



## What's happening at the Lower Stony Creek dam?

As of end March, Barwon Water is now releasing water from the Lower Stony Creek dam to perform maintenance works on the dam infrastructure. Up to now the flow is not excessive but all the crossings up to the dam wall are covered with water. Parks Victoria has temporarily re-routed the Burchell trail away from the reservoir and closed Anakie gorge walk from Stony creek picnic area to where the Ted Errey Walk meets the walk.

- The Lower Stony Creek Reservoir and surrounding areas are now closed until further notice due to maintenance works. Some sections of Anakie Gorge Walk, Ted Errey Nature Circuit and the Burchell Trail will also be closed at various times. Detours will be in place so visitors can continue to walk the Burchell Trail.
- The Nelsons Track section of the Ted Errey Nature Circuit is closed until further notice.
- Anakie Gorge Walk is currently closed between Anakie Gorge Picnic Ground and Stony Creek Picnic Ground

Updates concerning walking tracks are listed on the Parks Victoria website <http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/parks/brisbane-ranges-national-park>

## Autumn Grass Tree Monitoring Project

This Autumn, the Friends group will be monitoring grass tree in the Brisbane Ranges. Roles and responsibilities for this activity will be provided at the Anakie Depot office at 10am on Sunday 15th April. Data gathered by the Friends will be used by VNPA's (Victoria National Parks Association) to monitor the Grass Tree populations in Brisbane Ranges. We hope to see you there.

### Did you know?

- Monitoring the health of Austral Grass-trees in the Brissies began back in the 1960's, had a rest for many years and then started again in 2007.
- The disease affecting them is called *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (previously called Cinnamon Fungus) or root rot or jarrah dieback.
- This serious disease attacks plant roots causing 'dieback' usually leading to the death of plants.
- The iconic Austral Grass-tree is thought to be endangered in the Brisbane Ranges
- **Hygiene** is one of our best ways to minimise the spread - clean boots and gear with a 70% methylated spirits solution before and after walking in park
- Encourage the public to use the hygiene stations (affectionately known as the Anakie Scrubbers) and always keep to tracks



APRIL 2012

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### Upcoming Events

Sunday 15 April 2012

Grass tree monitoring and  
Remove suckers along brick aquaduct. Bring your gardening gloves

Sunday 13 May 2012

Waterwatch Sutherland's Creek and reservoir.  
and  
Planting and weed removal at Anakie Gorge

Special mention:  
Sunday 29th April 2012  
You Yang's Boneseed Blitz

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Anakie VIC 3221

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

[FoBR Facebook](#)

## Looking for Fairy Waxflowers



Photo Walmer South conservation Reserve <http://bronsilver.wordpress.com/>

There is a research project being undertaken at Melbourne University, conducting a population genetic study on the 'Fairy Waxflower' *Philothea verrucosa* across South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania. Researchers have travelled to the Brisbane Ranges on several occasions, looking for this plant and have only found it growing on one roadside cutting - a very small population.

FoBR members will be familiar with the flower in the brochures:

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~fobr/wildflowershow09.pdf>  
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~fobr/brochure2010.pdf>

Are there Friends that might have some information about any other places where this plant occurs in the Ranges? If you have information to share, please contact [w.neal@student.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:w.neal@student.unimelb.edu.au)

## Mammal monitoring

We are monitoring some of the Brissie Ranges with a temporary mammal trapping program. We have just checked out the Nelsons and Miners Track areas

There were 18 traps out for three nights and although 5 house mice found their way into the traps, they were outnumbered by a total of nine Agile Antechinus. The trapping and monitoring will continue after Easter so here's hoping the native animals are in abundance.



Photo Mel Williams

## Brisbane Ranges LandCare Group



Ranger in Charge, Peter Box, will be talking to the Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group about Great Parks in our area. We know how wonderful the Brissies are, but how much do we know about other parks in the Moorabool area including Werribee Gorge, Lerderderg, and Long Forest Nature reserves?

The meeting will be held 7-30pm Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at Balliang Hall. The BRLG are a very friendly crew and would happily welcome along some of the Friends of the Brisbane Ranges.

Photo: Boxy with his PV colleagues

## FoBR History

Thank you to Nola Haines, Judith Lewis and Chris Worrall for contributing to our history document.

This is a photo of one of the early FoBR events but bit hard to recognise anyone - do YOU know anyone in this photo?

We are well into the year now so PLEASE send Caz [caz-barth@yahoo.com.au](mailto:caz-barth@yahoo.com.au) anything you have to contribute to this important document.



## For your diary!

### ...Join us

#### •Sunday 15 April

FoBR activity - Grass Tree Monitoring and 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.

### On Notice!

FoBR will be celebrating our 30th birthday in October so you will be hearing more about how we plan to celebrate this occasion.

### Remote Monitoring Cameras

FoBR is investigating the purchase of a few cameras for our monitoring purposes. If members are interested in buying their own cameras please let us know at [friends\\_br@yahoo.com.au](mailto:friends_br@yahoo.com.au) in case we can arrange a discount. We can then contact you with more information about what is available.

### Its a Boneseed Blitz!

As you may already know, the beautiful You Yangs flora and fauna are at risk from the inundation of Boneseed. Be part of the solution and get into some serious gardening! Register your interest and fill out the form on page 4

**A warm welcome** to our newest friends. Imelda Bourke of Staughton Vale and Helen Schofield of Geelong West have been attending our events and so it is great to now officially welcome them as Friends. New FoBR members are welcome please see our website -

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~fobr/membership.html> for all the details

# Cathy's Column: Murphy's Law

Last year I decided it would be appropriate to try and grow terrestrial orchids for the Wildflower Show in 2013. I attended a session, while in Adelaide, to learn how the 'expert' does it and took fastidious notes. My next step was to purchase orchid tubers from the ANOS tuber bank which I have access to because I am a member

Orchid tubers come in a variety of different shapes and sizes. They can be pea size, round and small. They can be elongated, almost like a miniature white carrot or they can be as big as a sweet potato.



I read through my notes, created the mix and put the newly owned tubers in their respective pots (with a label as directed by the expert). I brought them out of their summer resting room in early March so that the moisture from the sky to get them started. All this seemed fairly straight forward. If the truth be known, I did this in part because I wanted to prove to my partner that his way could be improved on. He also purchased some tubers and proceeded to treat them the same way he has all the others from previous years.

I tell this to you because Mr Murphy has stepped in to put me in my place (wherever that may be). I now feel like the little boy in the TV commercial who plants an avocado seed and checks it every day. He eventually gives up and goes to the store to buy avocados. I may be borrowing my partner's orchids. His have come up already and I am still checking every day for some green leaf in ANY of the 12 or so pots. Did I fail to follow instructions – no, it is just Murphy's Law.

Speaking of orchids, the *Pterostylis revoluta* are flowering at the moment. We have a patch up the hill (quite a ways) from our place and we check on them every year. To date there are a number of buds showing above ground and a few in flower. They grow in the worst possible soil, if you can be generous and call it soil, but don't seem to mind it.

This orchid is one of the greenhoods that either produces a flower or forms a leafy rosette. The five cent piece gives you an idea of size when looking for the rosette. They can be found in large colonies but rarely more than one flower per stem.



*Pterostylis revoluta* flower

Prostanthera, commonly known as Mint-bush, are plants with beautiful flowers. In spring, we have a chance to see and enjoy two species that are found in our Ranges. The plant family, *Lamiaceae*, has about 90 species and all are endemic to Australia. The word prostanthera is derived from Greek which refers to an appendage (within each flower there is a small spur-like appendage on the anther).



*Prostanthera decussata* (Dense Mint Bush)

The other species is *Prostanthera nivea* which can be a much larger bush and has white flowers. I have grown this from cuttings (taken from the original plant on our property) and as long as you are willing to prune, it can make a great garden plant. Even though the flowering season is spring, I have seen *P. nivea* flower this time of the year as well.



I can't help but share some pictures of my new friends. I have put quite a few up on NatureShare but in case you haven't taken the opportunity to have a look, here are a few of the dynamic critters that come out at night.



*Anthela nicothoe*    *Acontia nivipicta*

Now the really interesting thing about the *A nivipicta* is that according to the literature it is found in the top 2/3 of Australia. I had an email discussion with Peter Marriott (moth expert from the Museum) and he said that after protracted drought periods, there seems to be a larger than normal movement of moth species.



*Cosmodes elegans*

Apart from the beautiful Green Blotched Moth (*C elegans*), the next exciting find was two of the *Earias* species.



*Earias huegeliana*    *Earias paralella*

The *E huegeliana* (common name Rough Bollworm) larva occurs on Malvaceae plants which includes cotton. This makes it a pest for the cotton industry in the northern part of Australia. In the Ranges, we have one member of the Malvaceae family (*Gynatrix pulchella* – the Hemp Bush). I have two *Alyogyne* species (both in the Malvaceae family) in my garden and I think the presence of this moth indicates a reason why most of the leaves on one of the bushes disappeared.

One thing about a new hobby, it does not stop with interesting photos if you want to learn about your subjects. Trying to identify moths leads to knowledge about the interaction between plants and insects – something we tend to forget when we are smelling the flowers (unless a native bee flies up your nose).

So I have set you a challenge – look for orchids and get ready for spring all the while staying up late to find moths. Have a good time!

Cathy



# YOU YANGS 'BONESEED BLITZ'

Lend a hand to conserve the land

29<sup>th</sup> April 2012 @ 10am

You Yangs Regional Park

- \* Be part of a fun day at the You Yangs
- \* Sausage sizzle provided
- \* Everyone welcome

For more information please call David 0418 562435  
or Nicole 0434 832391

Email: [friendsoftheyouyangs@hotmail.com](mailto:friendsoftheyouyangs@hotmail.com)

## 2012 You Yangs 'Boneseed Blitz' Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Group Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

No. of participants \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to –

Post: You Yangs Regional Park, PO Box 131, Lara VIC 3212

Email: [friendsoftheyouyangs@hotmail.com](mailto:friendsoftheyouyangs@hotmail.com)

Fax: 03 5282 4627

