

Friends of Brisbane Ranges

Incorporated

Reg. No. A0032647M ABN 30 120 139 564

President
Colin Cook; Colin.Cook@dpi.vic.gov.au

Newsletter; pbox@parks.vic.gov.au



*Grevillea
steiglitziana*

Next Meeting

Sunday 10th July

Meet at;

10am at Coopers Orchard, Steiglitz.

Activities;

- Coopers Orchard restoration
- Planting of new fruit trees
- Prune existing trees
- Weed removal
- Removal of old fence wire

And if time permits, a walk upstream along Sutherlands Ck.

What to bring;

All the essential items befitting a day of this Stature. Some examples would be lunch, a sense of humour, enthusiasm and possibly some gloves and not to mention your undying admiration for the editor.

Next Month

Activity for August. The programmed activity has been altered to accommodate the planning and preparation of the wildflower/open day at the Anakie Community Depot. The day will include the clean up of the depot and surrounds. Make sure to bring along your thinking caps, we need everyone's input to make the wildflower/open day a success.

Upcoming Events

11th September...

Wildflower display/open day to be held at the Anakie Community Depot. This is being run in conjunction with the Anakie Tree Planting Group (ATPG) and Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group.

9th October...

Leon Costermans will be visiting the FOBR to share his wealth of knowledge.

Leon will be giving a talk on geology and how it determines the plants found in that area. The first part of the day will be held at the Anakie Community Depot before heading into the wilds of the Brisbane Ranges for lunch and the "hands on" part of the day. Seats are limited to financial members so please reply ASAP to Peter Box on 53 672 922 or mob. 0419 883 025.

June Meeting

Judy Locke

After a glorious, wet night we all met in sunshine at the Bert Boardman's reserve, Steiglitz.

Our tasks for the day was to clear the walking tracks of overhanging vegetation, pick up rubbish and to plant up an area between the gas BBQ and the surrounding bush.

The reserve was gazetted as a race track in 1868 and in 1894 a Steiglitz Race Club was formed. The track has now reverted to natural bushland over time. The present picnic area was originally bare of vegetation up until the 1980's when the Friends assisted the natural regeneration by replanting the area. The reserve is named after a local naturalist Bert Boardman who was dedicated to the preservation of the Brisbane Ranges flora and fauna.

So armed with our pruners and mattocks, we dispersed along the walking tracks and removed any offending vegetation. Adjoining the tracks are areas infected by the deadly disease, Cinnamon fungus (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*), and as such the track required defining to prevent walkers from venturing off track and further increase the spread of the disease. While some Friends were working the pruners and mattocks, others were collecting all kinds of rubbish from surrounding area.

After lunch, we then proceeded to plant 20.....oops sorry 40 plants, into an area near the surrounding bush to create a buffer zone between the BBQ and the denser bush areas. This buffer will help prevent visitors from straying out of the BBQ area into the Cinnamon fungus infected area. Except for a distinct shortage of stakes, (yet again, I had a problem with counting, sorry folks! What did I do with that calculator?) the planting was a dream due to the previous night's rainfall making the soil very workable. We actually used a mattock instead of a pick!

To complete the day, some of us headed off for a chat with Colin at the Courthouse.

Thanks again for all your help.



"FRIENDS"

Roger Judy Cyril Lance Judith Nola

'In and Around' the Park

Steiglitz Courthouse.

Over the last few years the manning of the courthouse has been a family affair for the Smithymans. Colin has been a regular face at the courthouse, ably backed up by his two daughters, Theresa and Corinna after his own business took off.

This family association has now come to an end with both Theresa and Corinna having found full time employment elsewhere.

So it is now that we welcome two "newcomers" to the Courthouse.

Peter Sharp (Steiglitz) and Trevor Graham (Geelong) will work alternating shifts with Colin as the courthouse park assistant. For those who are not aware, the park assistants tend to visitor enquiries regarding Steiglitz and Brisbane Ranges National Park and sell books, cards and honey on behalf of the friends group. The courthouse is open during Sundays and public holidays, so please call in for a chat if in the area within these times.

In the Hot Seat.

Chris Worrall, the Ranger in Charge of the Moorabool Park Management Area as we are now known has decided that he deserves a holiday after carrying the weight of the world on his shoulders for the past financial year. Whether or not this break is deserved is still under review, but needless to say Chris is on leave until early August.

The search for a candidate (sucker) to take on this role was an exhaustive process with the lucky winner being Craig Bray. Craig is currently the RIC at the You Yangs/Serendip and has acted in Chris' position previously at Anakie.

Another One Bites the Dust.

Yes we have survived another financial year. Budgets have been allocated, spent and accounted for. So what have we achieved? Sometimes it is hard in our situation to see just where all the time and money goes unless it is in the form of a walking track bridge or structure which is clearly visible. Ok' so what has the last twelve months brought us? Probably the most notable and obvious is the completion of our first year based at Bacchus Marsh, good or bad? we will leave that up to your discretion. Alright then enough about that, what else did the year bring? Lightning strikes, storms, famine, pestilence? No not quite but we did have the lightening strikes and storms. As reported in earlier newsletters the lightening strikes were quickly extinguished and any storm damage has since been remedied. The storm activity suffered by the Park has

Another One Bites the Dust cont.

actually had a positive outcome with McLeans Highway being better than ever.

The Fox baiting program was again successful with a total of two hundred and seventy six baits being taken up in the Brisbane Ranges National Park. Although a fox will take more than one bait, this shows a significant reduction in fox numbers.

The pest plant program, although it has been significantly reduced over the last few years due to budgetary restraints saw serrated tussock and gorse again being targeted.

Probably the most visible activity was the fuel reduction/ecological burns that took place in the Thompsons Rd/Reids Rd area. Although a non targeted area was also burnt, the program achieved the desired outcome. Some work is still to be completed in the non target areas to rehabilitate new control lines.

So there you have it, a brief outline of the year's main activities in the BRNP.

Cinnamon Fungus. (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*)

Cinnamon fungus is still a major concern in the management of the Brisbane Ranges National Park and Steiglitz Historic Park, so it is good to see the "friends" setting the example and using hygiene protocols. This simple system as being modelled by Nola and Bernie consists of a long handled brush to remove any organic material, a mixture of methylated spirits and water is then applied to the soles of the footwear to kill any fungus which may be present.



Ok that's fine, now could somebody get my slippers and the paper!

The "Anakie Scrubber" (no not me, it's the portable hygiene station for bush walkers) has been upgraded to ensure safety and ease of servicing. We now have two of these units and once the final coat of paint has been applied, they will be installed in strategic positions along the Burchell Trail and monitored for further upgrades as required.

In line with this a mobile hygiene station is being developed for use at fuel reduction/ecological burns, wildfires and during earthworks. This unit will not be confined for use only in the BRNP but used throughout the district.

Friends Network Conference.

Be there, it is at Roses Gap in the Grampians from the 16th to 18th of September. Registration forms are available from the Friends Net web site.

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~friends/conference.htm>