



OCTOBER 2010

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## Upcoming Events

### Sunday 3 October

Special FoBR WaterWatch monitoring event  
Meet 10 am at Anakie Community depot

### Sunday 10 October

Meet 10 am at Anakie Community depot  
We will join Victorian National Parks Association and be part of the Grass Tree monitoring program in the Brisbane Ranges.

### Sunday 24 October

Assist with the FoBR stall at the Back to Steiglitz Festival

Bring: lunch, water, gloves and smiles

More events - see page 2.

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

Ph: 5366 0000

Email: [cazbarth@yahoo.com.au](mailto:cazbarth@yahoo.com.au)

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

## October - a busy FoBR month

with at least one opportunity for **everyone** to be involved with Friends.

- **WaterWatch monitoring** 3 October  
You are welcome to take part - Please email Colin at [Colin.Cook@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:Colin.Cook@dpi.vic.gov.au) if you have queries and to let us know that you are attending.

- **Grass Tree monitoring** on 10 October with VNPA. This is our regular FoBR monthly event - so hoping to see everyone attend.
- **Back to Steiglitz Festival** 24 October  
<http://www.trueblueford.com/steiglitz/>  
FoBR will have a stall at the Festival so please volunteer to help and contact Helena at [helenal@pacific.net.au](mailto:helenal@pacific.net.au) or Judy at [jlocke@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:jlocke@parks.vic.gov.au)

## Cathy's Column

Taking a walk on the wild side is always fascinating but taking one in the Brisbane Ranges can bring all kinds of rewards.

I think that we can all be grateful for the keen eyes of Grace Lewis when she was chasing a photo of a moth. Grace is a member of the Geelong Field Naturalists and was present during their excursion to the Ranges on 19 September. Jude and I were in discourse with a few of the other members regarding a plant ID when I got a message on my walkie-talkie from Ron. Basically he said, 'You might like to come along the track to see this plant'. So calm! And when I got there, all the calm was destroyed because I was extremely excited.

Grace had discovered a second *Arachnorchis* (*Caladenia*) *concolor*. The other one was found about two years ago. Previous to that, there had been no documented evidence of this orchid's presence in the Ranges.



We also went to the Stony Creek reservoir and I have come to the conclusion that many of the public are visiting the spot.



At least if the use of the 'Anakie Scrubber' is any indication; perhaps the message is getting through about good footwear hygiene.

Mother swan was nesting in the reeds a week before and after an increase in the water levels of the dam, she had to abandon her nest. I hope she is inclined to have a second go.



There are lots of wildflowers just waiting to provide us with a beautiful display. One of the earliest to flower is the *Wurmbea dioica* ssp. It is usually a wonderful pristine white with dark purple markings. Recently we took a trip up near Chiltern and the *Wurmbea dioica* sp there were the most intense pink (mostly the female plants).



Isn't our native flora wonderful?

Also, just a quick note of appreciation to those who put in the effort to produce the new Meridian Map of the Brisbane Ranges National Park (page 3). What a wonderful reference source for the 'walker' community.

Cathy Powers

# Sallow Wattle Removal

After meeting as usual at the Anakie Depot at 10 am and admiring the new Brisbane Ranges Map, a decision was arrived at by some strange consensus process akin to the recent federal election governmental forming process. Luckily it took a shorter period. Somehow El Presidente Locke had convinced us to work. The usual band of miscreants set off to Grass Tree Track on the Ballan Road, the site of previous campaigns of Sallow Wattle (*Acacia longifolia*) eradication.

[http://www.land.vic.gov.au/DPI/Vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/weeds\\_trees\\_sallow](http://www.land.vic.gov.au/DPI/Vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/weeds_trees_sallow)

What a difference a month makes, an almost total sea of yellow dominated the scene, the cycle of fire and then the wet has carpeted this heavily burnt area, much more pleasant to the eye than the fluorescent safety vest colour. After a safety assessment and the usual jokes about the danger of young boys with sharp implements it was time to issue the troops with weapons of mass lopping and cutting and chemical warfare agents for two adults.



*The sea of wattle in flower Grass Tree Track*

No need to identify the known enemy, sally forth across the road to the newly acquired Barwon Water Land. Access through the wire fence is a bit challenging with the top strand being barb. Two scouting parties set off in opposite directions along the fence line. Soon battle was joined, some of the enemy felled eclipse the big fish stories told in the pubs of this currently green land. Luckily this skirmish has a time limit of lunch in an hour and a half. My loppers fly apart and Judy has the keen eyesight to find the thin bit of metal that is the vital thrust washer. A bit of re-assembly and away again. The lunch bell is sounded and this battle can be stopped and resumed another time.

After getting stung by an ant getting my lunch out of the car it was time to sit down in the usual Brisbane Ranges style for a natter and the enjoyment of being out in the fresh air, even the Ballan Rd traffic co-operated and there seemed to be an absence of noise.

This was not the case after lunch when Owen was officially called upon to summon Judy who was lagging behind. Most of us set off without arms this time but pack and camera to explore the Barwon Water Aqueduct. Lance showed us a section of fence to get through where the middle strand was not hooked to a strainer, much easier. Obviously a misspent youth has sharpened his skills in this area.



*Cook children doing a serious inspection of the Aqueduct condition*

Judy leads us straight down to the Aqueduct which is in surprisingly good condition. A circling eagle puts the eyes skyward for a while. Barwon Water post fire have put new gratings with stainless bolts across the entries to the brick lined tunnels that go for several hundred meters through hillsides. After some investigating and searching the other end is found.

Some of the party walk down the concrete pressure pipe between siphons in the valley while the Cook children explore the short section of overgrown Aqueduct between the siphon and the tunnel. Christen showed a huge amount of dexterity in getting out at the hardest part climbing straight up a brick section much higher than her. The gum boots the Cook children wear obviously are very adhesive.

We set off back, Christen is flagging after using all her energy escaping the Aqueduct, but suddenly half the Lindorff family arrive and she is rejuvenated. I had seen Judy earlier talking into one of those devices that look suspiciously like a star trek communicator. Chris mentions that he could see Christens pink top through the tunnel from the other end and that he had once walked through it. Some botanising was done and a dead Koala pointed out.

Thus ended another delightful FoBR activity so come along and join in. Thanks to Judy for the organising and providing the tools and sprays. We have a female PM do we have a female RIC anywhere?

*Roger Curtain*

## For your diary!

Upcoming FoBR events ...  
and others which may interest you



### Sunday 3 October

FoBR WaterWatch monitoring



### Sunday 10 October

FoBR event - Grass Tree monitoring with VNPA



### Sunday 24 October

Back to Steiglitz Festival <http://www.trueblueford.com/steiglitz/>  
FoBR will have a stall - volunteers ??



### Sunday 14 November

FoBR event - walk along the Spring Creek with a bird expert - to be confirmed.



### Saturday 11 December

-(evening)  
FoBR end of year BBQ and night walk at Mt Rothwell



### Sunday 13 February 2011

first FoBR event for 2011 - details to come



### Sunday 13 March 2011

AGM and Koala research with Janine Duffy



### Sunday 9 October 2011

## Brisbane Ranges Wildflower Show

### More events

- Royal Horticultural Society website - <http://rhsv.org.au/rhsv-news/whats-on/> including Native Orchid Show at Mt Waverley and Friends of Geelong Botanical Gardens Birds in the Garden.



### Do you know what this plant is?

Please email Caz at [cazbarth@yahoo.com.au](mailto:cazbarth@yahoo.com.au)

## New BR map

**Our new map is finally available!**

Thanks to Parks Victoria for providing a community grant fund for the production of the map and the assistance from the staff - Judy Locke, Peter Box and Mark Urquhart.

Special thanks to Friends of Brisbane Ranges; Helena Lindorff for coordinating the project, Chris Lindorff for providing the GIS walking data and photos and Colin and Wendy Cook for providing valuable feedback.

### Brisbane Ranges Map Guide – 1st Edition

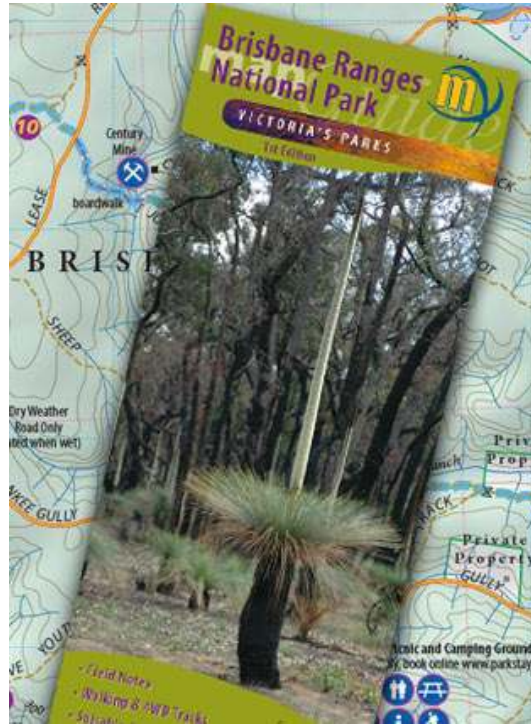
#### Features:

- Published August 2010
- Scale 1:30,000
- Detailed enlargements at 1:15,000
- Suitable for use with GPS
- GDA 94 Datum
- Informative text & field notes
- Map size 750mm(W) x 600mm(H) flat

Can be purchased online from publishers [http://www.meridianmaps.com.au/products\\_images/product\\_links/vic\\_parks\\_guides/brisbane\\_ranges.asp#](http://www.meridianmaps.com.au/products_images/product_links/vic_parks_guides/brisbane_ranges.asp#)

\$9.95 plus \$5 postage and handling

**FoBR will also have some copies for sale - more details later.**



## Photopoint Monitoring Photography Workshops

Photopoint Monitoring & Environmental Photography Workshops Spring 2010

Taking representational images of Australian natural environment presents many challenges. However, with a little understanding of both photographic principles and the inherent characteristics of the subject, a comprehensive visual representation of environmental change can be documented.

### Workshop Dates & Locations

Bookings can be made directly with the venues. For further queries please contact Alison

**Friday 8 October** Daylesford 5348 3569  
[daylesford@ourneighbourhood.org.au](mailto:daylesford@ourneighbourhood.org.au)

**Sunday 10 October** Trentham 5424 1354  
[trentham@ourneighbourhood.org.au](mailto:trentham@ourneighbourhood.org.au)

**Thursday 14 October** Creswick 5345 2356  
[creswick@ourneighbourhood.org.au](mailto:creswick@ourneighbourhood.org.au)

**Friday/Saturday 15/16 October** Woodend 5427 1845

Any enquiries to -

Alison Pouliot Photography  
PO Box 101 Daylesford Victoria 3460  
Ph. 0439 764 344  
[alison@alisonpouliot.com](mailto:alison@alisonpouliot.com)  
[http://www.alisonpouliot.com/projects\\_photography\\_workshops.php](http://www.alisonpouliot.com/projects_photography_workshops.php)

## A warm welcome to our newest Friends

Mark Trengove and Trish Edwards of Balliang

New FoBR members are welcome please see our [website](http://home.vicnet.net.au/~fobr/membership.html) - <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~fobr/membership.html> for all the details.

## Meet a Friend - two wonderful life member friends in fact

Although very well known in the group, this month we are delighted to introduce you to FoBR founding members Judith and Lance Lewis.

“We saw the article about forming a Friends group for The Brisbane Ranges in the Ballarat Courier not long after we moved to Mt. Helen from Vermont and attended the meeting held in the car park at Steiglitz. Geoff Durham soon had us manning shovels and we uncovered the blue stone lined drains in the main street! Over the years we attended most meetings, working bees and excursions and became involved in the wildflower displays - first as the Friends contribution to the Back To

Steiglitz weekend and then on our own displays. Nola organised a wonderful Art Show/Sale to compliment the display once. Since Lance's A.H.I. and my ankle injury we have had to forego some of the more strenuous steep walks but we hope to be weeding and planting in "our park " for a few more years yet. We have had wonderful days with wonderful friends!”



*Judith and Lance*

*Ed - Thank you Lance and Judith for your fantastic contribution to the Friends.*

Ed - We would like to include a short introduction to one of our FoBR Members in each newsletter. The aim is to get to know each other better - particularly useful for new members and those who may not be able to attend our monthly activities as often as they wish.

We want to include profiles of our flife members, executive and new members. We can include a photo if you like and a bit of info about you or one of your family so please email [cazbarth@yahoo.com.au](mailto:cazbarth@yahoo.com.au).

**Next newsletter - can we include YOU please?**