

Community workshop for wildlife habitat in Burra and Royalla

FuturePLANS and Molonglo Catchment Group are holding a community workshop to identify and discuss threats and issues facing remnant wildlife habitat, and consider possible solutions.

Wildlife habitats around Burra and Royalla have undergone a significant change since the arrival of the first European settlers almost two hundred years ago. At first it was the result of land clearing and the grazing of livestock, while in more recent times rural residential subdivision has introduced a new range of impacts.

Throughout this period, habitat for wildlife has been either removed, fragmented or degraded. The remaining native fauna and the habitats face a variety of on-going threats - weeds, feral and domestic animals, the loss of hollow-bearing trees and logs, the destruction of corridors, water pollution from on-site sewage management systems and so on.

However, in a reversal of the general trend, some landholders have entered into the **Land for Wildlife** scheme for the purpose of including habitat conservation within the overall management of their properties. In such cases wildlife habitats have been successfully protected, rehabilitated or re-introduced.

What is the future for the flora and fauna in the Burra and Royalla area? **FuturePLANS** and **Molonglo Catchment Group** - with funding from the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative - have combined to present a new program designed to develop and implement plans and projects for increasing, protecting and managing wildlife habitat within Burra and Royalla.

The program will get started with a **free community workshop** to be held at Burra Community Hall on **Saturday 22nd March 2014**, running from 9:00am until 3:30pm.

The **Wildlife habitat in Burra and Royalla - Threats and solutions** workshop will provide members of the community with an opportunity to share information about local flora and fauna, identify and discuss threats and issues facing remnant wildlife habitat, and consider possible solutions.

Program facilitator, Greg Stone, says that there are no pre-determined outcomes for the workshop other than arriving at some practical ways of dealing with the issues identified.

“The issues for wildlife habitat range from threats such as weeds or feral animals, the loss of remnant vegetation, through to a lack of critical knowledge or land management skills within the community,” says Greg. “The solutions will be just as varied and may include on-ground works or training for landholders.”

Workshop participants will interact to come up with potential projects based on identified needs for local wildlife habitat. From the expected range of potential solutions found at the workshop, projects considered to be of the greatest mutual benefit to the local area will be developed, funded and implemented by May 2014.

Morning tea and lunch will be provided for workshop participants. The workshop is free of charge, but bookings are essential by 19th March 2014.

If you would like further information about the workshop or to book yourself in, contact: Greg Stone on 0422279946 or woodlandsenviro@gmail.com

