

JUNE 2010

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Upcoming Event

Monthly Activity

Sunday 20 June [week later than usual due to the long weekend]
10am at Anakie Community Depot,
Ballan Rd, Anakie

ACTIVITY

10am: Meet at Anakie Community Depot

Waterwatch and FoBR activities at Sutherlands Creek

BYO water & lunch

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Stroll down Furze Track Mammal Trapping Report

After all the activity of digging holes, planting and watering at Friday's Camping Ground at the May FoBR working bee we decided to go for a walk in the afternoon. Just down the road is Furze track. It looked like an interesting place to explore. The track has recently had some work done on it with new cut off drains every so often to disperse water. Those of you who have walked down the track will be wiser than us and know that after a short stroll along the flat, the track suddenly heads downward around a corner and then further downward. Not fancying the walk back up we decided to pay more attention to the plants beside the track and near the parking area.



The area is worth a visit with myrtle wattle, *Acacia myrtifolia* although not flowering, looking glorious with the bright red stems against the green

leaves, the cranberry heath was a contrast with silvery grey mounds and red tubular flowers and the small bright Yellow Navel *Lichenomphalia chromacea* a lichen/algae. We were particularly looking for orchids and saw the green and white striped, Tiny Greenhoods, *Pterostylis parviflora* and the Small Mosquito Orchid, *Acianthus pusillus*. We also found some interesting bracket fungi on a log, tow types of puff balls and the horse dropping fungi.

Elspeth Swan

Interpretation signs update

Things are progressing, albeit a little slowly. We have a rough layout for the three signs, along with some preliminary artwork from Kirsty Reid. I hope to have some draft signs for perusal and feedback at an upcoming Friends meeting, but certainly not the next one.

Colin Cook

The Brisbane Ranges National Park is one of 6 parks in Victoria chosen for the pilot program of the PV initiative *Signs of Healthy Parks*. This has led to the development of a long-term monitoring program which will hopefully provide useful data on the distribution and population health of numerous small mammals in the park.

As part of this program, we have recently concluded our first round of catch-and-release trapping in the Brisbane Ranges. Monitoring using large and small Elliott traps took place in three locations over the last couple of months: Anakie Gorge, Red Ironbark Track and between Geebung and Furze Tracks.

Nothing was trapped at Anakie Gorge or Red Ironbark Track. Two Agile Antechinus were trapped and released between Geebung and Furze Tracks.



Although this is a very low success rate, it appears to be consistent with other programs elsewhere in the state. Conversations with Andy Arnold from DSE and Trevor Pescott indicated that they and others were also having very low trapping rates. Andy mentioned that modelling by Deakin Uni researchers indicate this may be the cumulative effects of the long drought finally having an impact.

Many thanks to Peter Stokie, Trevor Pescott and Andy Arnold for their help and company. All trapping was conducted under DSE Research Permit No 10005015.

Trapping has ceased as the breeding season for some animals is about to start, but we hope to continue monitoring efforts using remote cameras.

Colin Cook

Cathy's Column

I hate winter. Now that I have that off my chest, I must admit that the lead in to the colder months has not been too bad. The first of June is officially winter and for those of us with wood burning heaters, acquisition of firewood is probably number one on the list. After doing this, we can look forward to hot soups and shorter days. Regardless of the time available to be outside, the cooler temperatures usually mean no flies so it is a great time to enjoy the Brisbane Ranges. This time of the year also offers plenty of opportunity to enjoy beautiful sunsets.



Because of the nice moisture, the appearance of green is welcome. Speaking of green, greenhood orchids and greenhoods that are not green are starting to show buds and flowers. When David Jones published his book with a large number of genera changes for orchids, many of the 'experts' did not agree with his names. I am one of those who think the names are much more logical, in many cases. By separating the *Pterostylis* genus into two groups – those with erect lateral sepals (picture on left) and those with deflexed lateral sepals (picture on right), the lay person can at least get a mental image of which category is being referred to.



Diplodinium striatum

Bunochilus smaragdinus



The greenhood that is not really green:
Urochilus sanguineus

This is also the time of the year to look for fungi and lichen. From high up the tree, along branches and then on the ground, there is plenty to find and photograph.



Part of my leisure time is spent volunteering at the visitor information centre in Bacchus Marsh. It is great fun to offer information about the Brisbane Ranges and on the Sundays (when I am there all day once a month), we often get walkers looking for details on where to walk in the Ranges. Most have no idea of the quantity of flora available to be found all year around.



The correa are just coming out, the wattles are looking to poke you while you admire their beautiful yellow flowers and sweet perfume,



And the *Hakea decurrens* is trying to do the same.

Some of the animals and insects are slowing down for the winter months. We still see kangaroos grazing and the wedge-tailed eagles are particularly active at the moment.



Well, after telling you all the good things about winter, I am off to Queensland for a couple of weeks. Since Ron hates the heat, he is staying home to enjoy the cooler weather.
HAPPY WINTER SOLSTICE!

Cathy Powers

Do you know ?

This caterpillar was on one of the plants being planted out at the last FoBR event -

anyone know what it is called and any information about it?

