



DECEMBER 2010

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Upcoming Events

Saturday 11 December
Special end of year FoBR
evening bbq event

see full details page 2

We would really like you to join us for this great end of year event.

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Olive-backed Oriole nest with chick, parent bird and our bird guides Ruth and Paul

Birds with Ruth and Paul

On Saturday night I asked myself - Why did we say we would go?... that rain doesn't look like ever stopping. Ducks may love the water but a full day searching in the rain for birds in the bush just didn't sound like a good way to spend a Sunday.

However the day started cloudy but warm, still and not raining! Fantastic. We all keenly headed off to the northern part of our Brissie Ranges National Park to meet with our bird enthusiasts Ruth Woodrow and Paul Dodd who seem to be able to recognise every single sound in the bush. It was no surprise to hear that they have recorded nearly every bird in Victoria during 2010.

Everything was fresh and wet in an area which is still black from a recent control burn..The blackened grass trees looked magnificent with their flower spikes. The kids were distracted by critters enjoying themselves after the rain - bullants, beetles, ants, frogs and spiders while other Friends just couldn't resist looking at plants.

After a relaxed lunch we strolled along the nearby area where there were more birds among the shrubs and low vegetation planted by the Friends.



Some were enjoying the plants. Other attractions included a Tiger Snake near the waterhole, lots of ants Common Froglet *Crinia Signifera* and more.

Birds recorded during our walk

Straw-necked Ibis	Grey Shrike-thrush
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Olive-backed Oriole
Buff-rumped Thornbill	Spotted Pardalote
Common Bronzewing	Brown Thornbill
Crested Pigeon	Striated Thornbill
White-winged Chough	Grey Butcherbird
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Australian Magpie
Crimson Rosella	Varied Sittella
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Rufous Whistler
White-browed Scrubwren	Willie Wagtail
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Grey Fantail
Laughing Kookaburra	Galah
White-throated Treecreeper	Spotted Dove
Superb Fairy-wren	Maggie-lark
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Little Raven
White-naped Honeyeater	Scarlet Robin
New Holland Honeyeater	Welcome Swallow
Eastern Spinebill	Pallid Cuckoo
Red Wattlebird	

Ruth has also provided some wonderful photos which you can see on page 4. Please note these are copyright although they will only display at low res so we can email the newsletter.

Thank you Ruth and Paul - A most enjoyable and relaxing day in the bush!!
Caz Bartholomew



WaterWatch

The WaterWatch event on 7 November was interesting and enjoyable as you can see from these photos. We do not have the survey results as yet but are already planning the next WaterWatch event for our February activity.

We will return to the wonderful Sutherlands Creek Steiglitz and Lower Stony Creek Reservoir so if you missed out last time you may be able to join us in February. We should be able to include the survey result in our next newsletter due out late January.



Back to Steiglitz Festival

The Back to Steiglitz Festival was held on 24 October this year. The Friends Group had a stall in a very prominent position with a wonderful display of wildflowers in pots and a great interpretation display, which attracted a lot of interest from passersby.

We had our usual merchandise of books, brochures and plants with a new addition, the BRNP Map. The map was a hit along with the plants that the Friends Group have grown this year. We (Judy, Vicky and I) had a steady flow of people looking at the display, asking questions, with a surprising number of people who couldn't resist a purchase.

To our surprise we made over \$600 that day. A special thanks to Andrew Carboon, Parks Victoria Field Service Officer, who assisted with transporting all the stuff to Steiglitz, helping us put up the marquee and I can't forget Ron Powers who dropped in to assist as well.

Helena Lindorff



For your diary! Join us

Saturday 11 December 7pm.
Special FoBR end of year BBQ and night walk at Mt Rothwell Biodiversity Interpretation Centre.

- 5 Mt Rothwell Road, Little River (off Little River - Ripley Road). See their website linked above for map and directions or Melways Key map page 11 - C10
- Meet us at the gates of Mt Rothwell at 7pm for BBQ first. Guided walk will commence when dark.
- BBQ provided. BYO salad or dessert to share.
- FoBR financial members free. Guests and new members welcome - \$20 adults and \$10 for children under 17.
- Note - it is necessary for everyone to remain quiet during the walk.
- Do you have any special dietary requirements?
- **Bring** - torches, cameras, binocs, wet weather gear, insect repellent, boots/long pants (grass seeds) and your own chair if you do not want to sit on logs
- Registration is important for catering etc **PLEASE** contact Judy on 0427 218 520 or jlocke@parks.vic.gov.au or Caz on 0418 125 836 or cazbarth@yahoo.com.au by **Thursday 9 December.**

Monday 13 December 9.30am-4pm
 Last Healthy Waterways Waterwatch Training session for 2010. at Altona. Bookings Essential: contact Sam Harrison – 0407 862 364
 Email sam.harrison@melbournewater.com.au

Sunday 13 February 2011
 first FoBR event for 2011 - WaterWatch monitoring at Sutherlands Creek Steiglitz and Lower Stony Creek Reservoir

Sunday 13 March 2011
 AGM and Koala research with Janine Duffy

Sunday 9 October 2011
Brisbane Ranges Wildflower Show
 See page 3 for how YOU can get involved.

Cathy's Column

I don't know about you but when a member of the public says something unkind about 'our Ranges', I get defensive. One day last spring, I was on an excursion with other flora enthusiasts and when we came to find a *Grevillea rosmarinifolia*, one of the members of our group said "That's only a hybrid". My hackles raised and I was going to rebuke him but then thought maybe I should find out more.

I attended the FJC Rogers Seminar (hosted by the Australian Plants Society Bairnsdale group) and the topic was Grevilleas & Hybrids. By the time the two days were finished, I was grevilleaed out.

Regardless, the one thing I did find out is that there is an immense amount of study being done with the *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* group and it appears that **the Brisbane Ranges form is unique.**

So much so that there is a good chance that it will be declared a species in its own right. For now, it is known as *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* ssp *glabella*.



The fun part of walking in the Ranges is finding different flora when least expecting it. One of the large swamps in the area has produced some fine plants and we were recently looking for a specific sun orchid.



Not finding it was a disappointment but finding an unexpected one was exhilarating.

The sun orchid is *Thelymitra peniculata* (Trim Sun Orchid). One of the distinguishing factors is the column arms which are curved upwards.



The other interesting plants are much smaller but no less difficult to find. One such is the *Lobelia pratoides* (Poison Lobelia) The flower is all of 8mm across.



The fire-break area parallel to Ballan Road continues to produce some beautiful flowering plants and we were able to enjoy the *Prasophyllum odoratum* (Scented Leek Orchid) amongst all the *Argentipallium obtusifolium* (Blunt Everlasting).



So much activity around the festive season can sometimes create stress and so I suggest – take a walk and enjoy our park. Happy Holidays!

Cathy Powers

Seasons Greetings

to you and your families
from the Friends

We hope you have a
wonderful festive
season and look
forward to seeing
you all in 2011.

We'll be back
In February and
hope to see you all
sharing our wonderful park!



Brisbane Ranges WILDFLOWER SHOW

SUNDAY 9 OCTOBER 2011

Planning is well underway

How can you help and be involved?

Promotion is important in lead up to the show and is NOW being planned. Vicky and Beverley are aiming to improve publicity coverage this year.

You may be able to assist with

- regular correspondence to local papers about Show plans
- hand delivery of posters/leaflets

Please contact Beverley at bevjp@westnet.com.au or Vicky at vicky.grosser@gmail.com to find out more and talk about whether you can help.

2011 events

If you have ideas of activities for FoBR for 2011 please [email](#) to let us know as we will soon be planning the program and we want the Friends activities to be relevant and of interest to all of you.

Membership Fees

These will be due in February 2011. Just \$11 for single and \$22 for family membership. New members welcome!

Ruth's photos see page1



Meet a Friend -

Although very well known in the group, this month we introduce you to the **Cook family** - Colin, Wendy, Owen and Kristen

"We joined the Friends group after moving to the area in 2001. Wendy and I had both visited the Brisbane Ranges during university excursions, but that was about the sum of our local experience.

Since then, we have been to most Friends activities, generally only missing out due to holidays (and other excuses like Kristen being born). Wendy and I have found an interesting outlet for our training in biology and agriculture and our love of the environment, and all 5 minutes from our door.

Owen and Kristen have been brought up on our outdoor ramblings and investigations and have turned out to be very good at spotting plants and fungi (maybe because they're closer to the ground?). Owen has also developed an intense dislike of thistles and will happily destroy any he finds. "Beware of small boys with mattocks!" has become a catchcry during any weeding activities.

Bringing up two active children and living on and maintaining a 300 acre property keeps us both busy, but we'll always find the time for the Friends group and outings in the Brisbane Ranges".

Colin, Wendy, Owen and Kristen Cook

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.

This 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.

Next newsletter - can we include YOU please?

Our new BRNP map

You can get your copy of the new map from FoBR through the Parks Victoria Bacchus Marsh office or contact Judy Locke on 0427 218 520 or jlocke@parks.vic.gov.au \$9.95.

The **Brisbane Ranges Wildflower book** is also available for purchase.

