



Next Meeting

Sunday 9th December

Meet at;

For those booked on the bus, 0930 at the Anakie Community Depot

Activities;

25th Anniversary,
Tour of Werribee Open Range Zoo and Werribee Mansion (Members only and must have booked)

What to bring;

Sun protection, drinking water, and the usuals of course. BYO hot water for coffee, tea etc

Next Month

Nothing, that's right absolutely nothing, zilch. it's that time of year when you get a month off for good behaviour. So we won't meet again till February 2008, more info to follow.

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Up Coming Events

Christmas, just a little reminder in case you had or tried to forget.

Last Month's Activity

by the Ghost Writer

Last month the group congregated at the Anakie Community Depot to be given an insight into the volunteer work/research carried out by Echidna Tours, Janine Duffy and Roger Smith, on some of the parks resident koalas. The day began with Janine giving a very interesting and informative talk on the background and current status on their work. This was then followed by a workshop on how to identify individual animals by their nose patterns which is peculiar to each animal in the same way as our finger prints are to us. This system of identification was the direct result of work carried out by Janine and Roger.

The group then headed for the great outdoors to put their new found knowledge to good use and assist Janine in locating and identifying Koalas within their research areas.

A most enjoyable day was had by all involved, made especially memorable and informative by the enthusiasm and care that Janine has for "her koalas". Hopefully this will be the start of an annual event and partnership between the Friends Group and Echidna Walkabout in monitoring the health and well being of the parks koala population, although I am a bit concerned about the level of expertise in species identification.



"One of the Koalas found during the afternoon session"

The editor and staff? would like to thank all those who have contributed to and assisted in producing the Newsletter over the past year, special thanks to the Assistant Editor, Judy Locke for taking the reigns while the Editor was cavorting around the High Country and Cathy Powers for the regular photographic contribution. A happy and safe Christmas to all. Ed.

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House Keeping

TOTAL FIRE BAN DAYS TO BE CANCELLED.

A little reminder with the warmer months on the way, as in the past, if the day of our activity is proclaimed a Day of Total Fire Ban then that activity will be cancelled or held over to another time. Also anyone who has concerns about attending events on days of high temperatures, by all means do not attend. The well being of members is a priority.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Ok all you budding writers, (that means everyone who attends the activity) keep your cameras handy and your minds working as from this day forward someone will be nominated during the activity to write a report for the next newsletter.

The Editor will accept any articles of interest relating to the enhancement and protection of our natural and heritage values.

"In and Around" the Park

Ok so what has or is happening, where do I start? I guess I could use the old saying, I've got good news and I've got bad news.

Summer Ranger Allocations; we have once again secured the service of a Summer Ranger, Anthony Kroschel, for a period of 10 weeks starting Monday 3rd December 2007. So I guess you could say he has already started seeing as how today is Tuesday 4th, and will be working across the district at You Yangs/Serendip, Macedon and Bacchus Marsh but based at the latter.

November Rains; as all are probably aware rain has fallen across most of the state in the last month, with some areas receiving significantly more than others. I must say it was a change to see streams in the "Brissies" actually flowing (see picture) and a flush of green over the landscape, nothing like the sound of wildlife and the fresh smell after rain in the Australian bush.

The Anakie Gorge/Staughton Vale area was one area that did receive more than its fair share of the precipitation, a total of three significant rain events affected the area with the last two causing damage to both PV and local council managed assets. The council's damage bill was restricted to debris being washed over several roads by the flash flooding associated with heavy falls in a short period.

The BRNP damage consisted of erosion of some road surfaces and embankments, blocked drains and

"In and Around the Park" cont.

culverts and the relocation of several of the new steel bridges on the Anakie Gorge Walk.

The second rain event, an isolated severe thunderstorm restricted to the Staughton Vale area, washed out three bridges and caused some track surface damage. The third event washed away one previously replaced bridge plus two others, leaving a total of five now displaced and significant erosion of the track. Currently both the Anakie Gorge Picnic Ground and walk are closed.

I will let you work out which is the good or bad news.



Flora of the Brisbane Ranges. Cathy Powers



"Spectral Duck Orchid"

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