

Friends of Brisbane Ranges

Incorporated

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June
2007

*Grevillea
steiglitziana*

Next Meeting

Sunday 17th June

Meet at;

10am at 395 De Motts rd
Wildlife Shelter (if unsure of
address please contact Judy
0427 218 520)

Activities;

- Assist with general maintenance to shelter – jobs for all abilities.

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

Next Month

Sunday 8th July – to be a surprise (Boxy will be back!!) Sorry, he is only part of the surprise - we just need to decide on a couple of options for activity.

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- Last Time we Met – Fire investigation presentation
- Ron & Cathy Powers Plant Matters
- VNPA NatureWatch
- Wildflower show and Photo exhibition
- Koala release
- Boxys mutterings from Mansfield

Up Coming Events

- 25 years FOBR Celebration
- October 2007 Wildflower Show

Last Time We Met

Our last meeting was held at the Bert Boardmans picnic area, Steiglitz. During January 2007, a wildfire burnt behind the picnic area and into private property destroying 2 houses. Ranger Tony Morris was invited to talk about methods used to determine a fires point of origin and cause of fire ie determine cause natural or deliberate. One of Tony's DSE fire roles is to investigate wildfires and he gave an informed presentation on the origin, path and factors contributing to wildfire with reference to the Steiglitz fire.

What is involved in wildfire investigations?

- Protect the site to allow investigation of evidence
- Examine the site to determine the direction of fire travel
- Analyse fuel, weather and topography to determine factors which contributed to the rate and direction of fire travel
- Canvass potential witnesses to establish who has relevant information which will establish/confirm the time and location of events associated with the origin, cause and path of fire.

Fire behaviour and cause

Fire perimeter, rate, intensity and direction are influenced by;

- Composition, moisture & quality of fuels; leaves, twigs, shrubs, branches & logs
- Direction and strength of wind, air temperature and relative humidity
- Direction and slope of terrain; as slope increases the rate of spread & intensity increases

Indicators in scrub and trees for intense running fire;

- The area of leaf scorch is indicator of fire intensity – the higher the scorch the hotter the fire
- Leaf freeze will occur where moisture is rapidly extracted from the leaves
- On smooth barked trees the char line on the trunk will be lower on surface towards origin. Rough barked tree; more charred pieces spread over greater distance.

Other causes;

- Lightning is one of few natural causes of wildfire in Australia.
- Escapes from campfires
- Spontaneous combustion
- Escapes from burning activities
- Equipment and machinery
- Powerlines
- Discarded cigarettes
- Deliberate

If at any time, you arrive early at scene of a wildfire, please take note of the following;

- **Contact 000**
- **Note time and place of first sighting**
- **Note persons/vehicles with rego numbers**
- **Do not remove anything which could be potential evidence to cause of fire.**

President

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

Secretary

Helena Lindorff
hlindorff@people.net.au

Newsletter

Judy Locke (for Peter Box)
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Those who look around when walking the tracks in the Brisbane Ranges NP can expect to find this Gnat orchid. They can generally be seen growing in colonies.

VNPA – NatureWatch (formerly Park Mates)

You are invited to the launch of the;

VNPA new community ecology survey group on Sunday 22 July at Stony Creek picnic ground, Brisbane Ranges NP.

NatureWatch will be conducting ecological surveys throughout Victorian parks and their first project will be the Impact of Cinnamon Fungus in the Brisbane Ranges National Park.

Please see attached flyer for details regarding the launch and project. Contact Caitlin at the VNPA on 9341 6513 for further information regarding the launch and/or Cinnamon fungus survey.

October Wildflower Show – Photographic Exhibition

We need your support!

All members will be invited to submit framed prints for the photographic exhibition. This will be a first for the Wildflower Show and we need your support. All prints are to be available for sale with a small % to be donated to the Friends group.

So.....all those of you who take photos, have a think about submitting them into the exhibition (they **MUST** relate to the Brisbane Ranges).

For more information, please email Helena hindorff@people.net.au

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Monitoring Koalas near Park ... and Friends can help! Caz Bartholomew

Please look for Koalas which have ear tags as these are being monitored with a special GPS system. If anyone thinks you have seen them in the Park or locally, please contact Marilyn Blankley of Beremboke Wildlife 5360 8262 or leave message with details. You can also contact Caz on 0418 125 836.

The Brisbane Ranges NP vegetation is growing back and is supporting the Koalas who have survived the bushfires as well as some who have been released back following lengthy rehabilitation from burns.

Janine Duffy has a DSE Research Permit for monitoring Koalas in the National Park (and the You Yangs). It is quite difficult to find them now as they are well camouflaged by the new clumps of growth up the trunks and particularly around the forks in the trees - quite a challenge!

On 3rd June, six healthy koalas were released into Janine's research area. One of those was our (now) famous "Mumma K" who was extensively burnt in the Anakie 2006 fires while protecting her baby and finally released now that her claws have grown back ... following some fancy nail clipping and manicure work! Her unburnt and healthy "Baby K" was released with a surrogate mum, "Verna", in April 2006. Also, a special friend of Janine's, "Bear", was released six weeks after the fire and he continues to do very well.

The Brissie Ranges Koalas have been joined by three females and two males from the Framlingham fires who needed a new home.

Thanks go to Marilyn Blankley of Beremboke Wildlife Shelter who provided such wonderful care for these and many other badly burnt and very sick Koalas. Many koalas were lost in the Anakie 2006 and Framlingham 2007 bushfires and "Mumma K" and the three girls - "Bella", "Mary" and "Kelly" were touch and go for some time before bouncing back to full health.

Release was a joint effort - Janine picked the release site, DSE ear tagged the Koalas and approved the site, Marilyn Okayed it all with Mark Urquhart from Parks Victoria and we then released them..... a big day filled with mixed emotions, both sadness and extreme joy to see them all returned to their natural environment. Now Marilyn and Janine are monitoring their movements ... not an easy task, in fact very hard indeed but done with very willing hearts.

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

Membership Fees (inc GST)

Family; \$22.00

Individual; \$11.00

Please forward to;
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