



Friends Activities

Finding gems - FoBRs history

Our Friends group was one of the early groups to be formed and over nearly 30 years some great projects have been carried out in the park and some amazing people have made dedicated contributions to the group over many years.

To celebrate those years and achievements and to recognise the people involved we are keen to complete our history in next few months. Some information was already collected before our 21st birthday. Thank you to those of you who helped with that as it has been a valuable starting point. Some of us are trying to collaborate on an online document in Google Docs which is a new learning curve for us.

We have added a special unlinked page to the FoBR website which will (hopefully) be regularly updated so you can see where we are up to. <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~fobr/fobrhhistory.html>

We are also hoping this will prompt you to send me some information or let me know you have some photos or hardcopies that may be able to be included. We are also keen for YOU to help us fill in the gaps, correct any errors or add any missing people etc PLEASE!

This needs to be a team effort - thank you!! Please call Caz 0418125836 or email cazbarth@yahoo.com.au with your contributions

Owen Cook's Report (with bits from Wendy and Colin)

The planned activity, Waterwatch at Sutherlands Creek, was cancelled due to overnight rain as the creek could be flowing over the path and the rocks would be slippery. So we did some tidying up and weeding around the depot. The depot looked much nicer after our work. After that we had lunch and then we went to Furze Track and parked the cars there and walked across the road to the former Barwon Water Land. We saw lots of brown butterflies. We scrubbed our boots at the boot scrubber and then went along the path to the right to chop down sallow wattle. We chopped down several hundred sallow wattles.

Because of recent heavy rain, we found some fungi in the area; Jelly Bells and Fairy Stools. Once we'd finished we walked back to the car park and observed hundreds of green and yellow beetles, swarming over vegetation.



Visitor information

FoBR and park Information is now available at Anakie Store. Thanks to Judy, Renee and the team, there is now some park information available for visitors in the front of the local store.

There are free park notes for Brisbane Ranges and our neighbours - the You Yangs and Serendip. FoBR items for sale include the Wildflower Book, the new map and other information booklets.

MARCH 2012

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Upcoming Events

Sunday 18 March 2012

FoBR activity -removal of pine wildings near Lease Road.

Reminder...

On days of **TOTAL FIRE BAN** there are no activities undertaken with the Friends of Brisbane Ranges. Stay cool and stay at home.

Friends of Brisbane Ranges inc

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[FoBR Facebook](#)

Friends Activities

Mammal Monitoring Programs

Colin Cook has been busy with the FoBR monitoring program and recently he submitted the annual report to the Animal Ethics Committee about activities conducted under our trapping permit. He reported on kangaroos, wallabies, deer, Brush Tailed Possums, rats, mice, foxes, birds and Brush-tailed Phascogales as well as the significant sighting of a wombat. Wombats had not been known to occur in the Brisbane Ranges, although they were probably here before European settlement. Their closest known record was at Lerderger State Park, so the sighting here represents a significant increase in their range.

The approval letter included *"The Committee compliments and congratulates the Friends of Brisbane Ranges inc, on the development of the camera box, the increased use of remote cameras and the excellent photographic results obtained"*. The camera box and the project are all Colin's work. The Mammal Survey Group (<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~msgv/>) has a few members interested in doing similar things and has asked for a copy of his design to pass on. Well done Colin.

Trevor Pescott has also been monitoring with three Geelong Field Naturalists Club cameras. There were photos of a Brush-tailed Phascogale, Common Brushtail Possums, Sugar Glider and Black Wallaby. An excellent result despite some black rats as well. I will add these sightings to our Natureshare collection too (see <http://natureshare.org.au/collection/113/>). Thank you for sharing this information and photos with us Trevor. Caz



Interior of camera box. The bait holder is at the left.



For your diary!

...Join us

- **Sunday 18 March**
FoBR activity - remove pine wildings near Lease Road
- **Sunday 15 April**
FoBR activity - Remove suckers along brick aqueduct
- **Sunday 13 May**
FoBR activity - Waterwatch Sutherland's Creek and reservoir. Planting and weed removal at Anakie Gorge
- **Sunday 17 June**
FoBR activity - Remove Clow Street fence and prune/replant fruit trees - Steiglitz
- **Sunday 8 July**
FoBR activity - Koala Survey with Janine Duffy
- **Sunday 12 August**
FoBR AGM and Waterwatch survey.

Great Ideas!

As you know we will be turning 30 years young on 3 October 2012. Any suggestions on great way for us to celebrate??? Could be a Saturday evening event or a Sunday day event - what do you think? Caz
email: cazbarth@yahoo.com.au

Revitalising FoBR?

Our insider (thank you Elspeth) attended a recent Landcare workshop to find out any secrets that we could use for revitalising our group. The gist of the workshop was that we need to be innovative and offer exciting and interesting activities. So - good timing we think - do the words "innovative," "exciting" and "interesting" bring to mind any activities that YOU would like to see FoBR get involved with and YOU are keen to do?
All ideas very welcome

Cathy's Column: Dry and Drier

My goodness it is dry. I think that our area is drier than when we were in 'drought'. Having said that, almost every eucalypt has put on a lot of new growth and some have flowered to the point of being a bouquet.



Yellow Gum



Messmate Stringybark

This must mean that the rain from last year found its way deeper into the soil.

What this dry has not been good for is kicking off the autumn orchid season. If the promised moisture comes, we can expect to find a variety of orchids in March and April. The first to appear, often in the same area, will be:



real flower size



Eriochilus cucullatus (Parson's Bands)

This orchid has a leaf that is incompletely developed at flowering time and becomes

apparent only after the flower is forming the ovary. The leaf will continue to develop even after the flower stem has dried off. It can have 1 to 5 flowers but most common is a single flower on the end of a shortish stem.

and



real flower size



Corunastylis ciliata (Fringed Midge Orchid)

This orchid has a solitary thin leaf which is often withered at flowering time. The flowering spike occurs at the top of the stem and flower numbers can be 1 to 15.

When conditions are right, these two orchid species can be found in fairly large colonies, usually in winter damp depressions. At times when it is dry – they can be difficult to find because of their small size and ability to blend with the other plants (even the white flowers of the Parson's Bands)

The other orchid to be on the lookout for is



real flower size



Chiloglottis reflexa (Autumn Bird Orchid)

This orchid can be found in more sheltered areas (often beneath bracken on east facing slopes) and has the typical 'bird orchid' dark green elliptical leaves. Flower numbers are enhanced by summer fires but if you search around in their preferred habitat, you will most likely find a flower or two.

I am saddened to report that my little grebes were unsuccessful in producing young. One day all was fine and the next the nest was missing completely. At first I could not find the second bird but eventually they both showed up. Perhaps next season.

I have been routinely doing some moth photography near my home and the results have been very interesting. I am now wondering if it is better not to know what there is or better to know what is around but not know what it is. And I thought orchid identification was challenging. I'll share some and urge you to visit NatureShare if you are interested in seeing further additions. You might even know what they are and can add to the information available. <http://natureshare.org.au/collection/112/>



Sceliodes cordalis



Chlorocoma dichloraria

And my favourite of the last evening – only because it is in flight and in focus



No ID yet

OK, so I obviously need to get a life and certainly sleep. Regardless, if you have a white cloth, bright lights and a camera, you can do this yourself. Beware, it can be addictive.

Hoping for rain and spare time – until next time, find your hobby and share with friends.
Cathy