

Friends of Brisbane Ranges

Incorporated

Reg. No. A0032647M ABN 30 120 139 564

Postal Address:
c/- Post Office
Anakie VIC 3221
Web site: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~fobr/>



*Grevillea
steiglitziana*

June
2008

Next Meeting

Sunday 15th June

Meet at;

10am at Fridays Picnic ground

Activities;

Continue the good work on the Burchell Trail

What to bring;

Lunch, water, suitable clothing for the great outdoors, a raincoat (if anyone can remember what they are) pruners/loppers and the usuals of course.

Next Month

July; Sunday 13th

We are back on schedule and will be assisting Deakin University with the "Phytophthora" program

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Up Coming Events

July 20th

Grow West Community planting Day at "The Island" (adjacent to Werribee Gorge State Park)

August 10th

Geology of the Brisbane Ranges with Mark Urquhart

Last Month

Judy (Lois Lane) Locke

Last time we met.....

Our activity for the day was to clear some of the Burchell track of fallen branches and bark and trim back extra vigorous eucalypt regrowth which had concealed the walking track. The usual members arrived at Fridays picnic ground all set to hack and rake for the day.

We relocated to the junction of the Burchell trail along Lease road and proceeded to walk back towards Durdiwarrah road removing large branches, small fallen trees and heaps of bark (shed as result of the 2006 wildfire) off the track. Within one area, the track was almost impossible to locate due to eucalypt regrowth from the base of the tree.

Coincidentally, the 2006 wildfire point of origin was only several 100 m from where we were working, lightning had struck and ignited a Stringybark eucalypt causing a wildfire to rapidly spread to surrounding areas. An intense fire will cause eucalypts to lose their foliage but will in turn, stimulate new growth. The new growth is the result of; epicormic buds located under the bark along trunks and branches and, underground dormant buds called lignotubers. This is the eucalypt's survival mechanism from the severe heat of a wildfire. The vegetation covering the track was mostly lignotuber growth along with a mini forest of new seedlings. Eucalypt seeds, released from their capsules due to the heat of the fire, would have dropped onto the warm fertile ash bed and subsequently germinated in their thousands.

So we hacked and raked until the track appeared clearly defined. We were even able to inspect one of the mines whose overhead structure had survived the fire. The structure is a previous FoBR project where we helped build a pole and corrugated iron "shed" over the entrance to the mine.

Following lunch, we followed the trail in the opposite direction where we did more track clearing until we reached Banksia track. Following this track, we did an "audit" of the orange markers which depict the location of the trail. At one point there was mass confusion as to what direction to head ie no orange marker! After much discussion, a couple of energetic walkers headed in several directions whereby the correct route was located and duly marked with branches. (Our editor, who happens to be responsible for the Burchell trail, has assured me that a new orange marker is now in place!)

Whilst walking along Banksia track a rogue weed, *Acacia longifolia*, was discovered. The group then detoured off the track and removed the intruder along with a number of seedlings.

So a big thank you for your attendance and grand effort, another successful and enjoyable day was had by all!

As Editor I reserve the right of reply for any use, authorised or not, of my name or title and hereby do not accept or take any responsibility for such use whether actual or perceived.

President

Colin Cook

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

Secretary

Helena Lindorff

hlindorff@people.net.au

Newsletter

Peter Box

pbox@parks.vic.gov.au Ph 53 660 055

Last Month – A Photographic Report



"Are you sure there's trees around here?"



"Ahh, the good ol' days, when child labour was legal"



"Hi Ho, Hi Ho, it's of to work we go,damn I can't whistle"

"In and Around" the Park

Well that's it, another one down, financial year that is. So let's take this opportunity to look back at what has been the 07/08 Financial Year, the good, the bad and the ugly. (A small sample)

The Good;

All budget lines expended with great outcomes for all involved. The pest plant and animal programs were completed on time with the major species (serrated tussock, furze, foxes and rabbits) having their lives cut short to the benefit of more suitable species.

The Anakie Gorge Walking Track is well on its way to being re-opened by spring. Two new rock based crossings have been constructed to replace two of the steel bridges and work is scheduled to start on the dry stone wall and track surface later this month. The section of the walk between NelsonsTk/Anakie Gorge Walk intersection and the Stony Creek Picnic Ground was opened earlier this year.

The Anakie Scrubbers. Testing as part of the Phytophthora Program being conducted in partnership with Deakin University has produced some interesting results. Not only have the tests shown that the chemical used (Phytoclean) in the units to be viable under various climatic conditions and dilution rates, but also for a longer period of time than first thought. Contamination with organic material entering the unit's chemical tank through use also showed little or no impact on the solution.. So what does all this mean, well the main benefit is longer times between servicing the units (complete change of the chemical solution), and also they work, they actually work. So full credit should go to the designer who came up with such a fantastic unit, Australian of the Year Award, Order of Australia, Knighthood, Nobel Prize would not go far enough in rewarding this so deserving person.

No fires!!!!!!

The Bad;

The Staughtonvale area was inundated with several heavy rain events resulting in severe damage to the Anakie Gorge Walk and some roads in the area.

Apart from the above, what rain. Rainfall totals again are very low. I will leave the cause for you to decide, drought, climate change or a combination? That's the choices.

The Park is regenerating nicely since the Jan 2006 fires but at the same time this regrowth can be a headache. Vehicle and walking tracks are continually requiring works to keep them clear and easy to follow by park users.

The Ugly:

What can I say, beauty is in the eye of the beholder, so we will leave it at that.

Anyone wishing more information on management activities within the Park should contact the Rangers involved.

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