

Friends of Brisbane Ranges

Incorporated

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November
2005



*Grevillea
steiglitziana*

Next Meeting

Sunday;
13th November

Meet at;
10 am. Steiglitz Courthouse Car Park

Activities;
Sutherlands Creek weed removal and monitoring.

What to bring;
Gloves, sturdy boots, drinking water and all the usuals, enthusiasm and a sense of humour.
PS, don't worry about the chocolate cake as the editor won't be there.

Next Month

11th December.

Christmas break up, as mentioned last edition this event will be happening before we know it so be sure to keep the day free and celebrate with your "Friends"

Up coming Events

12th February 2006

The first meeting for a new year. As yet this day has not been allocated an activity so any and all suggestions would be appreciated. Please don't confine your ideas to activities within the park boundaries, trips to other areas of interest can be organised.

12th March 2006

This is our Annual general Meeting. It is important for all to attend. This is where we can plan our who, what, how, when and where for the next 12 months. So get your brains into gear and come up with some ideas on what you would like to do. Any feedback on the last twelve months, whether positive or negative is invited.

October Meeting

October is a wonderful time to seek out and enjoy the flora of the Brisbane Ranges. How fortunate were the "Friends" Group to have Leon Costermans with us for the day.

I very much appreciated his knowledge and communication skills as he gave us an insight into the relationship of the geology and the flora of the different areas of this part of Victoria.

At the Anakie Community Depot Leon spoke and showed slides on the geology and evolutionary history of the ranges and discussed the complexities of classifying and identifying eucalypts.

Armed with firm instructions to watch out for any changes of land forms, roadside banks and soil types we set out by bus for our field trip. From Steiglitz we travelled along Durdidwarrah Road, stopping on the north side of Sutherlands Creek for a short introduction to Eucalyptus identification before heading to Fridays Picnic Ground for lunch.

With Leon's help and his book in hand we unravelled the mystery of some eucalypts and came upon two exquisite orchids. We continued on the field trip, stopping off at Grass Tree Track on the Ballan Road to explore the bush understorey. The area had formally been quarried but now we saw an excellent range of peas, hakeas, hibbertia, golden grevillea and orchids but unfortunately no grevillea steiglitziana.

A most stimulating and enjoyable day, thank you Leon.



"SCHOOL IS IN"



"THE CLASS OF 2005"

Ok, so what has been happening in our little part of the world called the “Brissys”? Well let me think, actually this could take a while so bear with me. Maybe you should make a cuppa while you are waiting, I’m, sure I will think of something soon.

It appears that cuppa did the trick. The annual serrated tussock control program has been in progress for the last couple of weeks. The usual areas of concern have been dealt with. These areas include between Island track and Spring Creek and Spring Creek and Yalloak Estate. An area above or south of the Little River Picnic Ground has also been treated. Park staff have also manually removed plants from the Sapling Gully/Aeroplane Road and Red Ironbark areas.

The bad news is that a fairly substantial infestation has been discovered along Spring Creek at the northern most boundary of the park. This area is only accessible through the adjoining private land which also has its share of serrated tussock. The landholder is currently working on controlling his infestations and has agreed to allow access via his property for Park staff and contractors to combat this menace. The good news, yes there is good news; Yalloak Estate has finally come to the party and have agreed to carry out works on their land adjoining the park.

While we are on the subject of good news, the two prototype Anakie Scrubbers have been installed in the park. I know it has been a long drawn out process but the modifications and signage were finally completed. The modifications were needed to be completed prior to installation to ensure user safety and also ease of assembly and servicing.

After much deliberation about where would be the most suitable sites, Outlook Track and Nelsons Track were chosen. These two sites were chosen due to their ease of access for setting up, servicing and monitoring as well as being in areas used reasonably frequently by walkers. The other factor in the siting was it was easy to place the units between the infected and non-infected areas.

The two units were inspected last weekend and appeared to have been in frequent use as the paint was worn off the immersion plates and the chemical level had dropped significantly. Staff will continue to monitor the units but to this date have not received any feedback, positive or negative, from walkers



Hygiene Station on Nelsons Track

The Steiglitz Historical Society was successful in gaining a Parks Victoria Community Grant for restoration works on the Roman Catholic Church. Colin Smithyman will be starting these works over the next couple of weeks to repair/restore the church windows. At this stage it is unsure just how far the money will go until Colin starts removing the windows and can report on their condition.

Well that’s about it for now, so until next time we meet, it’s good by from him and goodbye from me.

Best Friend Award

One word sums up our reaction at receiving the award--- FLABBERGASTED! We were 'right chuffed'. What skulduggery to get us to the Conference Weekend and thank you all for the wonderful wrap up.

Then another surprise last month --- a gift from FOBR --- a framed photo of Chris and Helena’s gorgeous blue orchids -- spaces have been found on our walls for all three awards. Lance and Judith xx oo



Some well deserved recognition

Brain Busters

- Which Parks are covered by the Moorabool Park Management area?
- Who is the current FOBR President?
- What is the date of our next meeting?
- Where was last Decembers meeting held?
- Which islands contributed to the Park’s koala populations?
- Where else in Victoria can you find Golden Grevillea?
- How long is the Anakie Gorge Walk? (klm)
- When did the current Steiglitz Courthouse open?
- What is the name of the picnic ground on Durdidwarrah Road?
- What is the name of the creek that flows into the Little River Picnic Ground?

Bonus Question; Where did Chris Worrall live prior to moving to Anakie?