



## A Lovely Day in the Gorge!

This month saw the Friends of Brisbane Ranges (FoBR) group enthusiastically taking on the weeds in the Anakie Gorge, after Judy had ensured we were aware of the safety guidelines of course!

We were pleased to have two new members of the group join us for this action, and I hope I didn't chase them away when I asked them for a comment for this newsletter piece:-

*Cathy: "I had a good time and enjoyed myself, including the beautiful weather today."*

*Bruce: "It was a very positive experience and great weather for my first day. It was good to meet new people, and I look forward to learning more about bush plants."*

Carolyn popped up now and then with her camera to record the work and Owen and Wendy seemed to avoid her! The photos with this article will indicate if they were successful!

Above us the magnificent 500 million year old rock formations reminded me of the awesome history of

this beautiful land we are so fortunate to live on and do our bit to care for. There was measured excitement when Wendy called us all over to see some interesting marks in a piece of shale (my limited rock identification skills in action!) Did Wendy find an ancient tree fossil? Keep an eye out in future FoBR newsletters for any reports - secretly I think it was an ancient sea dinosaur type creature, but Wendy is more practical and thinks it may be a tree root.

As you know from our emailed invitation, Uncle David Tournier: Cultural Education Officer at the 'Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative' will be coming to the FoBR AGM on 12th August to tell us about the land, bush tucker and other local information. He developed a wonderful new website with members of the 'Geelong One Fire Reconciliation Group' which was launched for national Reconciliation Week this year in Geelong. So you might like to look at the website and see some great information about Djillong (Wathaurong pronunciation of 'Geelong'), which means 'tongue of land' - [www.djillong.net.au](http://www.djillong.net.au)

Vicky Grosser



Photos on this page taken while at the FoBR weeding activity at Anakie gorge: Top photo: the kids were using different stones to make various colours. Bottom photos: Lunchtime socialising after weeding work.

## AUGUST 2012

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### Upcoming Events

Sunday 12 Aug 2012

AGM and a presentation by Uncle David Tournier.

This special event to be held at the Anakie Community House, 2115 Ballan Road, Anakie.

To assist with planning please RSVP by Thursday 9 August to [friends\\_br@yahoo.com.au](mailto:friends_br@yahoo.com.au)

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# Be part of an exciting year

We may be 30 years old but there are many exciting years ahead.

Last year we were delighted to have some newer members agree to be part of our Executive team and it has been most successful. Thank you all very much! So again this year we wish to encourage YOU to get involved in the executive and help take a vibrant FoBR into the next stage. All current officer bearers would be pleased to move to new FoBR challenges, and we are keen enough to keep involved and provide plenty of support if needed.

***In case you are a little bit interested but unsure of what is involved please give Caz a call or send an email so we can discuss options.***

Here is a summary of what **may** be involved in FoBR roles however these roles and tasks can be amended to fit needs and talents of a new executive team. For example YOU may be interested in looking after Membership or Grants or one of our monitoring programs! Some roles are able to be managed by members who live further away while others are easier to handle locally.

## **President**

Main spokesperson and advocate for the group. Ensure that new members at events are welcomed. Prepares Annual Report with contributions from other executives. Good understanding of FoBR projects and responsibility for grant management and reporting.

## **Vice President (if appropriate)**

Assists the President where required, especially with preparation of the Annual Report or other responsibilities such as grants and monitoring projects.

## **Secretary/Public Officer**

Some correspondence - mostly welcoming new members. Lodges annual statements to Consumer Affairs. Agendas and minutes of AGM and exec meetings. Maintains membership database with Treasurer.

## **Treasurer**

Responsible for managing FoBR finances, lodges the annual BAS statement, produces the End of Financial Year Report for the annual report, manages membership payments and maintains the FoBR Membership Database with Secretary.

## **Two Executive Members**

Support of executive team with tasks eg. letters, grants, newsletter distribution, annual report contribution. Excellent way to contribute! May deputise for office bearers particularly if interested in taking on roles in future.

Although not generally part of the AGM elections there are additional roles which are very important to FoBR – so if you are interested in volunteering or just discussing any of these please contact us.

## **Newsletter Editor**

*Collect content and prepare monthly newsletter in Microsoft Publisher and distribute. Deirdre Murphy is doing a wonderful job and has agreed to continue for another year. She may need an assistant if you are interested.*

**Additional roles could be – grants, membership, project co-ordinators – Waterwatch, Grass tree or Mammal monitoring. Please let us know if you are interested!!**

## **Wildflower Show Coordinator**

Coordinates the Wildflower Show Committee and the delivery of the show. *The next show planned for October 2013: The aim is to have more committee members/volunteers so we can break down the responsibilities to ensure that each person is not too busy – perhaps secretary, PR/promotion, promotional material, plant display, bus tours, merchandise, catering etc. so an opportunity for all.*

Please contact Caz if you would like to discuss any issues at all or email [friends\\_br@yahoo.com.au](mailto:friends_br@yahoo.com.au). Look forward to working with you. Caz Bartholomew

## **Membership Fees**

Membership fees for the 2012/2013 financial year are now due and you should have received a reminder email. The fees are again being kept at a low \$11 for individuals and \$22 for family membership.

We are hoping everyone will pay their fees soon as it provides us with valuable support and enables FoBR to plan projects and activities for the year. We are also keen to keep everyone involved.

We welcome new members so please encourage anyone who may be interested.

## **New native seed website**

A great website has been set up by Libby and Steve to sell the seed collected at their Seed Production Area (SPA) near Daylesford <http://www.victoriannativeseed.com.au/>

## **A warm welcome**

Welcome to our newest members Neville, Bronwyn, Daniel and James Warfe from Steiglitz. We are delighted to welcome another family to FoBR!

# For your diary!

## **•Sunday 12 August**

AGM and a presentation by Uncle David Tournier.

Everyone is invited to this special day with Uncle David Tournier at the Anakie Community House, 2115 Ballan Road, Anakie.

10am FoBR AGM and morning tea – all FoBRs please attend.

11am Uncle David will join us and show us local artefacts, talk about language and share how the local Aboriginal people lived and used the bushland, including food and animals. A wonderful opportunity!

Uncle David Tournier is the Cultural Educational Officer at the Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative and many of you may have met him when he welcomed us to country and was a highlight of our Wildflower Show last year. Uncle David has also helped create an interesting new website [djillong.net.au](http://djillong.net.au) and provided much of the content

BYO lunch etc as usual and if weather permits Uncle David will join us as we head out to Stony Creek Picnic Ground for lunch and more activities!

**This is an event open to all so don't miss this special opportunity and invite your friends and associates who may be interested.**

So we can cater for morning tea and be prepared, this time we are asking everyone to **please RSVP by Thursday 9 August** to [friends\\_br@yahoo.com.au](mailto:friends_br@yahoo.com.au)

## **•Sunday 9 September**

FoBR activity to be announced

## **•Sunday 14 October**

Back to Steiglitz festival - FoBR stall and activity including Wildflower Walk

## **•Saturday 10 November afternoon and evening**

FoBR 30th birthday celebrations (date and time to be confirmed) back where FoBR began in Steiglitz. Presentation, guided tour, afternoon tea, bbq and more. Hoping to have ALL founding/ previous

# Thanks Friends!

It is time to report to members how the Friends group have been active in the past 12 months. President Caz Bartholomew will prepare an Annual Report and will present the group's on-ground actions at the AGM (Sun 12th August). Thanks to all the FoBR who have taken part in this year's activities such as walks, the Wildflower Show, weed removal, Waterwatching and grass tree monitoring - just to name a few

# Swamp Wallaby

The Swamp Wallaby (*Wallabia bicolor*) is a member of the Macropod family. However, it is so different from other wallabies that it is the only living member of its genus. Other common names include Black Wallaby, Black-tailed Wallaby, Fern Wallaby, Black Pademelon and Stinker.

It is widely distributed along the eastern coast of Australia. It lives in thick undergrowth in forest, woodland and heath and prefers dense vegetation for shelter, so is often found along creeklines. It eats both pasture and shrub species, with a preference for the coarse browse of shrubs and bushes rather than grass. They can be pests in pine plantations because they like to eat the bark of young seedlings. Fungi also play an important part in its diet, probably as an important source of nitrogen and phosphorous.

It is more diurnal than most members of its family, but is a solitary animal. It can give birth at any time of year but prefers spring-summer in the southern part of its range. In prime habitat they can have small home ranges, not moving more than 500m. It is abundant over most of its range, with the main threats being predation by dingos and dogs and, of course, roads. Colin Cook

## The Swamp Wallaby FAQs

*Are you getting many wallabies on cameras?*

Occasionally seen on remote cameras sniffing at the bait. They also seem attracted by the red light on the front of the camera, which has resulted in lots of out-of-focus close ups of wallaby faces.

*Is there a large population in Brissies?*

They are frequently seen along the roadside at dusk, especially during dry times when there is some green feed at the road edge. They are often disturbed if you walk along creek edges or wherever there is thick vegetation. Little is known of the exact numbers

*What is the difference between wallabies and kangas?*

The Eastern Grey Kangaroos we get in the Brisbane Ranges tend to hang around in family mobs, whereas the wallabies are solitary. The roos are also more mobile. Swamp Wallabies tend to be a bit more curious and will watch you intently if you are near.

*Is Swamp Wallaby the official name?*

Museum of Victoria and Australian Museum use Swamp Wallaby. Australian Faunal Directory also uses Swamp Wallaby.



*Are Swamp Wallabies the same as Black Wallabies in the species list for the Brisbane Ranges ?*

Could just be local preference to call it Black Wallaby. Got to be better than "Stinker" (Qld and NSW)!

*When are they most active and when can we see them?*

Watch for them crossing roads at dawn and dusk. Drawing on personal experience, they tend to be less flighty than the roos and don't cross the road right in front of you as much. If anyone wants to do some monitoring, I'm sure a roadkill survey would provide some useful (if gruesome) statistics.

*Is the wallaby in the photo male or female?*

Apparently from this picture, it is hard to tell. Two "experts" have been consulted but have disagreed; one thought female and the other said male due to size of forearms. Any thoughts?

Young wallaby finishing a park neighbour's broccoli. As seen here, wallabies often hold food in their front paws. This image was captured on Scoutguard, the remote sensing camera, during the night, early winter.





# BACK TO STEIGLITZ FESTIVAL

Held every 2 years - Next festival:  
14th October 2012  
10am –3pm

An old fashioned family fun day with many activities & displays such as:

- Kids activities,
- Barbeque,
- Devonshire Tea,
- Steiglitz Historical Society Display
- Historical Buildings open to public
- Blacksmithing demonstrations
- Lace making demonstrations
- Gold panning
- Market stalls
- Cake Stalls
- Stationary Engines
- Billy Cart Races - Entry forms available on our website  
[www.trueblueford.com/steiglitz](http://www.trueblueford.com/steiglitz)

Entry to the festival is free!

Though some events are via gold coin donation



Healthy Parks  
Healthy People



## Fledglings and Nestlings

Even though this information panel originates in the United States, there information is still relevant for our wildlife in Australia

### Found an uninjured nestling? Can't reach the nest? Just make one.

Baby birds sometimes fall out of their nest.  
If you can't reach their old one, make a new one!



### Easy ways to keep baby birds with mom

- Nestlings are not fully feathered and still have bald patches.
- If you need to, simply make a new nest, drilling holes in the bottom to let rain water drain. Line with pine straw or other natural fibers (NEVER USE PAPER PRODUCTS).
- Hang it as close as you can to the original nest.
- Mom will care for her young in a make-shift nest.

If the baby truly needs rehabilitation or you have questions about your specific situation, contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator who can legally and properly help the baby

Please **SHARE** this important information!

[www.nc-claws.org](http://www.nc-claws.org)

Courtesy of CLAWS, Inc. and PAWS, Inc.

## Shale sculpture

On page 1, Vicki Grosser commented on an interesting rock formation that may be a fossil relic. Carolyn Edwards photographed it (right). Fossil expert Catherine Murphy (12 years old) has suggested it may be a yet unnamed creature rarely seen in the Brisbane Ranges and has given an artist's impression of it (far right).

What do you think it was? Let me know what name you can come up with for this ground breaking discovery  
Editor

