

AUGUST 2011

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Upcoming Events

Sunday 14 August

Annual General Meeting,
Birds and Waterwatch

Meet at 10am at the
**Anakie Community
Centre**

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.

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.

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On a cold July Sunday ...

The activity for July was to continue removing the rusty wire from the old boundary fence between the Lower Stony Creek reservoir area and Switch road. The plan was to remove the fence and define a new walking track thus removing walkers off the road.

Well that was the plan....the weather was particularly nasty with very high winds combined with rain - not ideal conditions for working within the bush.

The Friends **are** a hardy group, the usual members turned up for a days work as they were not to be put off from attending an activity. We even had a brave new person join us. Hopefully Sally will know this is our normal activity and join us again when weather and activity is better.

The decision was unanimously made not to go bush due to the risk of falling dead trees and branches but instead enjoy a coffee and chat then get to work with some jobs around the depot garden and nursery.

The garden beds were weeded and trimmed and raked so it all looked tidy again.

Stock plants in the nursery area were weeded and set up on benches within the new possum-free caged area.



Lance, Colin and Paul attacked the weedy looking prunus tree squashed between the cage and fence - no mean feat as the tree was rather prickly and meant Lance had to squeeze in between fence and cage.

Following lunch and with the wind and rain still happening, everybody decided to call it a day. And a big thank you to all who turned up knowing that the days weather was going to be particularly nasty.

Judy Locke

August AGM, Birds and Waterwatch ...

Our AGM day on Sunday 14 August will be a special day including our guest speaker and afternoon out in the bush. **We would LOVE to see you all attend** - at the Anakie Community Centre in Anakie beginning with morning tea at 10am.

Birds in the morning after the AGM and WaterWatch in the Park in the afternoon.

Any queries please call Judy at 5366 0000 or email us at friends_br@yahoo.com.au

Birds of Brisbane Ranges - Grace Lewis
Grace has been researching and working on an annotated list including both recent and historical records of the birds of the Brisbane Ranges for more than a year.

WaterWatch at Sutherlands Creek in Steiglitz with Deirdre Murphy. WaterWatch surveying began in June 2010 and this will be the fifth survey in this area.

Bring your friends, family, lunch, warm clothes, camera, binoculars and plenty of smiles.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM is a **short** but important part of our next activity and we hope all our members and anyone else interested will join us.

We are hoping to get all the necessary formalities finalised quickly so

- we sent you the old rules last month and trust you have already let us know about any comments or queries by now.
- we will also send you the minutes of the last AGM and
- a copy of the Annual Report so you can read it before the AGM.

The agenda for the AGM will include a special resolution to update the rules of association in line with incorporated association official requirements.

As you will notice, our Annual Report this time actually covers 16 instead of 12 months so we can begin using a normal financial year ie July to June to simplify membership payments etc.

Office Bearers

Yes, we do need to hold the usual elections and this year we are looking for some new members to take on executive roles with their new fresh ideas - particularly as we will be celebrating our 30th birthday in 2012 and have a bright future ahead.

In last month's newsletter we gave you an indication of the roles and sort of responsibilities involved in each role.

Colin, Helena and Caz are still keen to be involved and happy to assist **you** in your new role as a new President, Secretary and Treasurer.

There are other roles available as well such as Ordinary Executive Members, Historian, Grants Officer or assisting with the website or newsletter.

Please contact Colin, Helena or Caz if you would like to discuss any issues at all or email friends_br@yahoo.com.au

Look forward to working with you.

Carole Bartholomew— FoBR Public Officer

For your diary! Join us

- **Sunday 14 August - FoBR Annual General Meeting**
a special day - see page 1
- Friday-Sunday 2-4 September - (Victorian Environment Friends Network) VEFN Biennial Conference
home.vicnet.net.au/~friends
- Saturday 3 September 9 to 4 - Australian native plant sale Berwick 5998 7608 Joy Buck
- Saturday/Sunday 10/11 September Australian Plants Expo Eltham
home.vicnet.net.au/~apsyarrayarra
- **Sunday 11 September - FoBR monthly activity** tba including preparation for Wildflower Show
- Saturday/Sunday 24 & 25 September Native Orchid Show Mt Waverley 9-4
www.anosvic.org.au
- **Sunday 9 October**

This should be our best Wildflower Show yet

Visitor numbers have been growing each time so we are expecting to set another record. The Committee and the Friends helping with preparations are working well - here's an update!

- Publicity will begin soon - **can YOU help us get flyers distributed?**
- Bus tour bookings can NOW be made online
- Plant cuttings for sale are growing well
- Workshops are organised
- Photos are being taken and mounted for the display - **perhaps you can get great shots of wildflowers coming out after the winter!**
- Anyone interested in helping please email friends_br@yahoo.com.au as your assistance will be valuable and most welcome.

ABC TV weather - We are hoping YOU can help us get some vista photos of the Brissies as backdrop images in September or early October.

The photographer needs to be on Flickr - <http://www.flickr.com/>

post photo/s to flickr with all permissions OK - needs to be large resolution

Once the photo is on flickr, you add the photo to the ABC_TV Weather Flickr Group and hope for the best. They need you to put in the description line that it can be used by them (even though if you submit it, you're of course saying this is fine). They also need to know where it was taken.

Unfortunately you can't dictate the timing - may take weeks to be used (if at all). An ABC photo moderators said that sometimes they pick them at the very last minute to go with the weather on the day eg snowing, etc!

What may help -

- the main focus of the photo can't be on the right hand side where Paul stands
- the photo of course has to be landscape orientation
- don't put a watermark or signature on the photo

We hope many photos will be sent - please let us know what YOU send!



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

Cash Sales Only - No EFTPOS
Entry: gold coin donation
Refreshments available at venue

For further information & online bus bookings visit
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~fobr/wildflowershow>

Phone: (03) 5368 0000 | Email: friends_br@yahoo.com.au
This is a family friendly but pet free event.



Cathy's Column

It is a time for hoodies, helmets and underground tunnels. Sounds like a war zone but instead it is really a description of our local environment.

So what constitutes a 'hoodie'? If we were going by the current trends, it would be a bit like this



The 'hoodies' I want to talk about are the 'greenhoods' that we can find flowering in the Ranges now. The Nodding Greenhood (*Pterostylis nutans*) is one of the most prolific greenhoods and usually flowers readily unlike some of the other winter flowering orchids.



At ground level, this greenhood orchid has a rosette of leaves from the first appearance of the plant and can be found in large colonies.

Because of the crinkled edges of the leaves, they often give the appearance of being serrated.



This is unlike the Maroonhood (*Pterostylis pedunculata*) which has smooth edges to the leaves and a much smaller flower.



Now on to helmets.



Helmet orchids get their common name due to the shape the dorsal sepal (**come to the workshop during the [Brisbane Ranges Wildflower Show](#) to learn what this is**) being in the shape of a helmet.

The leaf of the orchid is about the size of a 10 cent piece and hugs the ground. This orchid can form large colonies but most years the colony does not produce many flowers. Only in very wet, cool winters will the flowers appear in quantity. However, the flowers are very small and you have to look carefully.

Now for the tunnels. Did you realize that a huge amount of activity is going on beneath the soil as you read this? Yep, mycorrhizal fungi are searching for nutrients as we speak. It is interesting to note that most plants have a symbiotic relationship with this type of fungi and this is especially true in nutrient poor soils. When we finally see the fungi, it is the fruiting body that appears above the ground level.

Winter is a great time to enjoy fungi and lichen. Remember, not all fungi are at ground level so look up. The other thing to remember is that not all fungi are good like the mycorrhizal fungi which supply nutrients to other plants. Some can be detrimental because they are parasites like those 'woody pores' found on tree trunks.



Last, I want to tell you about my recent adventure. I travelled to visit my family in the USA (South Dakota to be precise).

With my sister, I hiked a bit in the Black Hills area and looked for orchids. I realize this might be a surprise to you but the best part of the story is two fold. One, we actually found a flowering terrestrial orchid (Spotted Coralroot).



Two, I did a presentation to the Sioux Falls Orchid group about our wonderful Brisbane Ranges (and the orchid I found in the Black Hills). They were enthralled and excited to see some of our fantastic flora and a bit of fauna to interest the animal lovers.

Oh yeah, the other thing South Dakota is known for (besides me) is carving things into granite.



Until next issue, enjoy the orchids and prepare to attend our Wildflower Show in October.

Cathy Powers

Other Parks, Other Places

Although we are keen for everyone to spend lots of time in our Brissies - we do understand that sometimes you may even head off somewhere else [like Cathy].

FoBR member Roger Curtain has been travelling to "Other Parks Other Places" and has prepared some information about the Kosciuszko National Park Lakes Walk which you may be interested in reading in case you are planning a holiday. We will add it to the FoBR Facebook Page. If you are unable to access it there we can email you a copy.