

# Lucyvale Better Beef Group Newsletter

Project Funded by *National Landcare Program*



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

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Their feast our fertilizer  
Their feast our future



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## SUCCESSFUL FIELD DAY

It may have been Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, but that didn't stop people from attending the latest dung beetle and soil health field day at Lucyvale. A *spiniger* beetle was recovered in the field and the highlight for many was inspecting the *spiniger* tent and the opening of the bison soil core. The Large Field worm, *Aporrectodea longa* was also released. This worm has deep burrows and incorporates dung into the soil.



*Chips inside the spiniger tent using the penetrometer to demonstrate the benefits beetles have made to the soil structure.*



*A section taken from the bison soil core showing a tunnel and Beetle larva.*

The day continued with a "beetle benefits" presentation by Belinda, and a "Project Photostory" prepared by Sharon. The photostory has been put on DVD and will be available for purchase (\$5.00) at the AGM. The evening program featured an entertaining presentation by Dr Graeme

Stevenson and included a viewing of the CSIRO "Dung Down Under" documentary and a special video message from Dr George Bornemissza – founder of the CSIRO dung beetle project.

## DR SPLUTTER GRUNT VISITS LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The Beef Group was delighted to sponsor Dr Splutter Grunt's dung beetle and soil health presentation to two local primary schools in Corryong on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June. The students learnt about the importance of caring for our soils and the contribution made by both dung beetles and earthworms.



*Dr Splutter Grunt (AKA Graeme Stevenson).*

*His presentation "Dr Splutter Grunt and Sally the sick soil" highlights the importance of healthy soils*

## WHEN WILL IT RAIN?

John Moore's rainfall forecast for July is:

2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rain
10 <sup>th</sup> - 11 <sup>th</sup>	Showers tending to rain in higher parts
14 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup>	Rain
27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup>	Rain

Rainfall for July: Above average.

## NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August

7.00pm – 8.00pm

at the Hall prior to the AGM



## JUNE MONITORING RESULTS

SITE	ACTIVITY	SPECIES & TUNNEL SIZE
1	*LOW	1 <i>Bubas bison</i> *large holes
2	LOW	1 <i>Onthophagus australis</i> 1 medium size hole
3	LOW	large holes
4	LOW	large holes
5	LOW	1 <i>Bubas bison</i> large holes
6	LOW	large holes
7	LOW	large holes
8	LOW	large holes
9	LOW	No cattle at site
10	LOW	Large holes

\***Large holes** indicates activity by larger beetles such as: *bison* and *spiniger*.

**LOW** = Less than 10 beetles per dung pad, averaged over 4 pads.

Beetle activity is determined by inspecting four pads, and counting the number of tunnels found beneath the pad.

### HIGHLIGHTS & OBSERVATIONS:

- Recovery of the "next generation" *Bubas bison* beetle! (20,000 released May/June 2007)

- Monitoring at this time last year revealed no dung beetle activity across the valley.

- Of 36 dung pads examined (4 per site), 30 (83.3%) had dung beetle activity,

Our release program is making a difference! It may not happen overnight – but it is definitely happening!

### LUCYVALE IN THE NEWS

Articles have appeared in the June edition of North East Farmer, Corryong Courier and the Border Mail "Country Mail". We are also expecting an article to be printed in the Stock and Land. One of the aims of the publicity is to highlight the importance of dung beetles,

promote the Dung Beetle Resource Package and encourage funding bodies (both government and industry) to support dung beetle Projects.

### UPCOMING AGM

**Mark your calendars today!**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August  
8.00pm at the Lucyvale Hall**

**Followed by Supper  
(Please bring a plate)**

The evening will include a sneak preview of the Dung Beetle Resource Package

*Current Committee:*

Chairperson: David Laverty  
Vice Chair: Chips Boucher  
Secretary: Sharon Roberts  
Asst Secretary: Sue Josipovic  
Treasurer: Grace Boucher  
Gen. member: Brian Spurgeon  
Gen. member: Malcolm Jarvis

### Committee Vacancy

Malcolm has indicated that he will not be standing for renomination. We thank Malcolm for his contribution and will be seeking nominations from the Lucyvale landholders for committee positions. The committee meets on the second Friday of the month at 7.30pm.

Nomination forms will be available from Chips or Sharon. Nominations will close on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August.

### LUCYVALE PHOTO STORY

Due to popular demand, we have put together a DVD that features the Lucyvale Dung Beetle Project Photo Stories "2005 – 2007" and "2008 Update" compiled by Sharon Roberts.

These will be available for purchase at the AGM for \$5.00. All proceeds will go to the Beef Group.

If you would like to pre-order a copy please let Belinda know.

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