

Friends of Brisbane Ranges

Incorporated

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*Grevillea
steiglitziana*

Next Meeting

Sunday 14th August

Meet at;

10am Anakie Community Depot
(ex Parks Vic Depot)

Activities;

General tidy up and cleaning of
buildings and surrounds.

Planning/preparation for Wildflower
Show/open day. Members of the Anakie
Tree Planting Group (ATPG) will also be
attending.

What to bring;

This meeting we ask you to bring along
your ideas to ensure the Wildflower/Open
Day is a success.

Plus the usuals of course, enthusiasm, a
sense of humour, gloves and a chocolate
cake for the editor.

Next Month

Activity for 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.

Upcoming Events

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 so please reply by C.O.B.
on 9th September 05 to Peter Box on 53 672
922 or mob. 0419 883 025.

July Meeting

the Editor

Once again Steiglitz was awoken by the sounds of earth moving
equipment and droves of people with a look of hunger in their eyes as
they strove to move heaven and earth in their unstoppable quest for the
elusive yellow metal, yes folks I mean gold. Well would you believe nine
people, two kids, some picks and shovels and four fruit trees that needed
planting?

On a fine winters day members of the "Friends" gathered to carry out
restoration works at Coopers Orchard in Regent Street, Steiglitz.

The mission – firstly to replace four of the fruit trees previously planted in
2002 that failed to survive in the wilds of Steiglitz. Actually I think they
may have died of dehydration but that's another story. The second part of
the mission was to remove the side and back sections of the old fence
and refurbish the front section along Regent Street.

As is the case with most activities not only were the "friends" smiling but
Mother Nature did her bit. Leading up to the day we were blessed with
periods of rain to ensure all was ready for the new residents and then fine
weather on the day.

While some members took on the task of weeding, preparing and planting
the new residents, others began work on the old fence. The names of the
new residents are 1x Buerre Hardy Pear, 1x Packham Pear, and 1 x
Green Gage Plum and 1 x Coe's Golden Drop Plum. These are heritage
varieties and consistent with what may have originally been planted. All
there is to do now is sit back and wait for the jars of preserved fruit to
arrive.

Oh and by the way, we did not find any gold as you may have guessed by
the fact that the newsletter was posted in Bacchus Marsh and not Canada



**GOLD, GOLD, I've found GOLD! Damn it's only a huge bright yellow
shiny rock!**

The Moorabool Park Management Area is almost back to full strength with the return of our illustrious leader from a much deserved break. Chris has returned refreshed and looking forward to the challenges of the new financial year. Our second absconder, Stuart, is still working with our cousins down the coast in sunny Queenscliff, will he return with a sun tan is still to be seen.

Last issue we looked back over the past twelve months with a brief overview as to where our time and money was allocated. This year serrated tussock and gorse are again on the hit list with the addition of spiny rush which inhabits areas of Sutherlands Creek.

Cinnamon fungus has also received funding; this will be used to install and trial the “Anakie Scrubbers” and continue with the upgrade of management gates throughout the BRNP.

Staff from the Bacchus Marsh Office recently undertook a one day training course in the DPI Weed Stop Program. The aim of this course is to train and accredit staff in hygiene protocols for departmental vehicles. Although this program was initially designed to stop the spread of weeds via vehicles the same protocols can be applied for controlling the spread of cinnamon fungus. These protocols will also be put in place as part of the conditions of contracts for any person or business carrying out works within the management area as well as during wildfire and ecological/fuel reduction burning activities.

Some roads within the parks will also receive some attention. Although the available budget is relatively small several roads have already been targeted as priorities.

Ok, enough of my ramblings it is now time to hear from our illustrious leader, Ranger In Charge Chris Worrall.

The Draft Bacchus Marsh Fire District Fire Operation Plan for 05-06 and 07-08 has just been released.

Within the Brisbane Ranges there are several burns planned both for ecological and fuel reduction purposes.

I will list them as they are called and give them a reference so you (if you so wish) can give feedback).

I have listed only the proposed burns for 05-06 for the Brisbane RangesNP and Steiglitz HP

1...Butchers Rd BM12 Bordered by Fence Track and Wildflower track.
(previously attempted to be burnt in the 04-05 season)

2...Aeroplane Rd BM 13 Bordered by Spike tck, Brisbane Tck Aeroplane Rd and Correa Tck.*(This area was to be burnt last year but due to an unplanned burn on an adjacent block, was not considered)*

3...Sailors Tck BM14 Bordered by Nugget Tck, South Steiglitz Rd and Sutherlands Creek. *(Ecological burn with various aims. One being to control the introduced grasses that abut Sutherlands Creek and enhance native species)*

4...Hazel Tck Bm15 Bordered by Banksia Tck , Loggers Tck, Lease Rd, Yankee Gully Rd, Native Youth Tck, Hut Rd and Box Tck. *(A fuel reduction burn of 351 HA which is a large area. It is not expected that all this area will be burnt in one year)*

5... Macs Tck BM 16 Bordered by Macleans Highway, Thompsons Rd and Macs Tck. *(A fuel reduction burn of 55 HA which has been on the books for several years but because of lack of ground fuel, attempts have been unsuccessful.)*

6...Trotter Estate BM 6 Bordered by Durdidwarrah Rd, Sutherlands Creek and yet to be formed wet line. *(This is the land at Steiglitz just to the north of the bridge on Durdidwarrah rd where the FOBR removed old fencing. The aim of this burn is to reduce introduced species of grasses and germinate and enhance the native species)*

Enough burning for one newsletter.

I will attempt to give you an overview of some of the projects that are occurring in the Moorabool District Work Group for the next 12 months.

Starting from the Southern end at Steiglitz we are doing repairs to the windows within the Cof E Church.

We did have \$10k for a Heritage Action Plan for the Steiglitz Historic Park specifically within the township however we lost the money but are still keen to continue the process.

We will continue the normal maintenance and repairs to all roads, tracks and picnic areas within the areas we manage.

Joe Loipold will be reporting on any maintenance works required along our extensive walking track network within the BRNP. (Joe is one of our Field Service Officers based at Bacchus marsh).

Boxy will be setting up the 2 PC scrubbers within the BRNP soon. (it will be good to watch the public reaction to these structures).

Walking tracks and related signage within the Lerderderg State Park will be enhanced in the following years with ranger Tony Morris mapping and rationalising signage.

O'Brien's Crossing within lerderderg State Park (the busiest camping area we manage) is gradually being upgraded with the guidance of ranger Charles Dickie. (new steps, fencing, bollards are just the start of this large project).

Just a few projects.

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. Make the effort to attend, it will be worthwhile.