



## Next Meeting

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2005

**Meet at;**  
10 am at Bert Boardmans Rec Reserve

**Activities;**  
Track definition (this is along the old racecourse).  
General tidy up of the area.  
Background planting.

**What to bring;**  
Gloves, pruners and the usual requirements. (for those with short memories that means a sense of humour, enthusiasm and plenty of ideas)

## Upcoming Events

On behalf of the Burchell Family, an invitation is extended to all those who knew Tom to participate in walking the Burchell Trail.

At this stage it is planned to conduct the walk over the last weekend of November.

Expressions of interest can be forwarded to the editor. Please note that the walk has a max. of 12 participants with preference being given to the Burchell Family.

## May Meeting Chris Worrall

The rusty and gnarled fences in Steiglitz became nervous as the Friends walked down Regent Street ready for a face-off. With their Smith and Western strapped to their ...enough enough.. wire cutters, shovels, leather gloves, straw sun hats, rubbish bags under their arms.

The area we cleaned up was just north of the wooden bridge on Durdidwarrah rd, on the eastern side of the bridge. This was part of the Trotter estate and is now Steiglitz Historic Park.

We split into 2 teams initially, one team working on wire and post removal and the other team attacking a recently found spot of Smilax as well as expending a bit of energy on cutting and painting poplars

The wire and post team cut the wire into manageable lengths and stacked this onto the

tandem trailer until the trailer could take no more. Then using a truckie type rope tie down system, the load was squashed and made safe ready for transport to the Bacchus Marsh recycling depot.

The smilax group, although only attacking what seemed like a small clump, spent a good hour or so ensuring all the smilax corms were removed. Dig-scratch-sort, dig-scratch-sort, watch out for chopped of fingers and scrub worms, slides into the muddy base of the creek, and then several bags hoisted onto the vehicle.

With the fence and smilax teams working together we enlisted the support of a passing Nissan Navara which doubled as a tractor for pulling wire and stubborn fence posts. Material not able to be stacked onto the trailer was placed at various spots and has since been relocated also to Bacchus Marsh recycling depot.

The only wire and posts remaining now were covered in debris washed down in the last flood and too hard to extricate.

A good day was had by all except a few nervous worms who thought they were going to be devoured by some of our younger helpers.

### The medium term plan for this site.

Next fire season I have entered this area onto a burn plan so we will not only get rid of the flood debris but burn remaining posts, gaining access to remaining wire.

The burning will also reduce some weed species and enhance others; those which are enhanced will be systematically sprayed. The fire will also germinate (we hope) many thousands of Acacias.

And so we assist natural regeneration.



*The Friends assisting natural regeneration.*

## 'In and Around' the Park.

### Summer Storms

Occasionally something good actually comes out of the wrath of Mother Nature. The storms that wreaked havoc through the Brisbane Ranges in late February actually had a happy ending. Apart from the fact that the editor was actually allowed out in the park to do some work, funding was made available for storm damage works.

The big winner was McLeans Highway which received a small allocation to repair areas that posed a risk to park users, and as they say *"every little bit helps"*. The resulting works have seen a huge improvement in the condition of the road to the point of possibly renaming it McLeans "Freeway", although a decision has not been made as to the introduction of tolls. Yes that is tolls not trolls!

The works referred to earlier which involved the editor was in Anakie Gorge. With the help of the Project Fire Fighters and Parks Crew, all the damage sustained by the walking track has been remedied.

### Wayward Ranger

This is an extract from an e-mail sent to us by Stuart. Who is Stuart you may well ask, he is the other good-looking Ranger (also with a beard) from the old Anakie Office who decided Queenscliff sounded like a nice place to spend a few months.

**From:** WILLSSHER Stuart

**Sent:** Tuesday, 7 June 2005 2:08 PM

**To:** LOCKE Judith; BOX Peter; WORRALL Chris

**Subject:** Having a killer of a time!

Hi inland folk.

Just back in the office after spending some time with a pod of killer whales who were playing in the rip.

Ah life is tough down here!

## Friends Network Conference.

Just a gentle reminder, the Friends Network is having their Biennial Conference in the Grampians this year.

This coincides with the FoGrampians/Gariwerd 21<sup>st</sup> birthday and the program will see them, and local experts showing off their park. All "friends" are welcome so make sure you put **the 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> of September** in your diary. Registration forms are available through the Friends Network.

## Subscriptions

Yes we are on about them again. **But as stated previously if you are not a financial member, you will not receive any further copies of our newsletter.**

Subscriptions are now due; \$11.00 for single and \$22.00 for family (GST Inclusive). The year will be from March 2005 to February 2006.

Please forward your subscription to our Treasurer:

Sue Hayman-Fox  
21 College Cres  
Werribee Vic 3030

Please note; For current members, a receipt will be issued with newsletter.

**Editors Note;** We are looking for your comments/information/news/anything of interest to include into the newsletter - if you have something to contribute please post to *Peter Box, Parks Victoria, 219A Main St, Bacchus Marsh 3340* or email [pbox@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:pbox@parks.vic.gov.au). Please send your email address for those who wish to receive their newsletter by email.

## A New Addition

Chris and Helena Lindorff became the proud parents of a baby girl - Charlotte Elizabeth - born at the Bacchus Marsh Hospital on 17th May 2005 at 7:38pm and weighed 8 pounds 5 ounces.



Last reports were Charlotte and parents doing well. Charlotte is currently undertaking a short course in home renovations to assist in the finer art of owner builder.