

JUNE 2011

In this issue

- Good Frog Day!
- Waterwatch at Steiglitz
- Wildflower Show
- For Your Diary
- Natureshare and more
- Cathy's Column
- The latest news? Boxy
- FoBR Projects

Upcoming Events

Sunday 19 June

Re-aligning the Burchell Trail parallel to Switch Road instead of along the road, north of Stony Creek picnic area.

It will be an all day activity so lunch, water, warm clothes, gloves etc will be required along with your smile, binoculars and camera of course.

Meet 10am at the old Parks Vic depot, 2200 Ballan Rd Anakie

FoBR events usually run from 10am to 4pm-ish but if you can only attend the part of the day you are always welcome to join in for whatever amount of time you can.

More - Page 2

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FoBR Facebook



Good Frog Day!

What a day for ducks and frogs! Sunday 8 May attracted 22 people to attend the great Frog presentation by Ade Foster. Ade explained some of the differences between reptiles and amphibians and told us about the **ten** frogs and their sounds which we may find in the Brisbane Ranges.

Did you know that amphibians -

- shed soft skin every 7—10 days
- have tongue hinged at front
- must have water to breed
- native to Australia are all frogs [no toads].

Frogs seen or heard in Brissies

We added links to the www.frogs.org.au website field guides for each where you can hear calls.

- [Common Froglet](#) - calls day and night all year
- [Spotted Marsh Frog](#) - most seen frogs
- [Striped Marsh Frog](#) - long toes on back legs
- [Pobblebonk](#) - up to 30000 eggs. Can turn meat eater if not enough water and food
- [Southern Brown Tree Frog](#) - often seen in cymbidium orchids, dianella and potplants.
- [Verreaux Tree Frog](#) - only calls at night
- [Growling Grass Frogs](#) bask in sun - others don't
- [Common Spadefoot](#) Toad [is not a toad] buried underground and Ade has not seen it here
- [Victorian Smooth Froglet](#) - pink/black 'armpits'
- [Bibrans Toadlet](#) [is not a toad!] yellow 'armpits'

By the time we headed off to see what we could find around the swampy areas, it had started to drizzle - not so terrific for frog watchers! And even the frogs didn't seem so pleased and stayed a bit quiet.

On the way we saw some feral deer scats and a huge number of ant holes. Thank you Ade.

Special Koala sighted in the rain

On our way home Imelda spotted a Koala in the rain. A determined Bart got drenched getting some bad photos. When we looked at the pics later we were delighted to see an eartag and a special white mark above her nose - this really was a healthy looking Mumma K, a very special survivor of the 2006 bushfires. [pics and story!](#)

Caz Bartholomew

Waterwatch at Steiglitz

Following lunch under the veranda of the Steiglitz courthouse, sheltering from the rain, a number of us travelled to Sutherlands Creek to the permanent waterhole located along Deadmans Loop track. The site is rather picturesque with rocky cliffs and large rock pools fed by a gentle trickle upstream.



Instructed by Deirdre Murphy, Waterwatch coordinator for Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, samples were taken from the pools using fine mesh nets to capture small critters (macro invertebrates) and fish. We all joined in looking for small critters in amongst the weed and sediment of the water samples then tried to match them up with identification sheets. Hand microscopes were used to identify some of the critters, a fascinating experience was had by all!

The water quality is tested using these parameters; Water temperature, Dissolved oxygen, pH, Turbidity, Phosphorous, Nitrates and Macroinvertebrates

Macroinvertebrates are useful indicators of stream health because they occupy a central role in the food chains of aquatic systems, many live in the water for over a year, they cannot easily escape pollution (as some fish can, and they are sensitive to even quite mild pollutants or changes in water quality. The variety and number of macro-invertebrates found in a water body can be used to indicate pollution. (information sourced from Victorian Waterwatch www.vic.waterwatch.org.au)

Water sampling results were recorded by Deirdre who will report on her findings in future newsletter. If you wish to volunteer to monitor water quality in your local stream, please contact Deirdre Murphy at Deirdre.Murphy@ccma.vic.gov.au or 5232 9100 or visit the website for information. *Judy Locke*



Brisbane Ranges Wildflower Show

Showcasing Victoria's Wildflowers

wildflower displays • bus tours •
workshops environmental stalls •
photographic display bushwalking
• native plants • cards • books

Sunday October 9th
9.30am - 4.30pm

Anakie Hall, Staughton Vale Rd, Anakie

[http://home.vicnet.net.au/~fobr/
wildflowershow.html](http://home.vicnet.net.au/~fobr/wildflowershow.html)

2011 Wildflower Show Update -

The Committee is busy working on making it the best show yet -

Organising displays, plants, signage, workshops, merchandise, bus tours and publicity co-ordinators are finalising plans -

Can YOU please

- suggest ideas or places for us to promote the show?
- help deliver flyers in your area or at work?
- help with potting up plants etc?
- let us know if you see the show being publicised anywhere?
- provide some photos to show off our Brisbane Ranges at the display?
- provide vista images of the Brisbane Ranges that we can send to ABC TV for the weather report in lead up to the Show?

Please email us at friends_br@yahoo.com.au with ANY suggestions and offers of help with the preparations.

Later on we will be asking for volunteers for set up and help on Show day.

For your diary! Join us

- **Sunday 19 June**
FoBR monthly activity is an all day activity **re-aligning the Burchell Trail** parallel to Switch Road instead of along the road, north of Stony Creek picnic area.
- **Sunday 10 July**
FoBR monthly activity tba including plants for the Wildflower Show
- **Sunday 14 August -**
FoBR Annual General Meeting and activity tbc
- **Sunday 11 September -**
FoBR monthly activity tba including preparation for Wildflower Show
- **Sunday 9 October**
**Brisbane Ranges
Wildflower Show**
YOU can get involved see left for more details.

FoBR events

If you have ideas of activities for FoBR for this year please [email](#) to let us know as we want Friends activities to be relevant and of interest to all of you.

**We have left our plans a little flexible following the floods earlier this year as well as the need for lots of preparation for our best yet Wildflower Show in October.

World Environment Day Sunday 5 June

[Forests: Nature at your Service](#) -2011 theme



Although we did not have a FoBR event planned for this important day we would be interested to hear from you about how YOU spent the day. Did you manage to make a positive contribution?.

NatureShare

A new, free, web-based tool for individuals, groups and communities to upload observations, sightings, photos & species information, and everyone shares the knowledge across Victoria.

Everything you put into NatureShare (photos, locations, biological attributes) is shared in a real and functional way with everyone across Victoria.

NatureShare currently includes in its database all the plants, all the major animals groups and many insect groups known to occur in Victoria (currently over 8,500 species names) with many more to be added shortly (including more insect & invertebrate groups, fish and much more).

We have now set up collections for the Brisbane Ranges National Park and encourage you to add photos, observations, sightings etc.

We have just started so we need your input too please - just register and become a member of the collection. We will be linking to these from the website soon.

So far we have just started four collections — [Plants](#) (thanks to Chris Lindorff who has done most of the work)

These others need lots of work -
[Birds](#)
[Mammals](#)
[Reptiles and Amphibians](#)

FoBR Facebook

You can share photos, special sightings or any queries that you would like other people's opinions on such as the caterpillars and the "what is it?" from Cathy's column. If you want Caz to add any photos or comments etc please email them.

While some of our Friends are not on the FoBR Facebook page yet, we are delighted that we now have a new group of people interacting with FoBR and our national park, and 'liking' the page. This is also a great way to be involved if you cannot attend the FoBR events.

Welcome **Lachlan, Paul, Tim, Ruth, Alicia, Alex, Vanessa, Colleen and Ade.**

Have you checked out our redeveloped website?

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

It is an ongoing project so we are keen to hear from you about what YOU want included and if there is anything which is not clear or working well. Please email Caz at cazbarth@yahoo.com.au.

FoBR email address -

friends_br@yahoo.com.au if you have general or wildflower show enquiries.

Your involvement, comments and suggestions welcome!

Park News

There are still some closures and effects around the park since the floods earlier this year.

Check the Brisbane Ranges page of the [Parks Victoria web](#) for updates or contact Parks Victoria on 13 1963.

Cathy's Column

It never ceases to amaze me how often I find things once I stop to look. A couple of instances come immediately to mind. The first one was interesting because three of us were taking photos of a colony of *Diplodium (Pterostylis) striatum*. One member of our group mentioned that it would be great to find a double flowered plant (which incidentally is very unusual) and presto – there was one amongst the flowers we were photographing.



And while you are looking at the ground, enjoy the beautiful plants of the Sundew.



The winter flowering orchids are getting started with the Trim Greenhood (*Taurantha [Pterostylis] concinna*) colonies producing plenty of buds and even a few open flowers already. One of the key ID factors is the notched labellum as shown in the image below:



We also had a great time taking pictures of a large colony off Hut Road. This orchid is winter flowering and the flowering plants are different than the non-flowering plants. Now that sounds like a bold statement because even a non-botanist can figure out that the difference would be 'the flower presence'. However, the difference is more in the fact that the non-flowering plants form a ground-hugging leafy rosette and the flowering plant only has stem leaves with a single flower (usually). Its common name is Striped Greenhood.

When nature calls it may not always be at a convenient time but if you have to make a stop, I suggest you have a look around you. A friend of mine took a side trip and found a most unusual looking sun orchid earlier this month. It was not in the Brisbane Ranges but could just as likely be found there because it was found near Beaufort. A large amount of email discussion ensued but I think it is the Winter Sun Orchid – especially after having the chance to photograph it. I will be going back next year to have a look to see if it is a one-off.



It won't be long and the Honey-pots will be flowering. This is *Acrotriche serrulata* forms a small shrub and difficult to see flowers because they are so well hidden.



SOS!

Our Brisbane Ranges Wildflower Show is coming up on 9 October this year. So far I have had one offer of some images to put on display and am urging everyone with a camera to take photos and assist us with an image display for all who attend the event.

It does not have to be one of the over 600 species of wildflower we could find in the Ranges – it could be scenery



animals, birds, insects . . .



As long as it is relevant to the Brisbane Ranges, it will be perfect.

Now for a challenge & until next issue. Guess what this is:



Cathy Powers

Ed - Please do let Cathy know if you have images or are planning to have some for the Wildflower Show display as she wants to ensure a great showcase of the Brissies for the many visitors we expect. Send email to friends_br@yahoo.com.au so you are on the list.

Also we will add the 'what is it?' pic to Facebook so anyone interested can comment.

The latest news! or is it?

"On Saturday 21 April, a rare and often threatening species made a sudden appearance in the Park and surrounding districts. After careful observation a number of experts decided it could be what old timers knew as 'rain'. However, for confirmation, samples were sent off to various departments. The answer came back: it was identified as 'precipitation'? After further consultation Chris made an executive decision: It was Rain!

This decided, it was time to observe the effect the Rain had on the Park. After four days and approximately 200mm Anakie Gorge suffered the great impacts (as usual). The Rain, in its wisdom, decided that the position of two walking track bridges was inappropriate and repositioned them downstream along with numerous amounts of debris and granitic sands which once covered the walking track".

Hey what is this?

It is a quote from the May 2001 newsletter written by - you guessed it - **the one and only Boxy**. Just proves that nothing much has changed over ten years—has it Boxy?! Perhaps the beard is longer and bit greyer?

In June 2005 there was a similar story from Boxy following late February rains and he was pleased to add that he was "actually allowed out in the park to do some Work' - Anakie Gorge of course.

In about May 2007 he was sent off to Mansfield for a couple of months following bushfires - and he sent us his "mutterings" which included -

Hi y'all, ar wer just sitin here on tha porch wit ma jug a pondarin wetha to pik up ma banjo or ma wittlin stik wen ar startd to wunderin wot yoo loland folks wer a doin. I sed to ma dawg, dawg ar rekon ar mite rite them thar folks a letta sose thay no wots a happenin up here. It wer then ar rilyzed ar kaynt rite, so ifn this don't make eny sens y'all can blame tha dawg cos it wer her thut rit it"

He also sent us the two photos below to 'remind us of him!' The one and only Boxy humour and a great way with words. Boxy was our newsletter editor for some time and the newsletter is missing his special humour and personality.

Bit busy now as our Ranger in Charge? good on ya Boxy.



Yep that's me!!

The real Boxy?

Boxy's youth was spent growing up on farms in the Otways and at Cooriemungle and attending the Timboon school. "Not sure when he lived under a sheet of tin on the side of the road. Lucky Bastard" - this was a Monty Python type joke between Chris and Boxy.

The family moved to Belmont and Boxy later moved to Lethbridge then back to Belmont, Geelong.

His employment history included working as a green keeper and motorbike spare parts sales in Geelong. His Public Service employment history ; started with Lands Department at Meredith in 1987 working on pest plant removal.

Meredith office closed in early 1990's and he was transferred to National Parks (Conservation Forests & Lands Department) at Anakie depot as a Field Services Officer.



He was later successful in becoming a Ranger. Anakie depot closed and all staff transferred to Bacchus Marsh where he became a Ranger – Team Leader and eventually our Ranger in Charge as of early this May.

His passion for the Brisbane Ranges National Park is absolute, having learnt from Chris Worrall the importance of a healthy park with all its environmental and cultural values.

His skills in construction and engineering makes him a very practical bloke - the Anakie Scrubber, or the foot hygiene station, is an example of this along with his perseverance for perfection. The scrubber design is now sought after from other parks from within and outside the state.

Boxy's good nature and down to earth personality has earned him the respect of the local people around Anakie and the Brisbane Ranges – as Chris always said "listen to the local people as they are the eyes and ears of our park"!



And me lookin' for the Brissies!!

Boxy's passions/interests;

- The big gruff mean Blonde, well actually, his gentle Golden Retriever called Shyloh!
- Harley Davidson bikes – this one is so old it has to be kept under several blankets in the spare room.
- Miniature car/truck etc collectables – he literally has 1000's of them.
- Ford "Henry's" – 60's era with all the go fast decorations & adaptation's to look the "part"
- Dragstar pushbikes – yep he does 'em up and rides them around Geelong
- Pick up trucks – he has a big red one safely stored in his shed rarely seeing sunlight.
- Retro renovations – he is renovating his cream brick veneer house 1950-60's style – from light fittings to kitchenware
- Gardening; he ripped out the roses and lawn so he now have a extensive native garden with pools and running streams

So all in all, our Boxy, the ZZ Top look alike, is not the big tough bikie but instead a practical bloke with a great sense of humour, absolute passion for his Blonde and his park (in that order), extensive skills in construction and on ground works, ability to get along with just about anyone. He can generally turn any negative aspects in life into a positive.

Peter has recently proved his ability as a capable leader and manager of people and parks and been justly rewarded with promotion to an ICON senior Ranger in Charge position with Parks Victoria.



Ed - thank you to ALL the Friends who contributed to this profile of our RiC.

FoBR Projects

- CyberTracker
- Remote Cameras
- Sound recording devices and software to conduct bird monitoring.

If YOU would like more information or wish to be involved with these projects please contact Colin Cook on 5286 1252 or at colin.cook@dpi.vic.gov.au