



Friends of  
Brisbane Ranges

# Brisbane Ranges Friends News

DECEMBER 2009

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## Upcoming Event

### Christmas Lunch

Sunday December 13th, 10am at Anakie Community Depot, Ballan Rd, Anakie

### ACTIVITY

**10am:** Please bring a plate to share for morning tea

**10.30am:** Guest Speaker Dr Martin Fluker, Lecturer in Tourism, Victoria University, Melbourne (Trail Monitoring)

**12noon:** Lunch at Stoney Creek Picnic Ground (lunch is supplied) followed by a walk.

### BYOwater

Please RSVP by Dec 7th to [helenal@pacific.net.au](mailto:helenal@pacific.net.au) for catering.

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## Sightings of three tree-dwelling furballs

After meeting at the Anakie depot for a quick cuppa and a briefing on the day's plans, we headed off to Waterhole Track near the Durdidwarrah reservoirs. Our aim was to repeat the koala survey we had conducted along this track two years previously. This turned out to be easier said than done. Parts of this area were burnt in the 2006 fire and the regrowth in the last couple of years has thickened up considerably, which made it difficult to spread out from the track and try and spot tree-dwelling furballs. We really should have had machetes and two-way radios! In spite of the difficulties, we managed to locate three koalas, including a female and her half-grown youngster. None of the koalas cooperated with the camera wielding leader, so we were unable to get any good nose shots to allow Janine to identify the individuals.

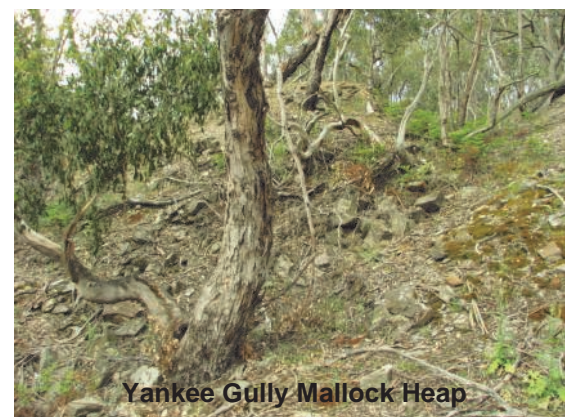
After lunch at Fridays, and with the departure of most Friends due to the heat, Colin Smithyman and myself headed off to walk along the section of Burchell Trail between Fridays Camping area and the Crossing Picnic area where the new interpretation signs will be going. This section of the track contains many visible signs of early gold mining activity, including dam walls across the creek, mine shafts, tracks, ore processing batteries, hut remains, calcining pits (where the ore was heated to high temperatures to allow for easier processing), mullock heaps etc etc. More than enough material for 3 signs. Maybe we should have asked for more! See the section on the PV Community Grants if you wish to be involved.



Prince of Wales Battery Fireplace



Prince of Wales Battery Dam Wall



Yankee Gully Mallock Heap



## Koala Survey near Waterhole Track

“Our aim was to repeat the koala survey we had conducted along this track two years previously.”

Colin Cook



## The Rustyhoods are in Town

The summer months are a time to look for members of the genus *Oligochaetochilus* (or *Pterostylis* if you prefer). The Brisbane Ranges has two of these 'Rustyhoods' - the *O. aciculiformis* and *O. squamatus*. They can be very difficult to tell apart and even after reading the description, I am not always certain. I have photographed both in the northern part of the Ranges as well as the area near Steiglitz. They seem to like dry, stony or gravelly soil. As the flower ages, it seems to turn a rusty colour, hence the inclusion of Rustyhood in the common names. The plant can be anywhere from 10 - 25 cm tall and often numerous flowers on the stem. By: Cathy Powers



## CyberTracker Project

We have recently been advised that the Friends group has been successful in obtaining funding from the Australian Geographic Society (<http://www.australiangeographic.com.au>) for our proposed CyberTracker project.

The aim of the project is to develop data collection sequences using the freely available CyberTracker software (<http://www.cybertracker.co.za/index.html>).

Sequences will be developed for the recording of field observations of a wide range of flora and fauna on a GPS-enabled PDA and the straightforward transfer of recorded data to government agencies and other organisations for incorporation into their databases. The sequences will then be made freely available to any person who wished to use them on their own devices, allowing a broad range of people to contribute data from a wide range of locations.

If you wish to volunteer your time to help test the developed sequences in the field, or to help develop a simple website for the sharing of the final sequences, please contact Colin Cook email: [colin.cook@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:colin.cook@dpi.vic.gov.au)

## Parks Vic Signs Healthy Parks Initiative

The monitoring plan for the Brisbane Ranges Nat Park is currently being developed, with the focus on small mammals. The Friends group should have the necessary animal ethics and DSE permits to conduct small mammal trapping by the end of the year, so we can start planning some trapping programs for next year. If you wish to be involved, please contact Colin Cook

## Trail Monitoring

The project monitors the visual condition of specific sections of tracks and trails over time by having researchers, land managers, and park users take digital pictures by positioning their own digital cameras in fixed camera cradles, then submitting them to a central database for inclusion in the PowerPoint presentation.

The visual effects of trail usage, trail design, trail repair, weed infestation and general erosion can then be monitored over extended periods of time. For more information click on the link below. The program is currently being used on the Mountain Bike tracks in the You Yangs

<http://www.slideshare.net/towbike/you-yangs-cradle-001-presentation>



Prince of Wales Battery Diggings