



Next Meeting

Sunday 13th August

Meet at;

10am at the Anakie
Community Depot

Activities;

Morning, Morning tea and
meet the new RIC.

Depot tidy up and lunch

Afternoon, Re group at
Anakie Gorge for
revegetation planting.

What to bring;

Plate for morning tea, lunch,
gloves etc plus the usual
sense of humour and
enthusiasm.

Next Month

September; Sunday 10th

To be advised

In this Issue

- Fungi Walk
- In and Around the Park

Up Coming Events

October 2006 Wild Flower
Show

Friends and Fungus

A Fungi Walk with Tom May

Chris Lindorff

We often see them and we often fascinate over them, but for most of us, this is as far as we get when it comes to mysteries of the fungi world. It was time to call upon an expert and the Friends Group went to the top and invited Dr. Tom May out for a walk in the park. Tom is a Senior Mycologist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. Tom has spent the greatest part of his life studying fungi, having written numerous papers, books and chapters on his favourite subject. Tom is passionate about fungi and his enthusiasm is rather contagious whilst walking with him looking at all the marvels on the ground, logs and trees.

We all met at the Anakie Depot and soon headed out in convey to Koala Track off Durdidwarrah Road. The short circuit walk of Koala Track takes one through stands of Manna Gum, Swamp Gum, and Stringybark, including the not-so-common Brown Stringybark of the Brisbane Ranges. This area was burnt during the wildfire on January 21st 2006, when fire swept through approximately 7000 hectares of country on a scorching summer's day. Tom, accompanied by a friend with a strong interest in fungi and about 20 Friends members, was keen to look over the post-fire area where we would see certain fungi that appear only after fire. Before we embarked on our walk, Tom told us that there were 8 fungi species known to be fire-obligate and thus it was our task to see how many of these we could find. At the carpark alone we found 3 species and soon discovered that fungi was scattered all along the track and commonly on the track. During the course of the short walk, we encountered numerous species, of which Tom would rattle of the names and provide an account of the species' development. By the end of this walk, we had recorded 7 of the known 8 fire-species! Quite a remarkable feat for a dry part of the state, not usually associated with a richness of fungi. With my notepad and camera, I had recorded about 15 different species by the end of the walk, and with thanks to Tom, have been able to put names to some. One particular species created a mini-excitement, that being *Lyophyllum ambustum*.

After our morning walk, we had lunch at the Bert Boardman Reserve in Steiglitz. Over lunch, Tom showed us the new book, *Fungi Down Under*, which beautifully illustrates all the target species of the Fungi Map project. Fungi Map is a nation-wide project that assists the lay person in recording readily identifiable fungi species and sending their records into the herbarium. A great website also exists and now users can download the Fungi Map form and fill out the record sheets. Our very own Wendy Cook assists with this project by receiving records at the herbarium and entering data into fungi database.

The aim of the afternoon's session was to search for more fungi, but this time in an unburnt area (at least not burnt in a long time).



Laccaria sp



Aleuria aurantia

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Afternoon session by Judy Locke

Location; Grahams Creek picnic area.

Following lunch at Bert Boardmans, Steiglitz, the group moved to the picturesque Grahams creek picnic area. The creek was actually flowing (water in the Brisbane Ranges – not a common but a delightful sight!) and the water looked clear and fresh with an abundance of water plants. The area is within a small gully and was quite damp underfoot. The leaf litter was thick in places along with areas of mosses and maiden hair (*Adiantum* sp) making the area dramatically different to the burnt area.

We had hardly moved out of the carpark when Tom spotted and identified several species of fungi which appeared to be different from those located at Koala track. This was expected, as most species identified at Koala track were post fire species where the heat promoted their germination. Tom became quite excited by rare fungi, which appeared to the layperson like very thin black roots arising from a plant which unless identified by a fungi expert, could have easily been missed.

Many of the fungal species were identified as mycorrhiza, these species often associated with successful plant growth. They form a symbiotic relationship with the roots of a host plant and as such, increase the capacity of the plant to take up extra nutrients and water. This association is particularly beneficial to Australian plants, where most soils are nutrient deficient. Mycorrhizal fungi are a feature of most terrestrial plants.

Overall, the few who braved the cold windy weather learnt lots about fungi along with being totally intrigued by these colourful and weird shaped fruiting bodies. We could not help being enthused by Tom's passion, knowledge and enthusiasm for fungi. It was, a totally enjoyable day.



Lichenomphalia chromacea



Lyophyllum ambustum

It's a Boy

The Moorabool Park Management Area is now the proud parents of a new Ranger in Charge. Mark Urquhart, who some of you may already know, has been filling this position for several weeks while the application/selection process took place. Well for some unknown reason Mark decided to apply for the permanent position and was subsequently selected as the best candidate; so on behalf of the FOBR I would like to console? congratulate? Mark on his success. I am sure Mark will make himself known to all in the near future.

Fire Rehabilitation.

Anakie Gorge Walking Track

The new and improved bridges have now been installed. The bridges are now all of galvanised steel which hopefully will make them more flood proof, increase their life span and, if we upset Mother Nature again, they will not burn. The track is still closed at this stage awaiting the installation of the box culverts and construction and installation of the resting seats.

Interpretation plaques for Anakie Gorge Walk and Ted Errey Nature Circuit have been ordered and we are just awaiting delivery.

Stony Creek Picnic Ground

Stony Creek Picnic Ground is looking much better with the replacement of all the bollards around the carparks and entrances. The construction of both the male and female toilets has been completed except for some of the internal fittings.

A new information shelter, virtually identical to the one at Anakie Gorge Picnic Ground, has also been installed and is only awaiting the installation of the display/information material which Stuart has been working on.

The external fencing of this area is still to be completed.

Replacement of the gas bbq's at both the Stony Creek and Anakie Gorge Picnic Grounds has been given the go ahead and is now in the hands of the contractor to arrange installation.

Roadwork

Switch road has also seen some attention with a big yellow thing smoothing out some of the humps and bumps. The same big yellow thing has also been seen on Saw Pit Gully Rd, Lease Rd, Yankee Gully Rd, Thompsons Rd and McLeans Highway. McLeans Highway and Switch Road, even though they have had some repair work completed, are still closed in line with the opening strategy. White posts and advisory road signage is still to be installed.

Hygiene Stations

Three cinnamon fungus hygiene stations have been constructed and are awaiting their final coat of paint. The accompanying signage has been ordered, as of writing this article, and once completed the units will be installed in the park. Two more units, to replace the slightly singed ones, are yet to be constructed. The locating of five units in and around the fire affected area will help us to minimise any impact park users may have in the spreading of "PC" in the area.

A trailer fitted with various means of cleaning down vehicles and machinery is now ready for testing. Aptly named the Mobile Washdown Unit, the trailer carries a 400lt water tank, high pressure water cleaner, motorised compressor and portable wash down mat. The unit is designed to be used during burn off activities, wildfire and earthmoving operations. Interested parties can view the unit at Anakie at the next activity day if so desired.

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