Fresh white splatters high on the wall indicated that all is well with the resident Peregrine Falcons.

The original walk set out from the picnic ground and wound downstream along Little River, jumping off track for the last leg. We headed upstream from the Falcon nest accompanied by a constant soundtrack from a young Danish woman enthusing on practically everything.

Regular walkers noted unexpected changes, checking out rocks, flora and fauna.

Trish found a mobile phone and a few cartridges otherwise litter free. An abrupt level elevation in the river defined the walk and we rested briefly here alongside the lower pool.

We retraced our steps and followed the stream out to the Bacchus Marsh Road, then headed up hill for leek and potato soup, and chocolate almond cake and coffee at Trish and Mark's place.

Thanks to all the people from Little River who joined us on the trip.

- Trish Edwards

BRLG'S TRIANGLE PROTECTION PROJECT

The last working bee had just a few attendees – thanks to those who could make it. Some maintenance of the recent planting area was undertaken, and further elm suckers were removed on the eastern side of the road.

WORKING BEES

The next working bee will be held on **Saturday November 9th** between **10am and noon**. We hope to make a big impact on the remaining elm suckers on the east side of the road (marked in red below). This will be the last working bee for 2019.

Next year we hope to invite BRLG members to suggest Landcare type projects on their own properties so please give some thought to what group members could do on your property. All you would need to do is provide lunch at the conclusion!



DID YOU KNOW?

David Tsardakis of NatureWest helped out at our July planting day at the Triangle. He took a photo of the old red gum which has one of its branches curiously growing back into itself and showed it to a local indigenous Elder. The feedback is that this feature of the old redgum is likely to have been intentionally created, making it a special marker or directional tree.



THIRTY YEARS: THE LANDCARE STORY

On a bright July morning on the banks of the Murray River in 1989, the late Bob Hawke sowed the seeds of a grassroots movement that has since flourished into a symbol of national pride.

[SEE THE TIMELINE](#)



PROTECTING THE WATERWAYS OF THE WEST

The Waterways of the West Ministerial Advisory Committee would like to hear what you think about the ideas in their Discussion Paper and any other ideas you have about protecting the Waterways of the West.

You can provide feedback online, in person or written submission.

[READ THE DISCUSSION PAPER](#)



USING ELECTRIC FENCING FOR GRAZING MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Thirteen graziers and Landcare groups in six states are beneficiaries of the inaugural Gallagher Landcare Fencing Grants.

The successful grant recipients are undertaking their projects using a combination of in-kind electric fencing and monetary support from Gallagher, with all projects leading to tangible environmental or sustainable agriculture outcomes.

[READ MORE](#)

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

