



### Next Meeting

#### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March

##### Meet at;

10am at the Anakie  
Community Depot

##### Activities;

Annual General Meeting  
Ted Errey Nature Circuit  
maintenance

##### What to bring;

Memories of the last 12  
months, nominations for  
Committee Members,  
gloves, pruning equipment,  
sun protection, gloves,  
water, lunch and the usuals  
of course.

### Next Month

#### April; Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>

For something a bit  
different the group will be  
helping Caitlin from the  
VNPA with the Nature  
Watch Phytosphthora  
Monitoring Program, so  
be there

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### Last Month - February

Judith Lewis

A group of friends gathered at the Anakie Depot for the first meeting of 2008. When we arrived Judy Locke had already spent an hour cleaning up the lunch room and loos!

We discussed possible working bees for this year and then set about our clean up of the depot and grounds. We swept out the sheds, cleaned up the bird droppings (and one expired swallow) sent spiders scuttling madly while their webs were demolished and sent nests of ants into frenzy.

The paths outside were swept and weeded, pond cleaned, edges of beds trimmed, more weeding there and a mountain of sticks and bark raked and stacked to allow some planting into the raised beds.

Lunch in the shade of the eucalypts was enjoyed as we surveyed the changed landscape.

Then it was off to Anakie Gorge armed to the teeth with loppers and hoes to attack the thistles along the gorge walk. We found every thistle known to man I think (metaphorically speaking I hope there Judith), flat weeds, dock, deadly nightshade and fog grass. Some of us had a wee rest beside the steel bridge work washed away once again by heavy rain, but how lovely to see the bed green again and hear the gurgle of running water.

Going back to the cars we found the "Road Closed" sign and supports that had been tossed into the shrubbery and set them up again, gathered up some stakes and plant guards and were on our way home after a great day out in our favourite park.

*"WELL DONE EVERYONE!"*



*"One of our many visitors to the park"*

#### President

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## House Keeping

**Please note;** if it is declared a **“DAY OF TOTAL FIRE BAN”** for this months activity, the AGM will still go ahead in the air conditioned comfort of the Anakie Communities Depot conference room. The after meeting activity will be put on hold till another day.

## “In and Around” the Park

Well here we are again, it only seems like last month that I was doing this same thing, how time flees. All right then, where are we up to in the big wide world of park management?

As you would have noticed on your last activity, Anakie Gorge walking track is somewhat under the weather, actually it was under the weather a few times, and work is continuing slowly. You would also have noticed (if you were there that is) that a couple of the crossings have changed somewhat in their construction. In a bid to alleviate some of the damage caused by our fickle weather a decision was made (after considerable brain storming) to try something different. The jury is still out on how long the new system will last but I guess “mother nature” will have the final say when she is ready, whenever that may be! Oh and don't worry, a new home is planned for the now redundant steel bridges on two of the crossings on the Lower Dam Walk.

The pest plant program for the Moorabool Park Management area is now underway with rabbit baiting started at Werribee Gorge State Park and Long Forest Nature Conservation Reserve. Hopefully them wascally wabbits will be taking full advantage of the new vegetarian line of health food we have introduced to the menu.

Also by the time of our meeting the fox program will be underway with a delicious range of neatly packaged meat type products with an interesting marinade. Unfortunately the marinade has no taste or smell but is guaranteed to give them one last kick. So lets hope the take away business is a success this year and we don't have the same patrons coming back for more. Could even give the “Golden Arches” a run for their money.

Alright enough of that, what's next? Ok, the Staff and who is responsible for who, what, where, and when has undergone a slight re shuffle. Tony Morris, you remember Tony? Well just to jog your memories Tony used to look after the Werribee Gorge SP and Long Forest NCR, has been successful in gaining a position as a FOO. I'll let you make of that what you will, but the official

## “In and Around” the Park cont.

interpretation is a Fire Operations Officer. The position is part of the ongoing Fire Strategy introduced after the 03 fires and is still within Parks Victoria. Now that we have got that sorted outed what does it all mean, well it's like this, Joe Stewart, hopefully you remember who Joe is, has now taken over responsibility for Werribee Gorge SP and Long Forest NCR and I have, oops sorry, you ember me, you know the Editor, Boxy, the bloke with the beard, yeh that's right, ME!, well I now also look after Steiglitz Historic Park as well as the fanatastic Brissies. So what does all this mean to the group? Not much probably but I thought I would tell you anyway.

Now for the next item of interest, as some may have noticed or heard for that matter, extensive clearing is currently underway along the Ballan Road Firebreak. Now before you say ‘what tha’, for many years now the break has been slashed by contract and considering the flush of growth resulting from the little burn which went through in January 2006, is now rather over populated by trees and other green type materials making it hard to slash but also reducing the effectiveness of the area as a break. So with strict orders on what is appropriate the Bacchus Marsh Project Fire Fighters have been diligently returning some form of semblance back to the area. This is a long term project and will not be completed in one season. There is a “buffer zone” of up to fifteen metres being left along the road easement to reduce the visual impact.



*“Fire break, what fire break?”*

Apart from the afore mentioned items it is pretty much business as usual except for the fact that the Basalt Plains District no longer exists. The Basalt what? some might say but as a park management area we at Bacchus Marsh came under the Basalt Plains District within the Central Region. Now we don't, we are now part of the new Geelong District which now makes up part of the Central Region. What this means to us in the “Brissies” is not clear as yet but I would hazard a guess and say not much if any except our District Head Office will now be in Geelong. When you think about it, it's almost like old times, I said ALMOST.

I guess that's about it for now, so see you at the AGM.

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