



Grevillea steiglitziana

Next Meeting

Sunday 13th May

Meet at;

10am at the Bert Boardmans Picnic area - Steiglitz

Activities;

- Ranger Tony Morris to speak on Fire investigation techniques with reference to Steiglitz and Anakie wildfires.
- Track definition in burnt area behind Bert Boardmans

What to bring; Gloves, lunch, water, hat, sunscreen...and don't forget.. ..a smile!

Next Month

Please note; 3rd Sunday of month due to Public holiday.

Sunday 17th June– assist local wildlife refuge with general maintenance. (TBC)

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- Ron & Cathy Powers Plant Matters
- Fungi Workshop
- World Environment Day

Up Coming Events

- 25 years FOBR Celebration
- October 2007 Wildflower Show

Last Time We Met

Velvet Daisy-bush – Population Surveys

The Anakie wildfire of January 2006 burnt a large portion of the national park, including two of the largest known populations of the threatened Velvet Daisy-bush, *Olearia pannosa* subsp. *cardiophylla*. The remarkable recovery of this species was surprisingly pleasing, although somewhat unexpected. Plants of the largest known population in the Anakie Gorge above Stony Creek, resprouted magnificently to create a mass of green foliage at ground level. Without hesitation and despite receiving below average rainfall, the majority of the plants (possibly greater than 80%) went onto flower profusely the following spring.

The Friends Group had previously surveyed Velvet Daisy-bush populations in and around the park, but this time around there existed an opportunity to conduct the surveys following a major bushfire. Four populations were surveyed, three along the Anakie Gorge walking track and one along Nelsons Track. We used the standard VROTPop forms provided by DSE. This way, the data will be fed back into the DSE system and add to the knowledge of the species across its range.

The search for the Velvet Daisy-bush at the first site visited was unsuccessful, with no plants found where they were previously recorded in 2001. This first site was simply recorded as 'no plants found'. The next site was a small population of 5 large plants just above the walking track. All the vital signs were positive, with all plants having flowered the previous spring. Alas, no new seedlings were visible. We then surveyed the largest of the known populations, being a more sheltered site in the depth of the gorge, with plants extending down to the water level of the creek. Such habitat appears to be atypical for this species, especially within the Brisbane Ranges district. The plants here were extremely healthy and even new seedlings were observed. An estimate of around 300 plants was made, although the rhizomatous growth of the species makes individual plant numbers hard to estimate.

After lunch, we moved to Nelsons Track off Switch Road. Using a GPS, Roger Curtain, Peter Stokie and myself walked to plant site recorded in 2001. After about 30 minutes of searching, we located nearly 40 individual plants and each was recorded with the GPS. Despite the intensity of the wildfire at this site, the population had survived, although a drastic reduction in the number of plants recorded previously; a count of 90 plants in 2001. The plants were much healthier than in 2001 and most had flowered.

In all, a very successful monitoring experience, with some good data to now collate and send onto DSE. One interesting detail to ponder is the impressive health of all the plants; impressive because the plants before the wildfire were in a very poor state, having very few leaves, lots of dead material, and leaves heavily browsed by insects. The theory I propose is that the wildfire destroyed the insects that predate on the Velvet Daisy-bush leaves and the plant populations are sufficiently far enough away from unburnt habitat that the insects have not yet been able to recolonise the sites (with perhaps other site-conditions being needed for the insects also). Thus, the burnt Velvet Daisy-bush has had its burden-of-parasites lifted, albeit temporarily.



Velvet Daisy-bush - Nelsons Track (photo R Curtain)

President

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Diplodium revolutum (Large Autumn Greenhood)

These are the orchids we protected from rabbits along Saw Pit Gully Road and watered last week. Instead of wilting like most others did, these have gone on to flower and hopefully will set seed.

Fungi Ecology workshop - Meredith

Alison Pouliot is conducting a fungi workshop, with support from Department of Primary Industries & East Moorabool Landcare, in the Meredith Memorial Hall 3rd of June. Alison lives at Daylesford and has a comprehensive knowledge of fungi, particularly those found in our local area. She is also an excellent photographer and has a passion for the natural environment both within Australia and overseas. You can visit her website; www.alisonpouliot.com

Please see the attached flyer for cost and booking details.



Anthracobia muelleri - a post fire species which occurs in Brisbane Ranges

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World Environment Day – Sunday 3rd June

Any Volunteers?

Moorabool Shire is hosting Moorafest to celebrate World Environment Day on Sunday 3rd June. The festival will have sustainable displays with ideas on water and energy reduction. A number of environmental groups, governmental agencies and local businesses will be participating with information and/or displays. The venue is the Shire hall and lawn area in Main street, Bacchus Marsh.

FoBR will participate and exhibit information about the group on display boards. This will be an excellent opportunity to promote the Wildflower show. If anyone has a spare few hours to spare, and enjoys chatting to the public, please contact Judy Locke on 0427 218 520 or email jlocke@parks.vic.gov.au. Or if time is limited, just come along, you are sure to discover something of interest.

***** Memberships Due *****

Membership fees (inc GST);
Family; \$22.00
Individual: \$11.00

Please forward to;
Friends of Brisbane Ranges
C/- Post Office
Anakie Vic 3221

Members Snaps

Charlotte Lindorff giving a helping hand Anakie Gorge
(Photo H Lindorff)

