

Friends of Brisbane Ranges

Incorporated

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February
2007

*Grevillea
steiglitziana*

Next Meeting

Sunday 11th February

Meet at;

10am at the Stony Creek
Picnic Ground

Activities;

Weed and over hanging
vegetation removal, both up
and down stream.

What to bring;

The usuals of course, (for
those that have forgotten
seeing as it has been so
long, enthusiasm, sense of
humour etc), gloves,
mattocks and pruning
implements. Oh and don't
forget your lunch, water and
sunscreen.

Next Month

March;

Sunday 18th.

This is our AGM, or for the
uneducated, Annual
General Meeting. Keep
this date free as we need
all to attend.

In this Issue

- Last Time We Met
- House Keeping

Up Coming Events

**Annual General
Meeting; March 18th.**

Last Time We Met.

Greetings all and welcome to a New Year of Friend's activities. Our last get together was the Christmas party which, due to the hot weather, was held at the Anakie depot. We were presented with a copy of the Birds of the Long Forest by the Friends of Werribee Gorge for our library. As soon as I work out where our library is, I'll let you know. I'll bring the book along to the next meeting if you want a browse. Generally a good chance to catch up with people, eat some fine nibbles and reminisce on the year that was.

2006 started badly, with the Brisbane Ranges fire starting just before Australia Day. Months of frustration followed until we were finally allowed back into the burnt areas of the park, with the final section between Anakie Gorge and Stony Creek being reopened on the day of the wildflower show. And what a show it was, with the burnt areas putting on a spectacular display of wildflowers, with the grass tree spikes towering over all.

2007 nearly started off on the same foot, with a fire in the Stieglitz Park, starting near the Bert Boardman Reserve almost a year to the day after the 2006 fire. The area burnt was relatively small (approx 160 ha) but 2 houses were burnt in the fire.

There are some obvious challenges to the Friends group in the year ahead as we continue to help Parks with the recovery of the Brisbane Ranges following the fire. Weeds are becoming more obvious as they take advantage of the bare ground and when the rain finally starts falling again it will only exacerbate the problem. There are some interesting opportunities coming up too, with a new coordinator for the VNPA Park Mates program being appointed. The Geelong Field Nats/Gordon Institute/DSE Brush-tailed Phascogale survey should also be gearing up and the Friends will be celebrating our 25th birthday in October. All in all, 2007 looks like it should be an agreeable year. See you in the park sometime.

House Keeping

Days of Total Fire Ban.

This season has already seen its fair share of Total Fire Bans which put extra pressure on the people working in our Park. Please remember that any FOBR activity (Except the AGM) which falls on a TFB will be cancelled not only for the sake of the Parks Staff but also for your own safety and well being

Ethel Burchell

At 95 years of age Ethel Burchell died on 13th January this year. Born on a farm at Taggerty, Ethel was a keen observer of nature, and once moving to Kingsville her connection with the Brisbane Ranges was of great interest. Through her brother Tom whose joy in the Brisbane Ranges we all know well, Ethel was associated with the Ranges since the 1970's and the Friends Group since the early 1980's. In the early days of the Friends Group Ethel always participated in tree planting days, wielding a bucket of water. She took a quiet pride in Tom's contribution and the naming of the Burchell Trail.

On returning to Alexandra to live in the past few years she continued to very much enjoy the Friends Newsletter.

There will continue to be the occasional whisper of the spirits of the Burchells in the wind over the rocks and trees of the Brisbane Ranges till time immemorial.

Newsletter

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