

Friends of Brisbane Ranges

Incorporated

Reg. No. A0032647M ABN 30 120 139 564

Postal Address:
C/- Post Office
Anakie VIC 3221
Web site: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~fobr/>



*Grevillea
steiglitziana*

June
2006

Next Meeting

Sunday 18th June

Meet at:

10am at the Anakie Gorge
Picnic Ground

Activities;

Track work along the Ted
Errey Nature Circuit and
Burchell Trail.

What to bring;

All the usuals including some
old clothes, gloves etc as the
area is rather black. Sturdy
footwear would be desirable.

Next Month

Stay tuned, same bat
channel, same bat time.

In this Issue

- A Special Report
- In and Around the Park
- Friends Helping Friends
- 2006 Wild Flower Show

Up Coming Events

October 2006 Wild Flower
Show

DON'T FORGET

New Postal Address

The Friends Group have a new
postal address for all
correspondence and
memberships to be sent to:

Friends of Brisbane Ranges
C/- Post Office
ANAKIE VIC 3221

A Special Report

Chris Worrall

Epicormic shoots abound, lignotubers are in abundance and there are probably millions of grasstrees (rough calculation). I calculated that 10% of the burnt area of the park was covered in grasstrees which is 300HA. If we calculate there are 50 Xanthorrhoea in a 10mx10m square, there would be 5,000 Xanthorrhoea in a Ha, multiply that by the 300HA equals 1,500,000. This will give us approximately one million five hundred thousand grasstree spikes (perhaps a few more as we quite often get two per grasstree) in spring. Then if we want to calculate the actual number of individual flowers, I reckon 2,250 per spike (average)) then that gives us 3,375,000,000 individual flowers. Then to germinate each of these flowers we need a huge amount of insects, reptiles, birds and even small mammals, which will make spring time in the BRNP an amazing place to visit. We should organize a night excursion.

Our wildfire excursion on Sunday the 14th was preceded by a general chat which included some of the facts above and a few more useless facts.

The treated timber CCA (which the management gate posts, foot bridges, toilets, boardwalks, signage etc were built from) is being replaced by CCQ or is it ACQ (ammonium copper quaternary). (Except for the picnic tables which have been built using cypress pine).

The temperature that aluminium melts at is 660 0c and to boil the silvery stuff needs a temperature of over 2400 0c. I reckon the way the info display post on the outlook at Nelsons track was melted and splattered across the ground by the heat and wind the temperature must have been close to or over the latter. Thank you to Colin, Bernie and Roger for supplying the last two paragraphs of facts.

I would like to thank the Friends group for their support, emails, phone calls and letters over the last couple of months.

Christine, Sam and Julia and myself are very very grateful for everything you have done for us.

After a huge amount of consideration and many sleepless nights I have decided to change jobs and instead of being ranger In Charge of the Moorabool Parks Management Area (which includes Brisbane Ranges and Steiglitz) I have now commenced working from You Yang's as a ranger.

Your support over the many years (about 15) has been amazing, together we have achieved a great deal in and around the Brisbane Ranges and I feel confident that Peter Box will continue to provide (as he always has) a wonderful standard of maintenance and inspiration in *our* Brisbane Ranges National Park.

I will now be able to officially join the FOBR as a member and work with you again in our beloved Park

Editors Note; On behalf of the Staff and Friends of the BRNP I would like to ~~condemn~~ commend Chris for his dedication and enthusiasm both to the Friends Group and the Park. I am sure all would agree the Park would not be what it is today (I don't mean black) if it were not for Chris. Chris's passion for the area and understanding of the importance of friends and volunteers in the management and promotion of our part of the world has been outstanding. I guess what I am really trying to say is, on behalf of all, a big **THANK YOU.**

President

Colin Cook
Colin.Cook@dpi.vic.gov.au Ph 52 861 252

Secretary

Helena Lindorff
hlindorff@dodo.com.au

Newsletter

Peter Box
pbox@parks.vic.gov.au Ph 53 660 055

"In and Around" the Park

Well, as some may have already guessed I'm back, was that sighs of relief I hear or well we won't go there.

Ok so what has been happening and where are we at in our part of the world?

As you read earlier it is the end of an era in the BRNP with the departure Chris Worrall to the You Yangs. The management of the area is now in the hands of two fantastic, enthusiastic, dedicated, handsome, knowledgeable and highly trained Rangers, and as soon as we find out who they are we will let you know.

The Fire Rehabilitation Program is progressing, and although it may seem a bit slow, is on schedule.

The restoration of the dozed control lines throughout the Park has been completed along with the majority of lines on private land.

Anakie Gorge and Stoney Creek Picnic Grounds have had new picnic tables installed. The observant amongst us may notice there is a slight difference in the layout of the tables at both sites, this is to hopefully give better and even access to the adjoining barbeques and allow visitor groups more room to move. Quotes have been sought for the erection of exclusion fencing and installation of bollards at Stoney Creek PG and re-alignment of bollards, exclusion fencing and management gates at Anakie Gorge. These works will hopefully start prior to the end of the financial year.

Staughtonvale Climbing Face has been undergoing a transformation with works at the face continuing. The car park area is now complete with new bollards defining the parking area and the access track being previously gravelled.

The contract for the installation of management gates and bollards in the area to the west of Ballan Rd has been issued. Work has begun with the tracks intersecting the Ballan Rd given priority.

Stuart has been busy planning and organising the replacement of signage and interpretive plaques for the various walks within the fire area.

Even though the fire affected areas have been given priority, other areas of the Park have not been forgotten. The pest plant program has been completed with most areas having been treated for priority weeds. We were also fortunate to receive some extra funding which saw the removal of the majority of elm suckers and boxthorn from the area of the old Trotter Estate opposite the old Scotts hotel (Peter Sharps property) and adjoining Sutherlands Creek. The fox baiting and rabbit control programs have also been completed but as yet I do not have any results to share.

President

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House Keeping

Friends helping Friends 18th June

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, we have been asked to conduct an activity day for local community groups who have expressed an interest in assisting us on some meaningful hands on activities following on from the fire. Stu has been co-ordinating this day and has sent out notices to a number of local community groups for inclusion in their newsletters. Unfortunately we have had little response so far and the rsvp date is fast approaching.

Given the limited interest shown for the event it is probably more practical that we hold our normal activity day on the Sunday and look to accommodate any additional individuals who may just turn up.

The proposed track work on the Burchell trail and Ted Errey will continue as planned with some great opportunities for a closer look throughout the burn area as we work.

Please contact Stu at Parks Victoria on 53 660 054 to indicate if you will be attending this activity day.

2006 Wild Flower Show

This year the Friends Group will be holding their annual Wild Flower Show on Sunday the **8 October**. This means we only have 4 months to start making preparations for the Show. Last year it was left to a small handful of members to prepare for the show and we are hoping that this year we will get everyone involved, whether it's helping to distribute the flyer to family and friends or being part of the Wild Flower Show Committee. All help great or small will contribute to the success of the day but it is reliant on YOUR HELP! So start thinking how you would like to assist. In the July issue we will be sending out a list of tasks and we will be asking people if they are able to put their name down to an item. If you wish to be part of the Wild Flower Show Committee or have any ideas please email Helena Lindorff: hlindorff@dodo.com.au or Judy Locke: jlocke@parks.vic.gov.au



"Two of the new tables at Anakie Gorge Picnic Ground"