

MAY 2010

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Upcoming Event

Monthly Activity

Sunday May 9, 10am at Anakie Community Depot, Ballan Rd, Anakie

ACTIVITY

10am: Meet at Anakie Community Depot

Fridays Camp ground – planting

Walk new Burchell trail alignment between Fridays camp ground and The Crossing.

BYO water & lunch

Future Events - see [website calendar](#) for details

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Naturewatch monitoring

The last Friend's activity suffered from the weather being against us. After meeting the Victorian National Parks Association NatureWatch volunteers at the depot and considering the cold wind and rain threatening, we decided to transfer the monitoring from the top of Switch Road to a site between Geebung and Furze Tracks.

NatureWatch had been carrying out measurements here the day before, but hadn't finished the site, so we helped them complete this area.

Due to the thick undergrowth that has grown here since the 2006 fire, we had some difficulty locating some of the grids.

However, perseverance and the wanderings of some small fry helped, and we managed to complete the measurements in this area.

Colin Cook

Park News -

BBQ theft at Stony Creek

A couple of weeks ago, thought to be a Friday night, the BBQ unit with gas bottles was stolen from the Stony Creek picnic ground. Prior to this, someone tried to break into the unit damaging the door so the door hinges were replaced - heavy duty and more secure (or so we thought) however they reached the BBQ equipment by removing this same door.

Rather upsetting for our meagre budget as replacement will cost over \$4000! They also tried to break into the Bert Boardmans BBQ but must have been disturbed as they only took the gas bottles.

Lower Stony Creek land transfer

Still no word on when the land transfer will happen.

An information board has been installed at the reservoir, public risk signage and a safety fence for the dam wall is ready for installation once the land becomes National Park. Parks Vic are all ready for the hand over but we just need to be patient - it will happen - eventually especially with a election looming this year.

Cathy's Column

I have always wanted a column of my own. Helena offered the opportunity to me and I figured I might never get another chance so here goes.

We have had such a wonderful autumn including warm temperatures, calm and some moisture from the sky. Mind you, not as much as our northern neighbours (either Bacchus Marsh or Queensland) but I am sure we all agree that some is better than none.

April showers brings more flowers – or so the quote should go.



This year the Large Autumn Greenhoods have flowered very well and this was triggered by the rain in March. The *Diplodium (Pterostylis) sp. aff. revolutum* is an orchid that is found in box ironbark woodland, often on bare soil. It can form dense colonies but, despite the large number of plants, may have only a few flowers appearing each year. This year was exceptional – one colony having over 50 flowers in a 2 metre square area. Even in bud, this beautiful orchid can be fun to find.

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ARTICLES WANTED

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

Cathy's Column

continued

Of course, the old stand-bys were also in flower. Over a couple of weeks, we found three midge orchids, Tiny Greenhoods and Parsons Bands.



Corunastylis morrisii & *Specularantha (Pterostylis) parviflora*



Corunastylis despectans

Corunastylis ciliate



Eriochilus cucullatus

Despite the vicious rumours to the contrary, I don't just find orchids. Autumn is also a great time to see some wildflowers, reptiles and birds. We have a Tawny Frogmouths in our area but I never find two that pose so nicely as these (on the road to the You Yangs).



The reptiles are still out and about, soaking the last warm rays and eating a supply of 'winter sustaining' food. It is always worth keeping a look-out for snakes even now.



There is plenty in flower, both at ground level and in the higher canopy. The Ironbarks (*Eucalyptus tricarpa*) are flowering as well some of the Acacias.



The Epacris (*Epacris impressa*) are showing great pink colours and a stunning contrast to the light hint of purple in the *Olearia* shrub.



Even the bats, which I have yet to identify, are enjoying the twilight and insects. There is still plenty of time to get out and enjoy the mild weather – HAPPY AUTUMN.

Cathy Powers

A Hairy Nosed Creature ventures into the Ranges

Late at night on the 25 February 2010, I encountered, along with a carload of witnesses, a Wombat in the Brisbane Ranges.



It was seen walking along a private track just off Reids Road at the north-west corner of the National Park. The single animal was a juvenile Wombat and didn't appear to scurry off hastily as the car approached. It did, however, elude us when we got out of the car for a closer look.

I have never known of Wombats in the Ranges before and suspect an inappropriate translocation has occurred. Also recently, 2 Wombats were sighted just east of Shepparton on the floodplains – also very peculiar for this species. Are Wombats expanding their territory as the tropical weather shifts southward? Or is it just a case of inappropriate releases into the bush?

On the topic of unusual sightings, at almost the same location, I spotted a Grey-headed Flying Fox passing over in late November 2008. Considering it was heading further west, I thought it may have been off course.

Chris Lindorff