

APRIL 2010

this issue

Upcoming Event

Monthly Activity

Sunday April 11th, 10am at
Anakie Community Depot, Ballan
Rd, Anakie

ACTIVITY

10am: Meet at Anakie Community
Depot

Assist Victorian National Parks
Association Naturewatch
volunteers with monitoring of
Phytophthora cinnamomi within
the Park

BYO water & lunch

ARTICLES WANTED

Submit articles to Helena Lindorff
email: helenal@pacific.net.au by the 3rd
Sunday of the month to be included into
the next edition of Brisbane Ranges
Friends News

Friends of Brisbane Ranges
C/- Post Office
Anakie VIC 3221

Ph: 5366 0000

Email:
helenal@pacific.net.au

Website:
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~fobr/>



An afternoon out at Friday's Picnic Ground

We had a well attended AGM and we managed to plough through the meeting without any hiccups, until the seats became vacant and the nominations we're called.....everyone went silent! We have some new blood on the committee which is great to see and some of the oldies have hung on. Thank you to past committee members for their hard work last year. It's been greatly appreciated.

2010 Committee Members

President: Colin Cook

Vice-President: Nomination to be confirmed

Secretary: Carole Bartholomew

Treasurer: Helena Lindorff

Ordinary Members: Wolf Passauer,
Judith Lewis

Historian: Wendy Cook

Newsletter Editors': Carole Bartholomew
& Helena Lindorff

Mammal Trapping Dates

Date out	Date re-moved	Location
5/4/10	8/4/10	Anakie Gorge creek flats (traps will be removed during the day)
20/4/10	23/4/10	Monitoring site along Ballan Rd between Geebung and Furze Tracks
11/5/10	14/5/10	Site scheduled for control burn next year

Traps will be checked every morning within 1 hour of sunrise. Dates subject to change due to weather. Any interested people to contact me to arrange locations and times.

In the afternoon the group headed off to Fridays Campground to plant some trees and shrubs in the designated fenced off plots. Written by: Helena Lindorff

Friends 2010 Calendar of Events

Date	Activity
March - 14	AGM and Planting at Friday Camp ground
April - 11	Assist VNPA Naturewatch volunteers with monitoring of <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> in park
May - 9	Fridays Camp ground – planting Walk new Burchell trail alignment between Fridays camp ground and The Crossing.
June - 20	Lower Stony Creek - walk and weed removal (<i>Acacia longifolia</i>)
July - 11	Geelong Botanical gardens; plant out Brisbane Ranges garden display bed
August - 8	Lower Stony Creek - walk and weed removal (<i>Acacia longifolia</i>)
September - 12	Naturewalk along Spring creek area with bird enthusiast
October - 10	Open day at the Anakie Community Depot and a wildflower walk
November - 14	Koala Survey with Janine Duffy from Echidna Walkabout
December - 12	Christmas breakup – BBQ and evening walk with guide looking for small mammals at Mt Rothwell Conservation and Research Centre
February - 13	Depot cleanup – plant propagation

Adventures at Fridays Camp Ground—Part 2

Written by Wolf Passauer, FoBR member

I introduced myself and thus met Ewan, their five-year-old son. Ewan had started a rock museum. Each post at Fridays, and there are many of them, had a rock on it. Before I had a chance to pitch up my tent Ewan took me from post to post. I had to look at every rock sample and try to identify it.

Later we sat around the campfire and talked about the Brisbane Ranges until the night sky was filled with blazing stars.

Next morning I explored Fridays. All new, all neat and tidy. There were magnificent specimens of Cape Weeds growing within enclosures. This puzzled me. Later I learned that these were not trial plantings of the latest Cape Weed hybrids, but enclosures for trees and shrubs to be planted at a later stage.

The old pine trees whispered in the morning breeze. Although I generally detest pines in native forests, the ones at Fridays were part of the locality's history. They talked of days long gone by, when this area was a hub of gold mines. Sitting under the trees with my morning cuppa in cold hands I heard the faint sound of quartz crushers, a steam engine's shrill whistle, the churning of wagon wheels and miners shoutings all coming from high up in the pines.

I said good-bye to my neighbours and set off on my hike.

Returning in the evening, the camping ground was empty except for a huge mobile home. It stood there silently. No one got off.

Suddenly, a roof hatch opened, a satellite dish appeared and something started to crank and wheeze. Then silence fell again. No lights, just the dark silhouette. Eventually, more noises. An engine started up, hummed on for a while and stopped.

An eerie feeling crept down my spine. Could there be aliens staying on board? It had turned dark. My fire was down to a few glowing embers. It had turned chilly.

A voice right next to me waked me up: 'Hi, I am Bob. Thus started an evening's entertainment at Fridays.

Without any introduction Bob started to tell me his life's story. He used to live in a huge house in Northern Queensland. How snakes invaded his house. One evening, whilst watching TV, he caught the sight of a large snake slithering down the corridor into his children's bedroom. Bob then described in minute details how he, lacking a stick, had the great idea of catching the snake with the vacuum cleaner standing in the corridor.

By now I had become very interested in Bob's life. I put another log on the fire.

Well, said Bob, I managed to suck up the snake from under the youngest boy's bed. But, what now? The snake was inside the bag jumping around madly. I had no stick to dispatch it. Then I had this bright idea. I went into the garden, pointed the vacuum cleaner's nozzle over my neighbour's fence and switched the Hoover into reverse. The snake was spat out and all was well.

I don't like snakes, said a woman's voice behind me.

Ah, this is Kathleen my wife, said Bob. She was a tall blonde woman, much taller than Bob.

After a short time talking about all sorts of things other than snakes, Kathleen excused herself. Sorry, I must go; said Kathleen; must feed my baby. My baby, I thought, this couple was well past having children. Yes, she said, it is a young Magpie; we found it whilst coming through Melbourne. I am an 'Injured wildlife' person. On board we have all the right tools and feeding formulas to look after injured wildlife. Keeps us busy and I have my babies to look after.

By now the Southern Cross had slowly crept up higher, the night breeze played Lullabies in the pine trees. The fire had burned down.

Well, time to turn in, said Bob after a while of silence.

But, before I go I must tell you something else.

You see, we just got married last year. Both of us for the second time.

She hates snakes and she did not want to live in this house with me. That is why we bought the camper. So, about a year ago, I sold the house and we went onto this trip. One day, whilst driving through Malmsbury, we spotted this old Bluestone house for sale. We bought it on the spot. You see no snakes down here. It's too cold for them in Malmsbury. Now, she is a happy girl and has her babies to look after. We will keep on driving around, with the occasional stop over in Malmsbury, until we fall of the perch. Live has been good to me. Good night, and sorry to bother you with my stories.

Next morning the camper was still there. No sounds, no sights.

I packed up and left a note for Bob and Kathleen, wishing them all the best in their snake free world.

That is what I like about camping in places like Fridays. They are off the beaten track and thus people who discover them are somewhat special. They like to share a campfire and their life's stories.

The pine trees stood in silence. They must have heard a good yarn or two in their long life.

Ecologist and photographer, Alison Pouliot, will be running a series of fungal ecology workshops to introduce participants to the fungi kingdom and to inspire interest in these fascinating organisms. The workshops offer participants an illustrated journey into the little known kingdom of fungi and an exciting foray deep into the local forests. Many fungal specimens from the local area will be displayed, discussed and examined during the workshop.

For further information email Alison at: alison@alisonpouliot.com or visit www.alisonpouliot.com. Cost \$65 per workshop (11am - 5pm)

Workshop Dates & Locations

Woodend
Saturday 24th April
Sunday 25 April

Daylesford
Saturday 1 May
Bookings: 5348 3569 or info@dn.com.au

Sunday 2 May
Bookings: 5348 3569 or info@dn.com.au

Kyneton
Wednesday 5 May
Enquiries: alison@alisonpouliot.com (seminar only)

Apollo Bay
Saturday 8 May
Enquiries: alison@alisonpouliot.com

Trentham
Saturday 15 May
Bookings: 5424 1354 or info@trenthamcentre.com

Sunday 16 May
Bookings: 5424 1354 or info@trenthamcentre.com

