



*Grevillea
steiglitziana*

Next Meeting

Sunday 13th July

Meet at;

10am at the Anakie
Community Depot

Activities;

Trent from Deakin University
will be leading the group
setting up *Phytophthora*
spread monitoring and
possibly collecting soil
samples.

What to bring;

Wet weather gear etc, lunch,
water and the usual
enthusiasm and a sense of
humour of course

Next Month

August; Sunday 10th

Geology of the Brisbane
Ranges and surrounds with
Mark Urquhart

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- Steiglitz victory

Up Coming Events

July 20th;

Grow West community
planting day at "The Island"
(opposite Werribee Gorge
State Park)

Septembers Activity;

Guided walk of significant
areas of the Steiglitz Mines
with Colin Smithyman

Last Month

Last time we meet...

It was a cold morning, with a sprinkle of rain not dampening our hopes of a fun day working together. At the Friday's Picnic Area, we were all briefed on the activities for the day and off we went down Durdidwarrah Road to complete the works of last month on the Burchell Trail.

With our rain jackets on and weapons of choice (rake hoes and loppers), we began clearing and recreating the track. We used burnt fallen tree branches to form a border for the path, giving it direction. Owen was the star lopper user, fearlessly cutting down any small wattle even thinking about growing on the track.

We worked as a team quite well, completing the track and making it clearly definable before lunch. Lunch was eaten at Fridays Picnic Area, due to its facilities, and we had a small party there. It was Kirsten 5th birthday! The Cooks had brought along a wonderful chocolate cake (complete with smarties) to share with the group and help celebrate the occasion.

Following lunch, we headed down to the Ted Errey Nature Circuit (Nelsons Track section) from Switch Road, walking in from the "management vehicles and walkers only" sign. The lucky few who got a lift to the top with Judy got there first and waited for the rest of the group. We were all busy admiring the native fungus and orchids coming up on the walk to the apex.

Armed with our tools, we headed down the track, mainly clearing the epicormic growth from the eucalyptus trees. Again the track was made clearly identifiable with the use of the fallen burnt tree branches and grass tree flower stalks. We had the elevated branches safely removed by the bulldozer pair (Bernie and Lucas).

The tracks were effectively recreated and cleared. An entertaining day was had by all and thanks very much to all that came to lend a hand. Thanks!



"That's twice now, once more and look out!"

President

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Secretary

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House Keeping

Volunteer Records.

As part of Parks Victoria's OH&S Policy, the contact details of all volunteers need to be recorded. Please fill in the attached form and return to Peter Box at the Bacchus Marsh Office in either electronic or hard copy form.

Memberships.

Are you financial? Have you checked? If you have not yet renewed your membership please put this at the top of your to do list. To be viable the group not only needs active members but the finances to assist in running costs and activities.

"In and Around" the Park



"Hey, wait up you guys!"

Not much to report at the moment but here is a couple worth noting;

- Works well under way to re-open the Anakie Gorge Walk.
- Recent strong winds had little effect on the park as a whole. Damage restricted to one of the reveg fences in the Anakie Gorge Picnic Ground and trees over some tracks.
- Steiglitz Courthouse to be opened on the last Saturday and Sunday of the month from 1pm to 4pm by the Steiglitz Historical Society volunteers.

Steiglitz Victory

Colin Cook

In the middle of last year the Golden Plains Shire received a planning application for the construction of two dwellings on Stawell St in Steiglitz. Stawell St is the track which runs from the courthouse and forms one end of the Burchell Trail. The Friends made a submission to the Shire's planning process, along with several other concerned residents and groups and the application was rejected by council. The matter ended up with the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal and was heard in March this year. The Friends made a submission to the VCAT hearing and Cyril Curtain and myself attended and presented at the hearing. Our submission and presentation was no doubt helped by the input we received from the Environment Defenders Office. Colin Smithyman, other Steiglitz residents and the Steiglitz Historical Society also submitted objections and presented at the hearing. The Golden Plains Shire presented evidence and reports relating to effluent disposal and drainage, and the historical importance of the Steiglitz township.

Although the Shire had originally refused the permit on effluent disposal issues, the VCAT member also considered heritage and visual impacts to be of significance. After two days of hearings and several site visits by the VCAT member, we had to wait several months for the decision to be handed down. In the end however, it was worth the wait, with the decision being that no permits would be granted, based on three grounds:

1. Effluent disposal "...effluent disposal cannot be undertaken satisfactorily and that as a result there is an unacceptable risk that polluted effluent will leave the site and may reach Sutherlands Creek"
2. Heritage and neighbourhood character "Construction of two dwellings, no matter the architectural merit of their design and execution, will significantly and unacceptably impact on the character of this part of Steiglitz and of an appreciation of the historic attributes of the township"
3. Visual impacts of building and works including road access "...the two dwellings and the works associated with them such as effluent disposal fields will be clearly visible from areas within the township. Such an impact on the landscape will destroy the character of Steiglitz as an historic 'ghost town' and will seriously erode the visitor's experience of Steiglitz"

I'd like to thank Cyril Curtain for the amount of work he put into researching and developing the arguments we put forward to council and VCAT. Thanking Cyril for the work he has done seems to me a frequent, but pleasurable, duty. Colin Smithyman also put in some serious legwork in mapping many of the historical sites around Steiglitz. No doubt he will show us some of them when he gives us a tour of Steiglitz for our September activity. Who's bringing the bubbly?

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