



## Celebrate FoBR's 30th birthday - Saturday 10 November from 3:30pm

With our founding members, members who have moved away over the years, past and present park rangers and all the rest of us - we are looking forward to a great afternoon and evening. *[We would like the same weather we had for the Back to Steiglitz if anyone can arrange it for us please!]*.

Starting with afternoon tea, socialising and more ... we are hoping to celebrate into the evening with a BBQ and possibly even an evening walk if weather is right! We will be awarding honorary memberships to four special members as well as spending some time with the unique duo - Col Smithyman and Chris Worrall.

**Please RSVP** as we wish to provide afternoon tea. Please BYO everything for later - nibbles, drinks and BBQ as per the invitation!

If you or someone you know would like to attend but needs some help please let us know at [friends\\_br@yahoo.com.au](mailto:friends_br@yahoo.com.au) or call Caz on 0418 125 836. Wheelchair access to the church has recently been improved

Please pass on our invitation to anyone you know who has been involved with us over the past 30 years.

### FoBR Honorary Members

Our FoBR Honorary members are special members who have been recognised as making outstanding contributions to the group and our park. They are -

- Tom Burchell
- Cyril and Betty Curtain
- Harry Dunn
- Nola Haines
- Judith and Lance Lewis
- Chris Worrall
- Clive and Merle Trigg

We will recognise another four wonderful members to this list to celebrate our 30th birthday!

## NOVEMBER 2012

### In this issue

- Birthday invitation
- Honorary Members
- Back to Steiglitz
- For Your Diary
- Cathy's Column
- Vale Betty Curtain
- First 30 years ...
- Monitoring activities

### Upcoming Events

**Saturday 10 Nov 2012  
From 3:30pm**

FoBR 30th birthday celebrations back where FoBR began in Steiglitz.

presentation,  
guided tour,  
afternoon tea,  
bbq and more.

Hoping to have ALL founding & previous members attend at least part of this special occasion.

**Saturday 8 Dec 2012  
Evening Soiree**

End of Year celebration at Serendip Sanctuary

**Friends of Brisbane Ranges inc**  
C/- Post Office  
Anakie VIC 3221

Ph: 5366 0000

FoBR email [friends\\_br@yahoo.com.au](mailto:friends_br@yahoo.com.au)

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

FoBR Facebook

ABN: 30 120 139 564 Reg No. A0032647M

## Invitation

Please join us in celebrating  
FoBR's 30th birthday

**Saturday 10 November 2012  
from 3.30pm**

at the historic Church of England,  
Regent Street, Steiglitz

Celebrate this special occasion, catchup with old Friends, and meet new ones.

Everyone is welcome to come for the full event or pop in for whatever time you can - but **please do join us!**

- Afternoon tea and meet the friends
- Honorary Members presentation
- Talk with Col Smithyman and Chris Worrall.... and guided walk around Steiglitz
- BBQ dinner (BYO meat, plate of salad/dessert to share, drinks, folding chair)

We are hoping to celebrate with all members and rangers who have been part of FoBR's 30 years. If you have any queries please contact us and **please RSVP** by Thursday 8 November to [friends\\_br@yahoo.com.au](mailto:friends_br@yahoo.com.au)



# Back to Steiglitz Festival: A perfect day

Friends of Brisbane Ranges was again happy to support the Back to Steiglitz festival which is held biannually in the year that we do not hold our Wildflower Show.

For those who have not visited Steiglitz, it was once a busy goldmining town which, during its boom periods in the 1860s and 1890s, had more than 1500 residents, four hotels and a variety of shops. Today, with approx six residents, the town consists of one hotel - now a residence, three privately owned cottages and two churches, one cottage and courthouse as part of the Steiglitz Historical Park.

On Sunday 14th October, the old town became alive with visitors and locals as they joined in the festival and had some good old fashioned fun whilst participating in the many activities and historical displays. The Back to Steiglitz day was originally a yearly event, happening for 50 plus years where locals and descendants of the early miners were invited for a tea and scones afternoon get-together. The festival grew from this reunion day to a family fun day promoted to encourage visitors into the town.

All profit is returned to the Park thus making a valuable contribution into the maintenance of the public buildings.

The weather was kind to the organisers with a brilliant sunny day - just perfect for activities such as gold panning, billycart races and the FoBR wildflower walk as well as for participating in the many market and homemade cake stalls. The billycart race is one of the highlights of the day, with young and old having a go on their flash looking homemade billycarts. Suggs cottage, the only remaining restored miners cottage, was host to some old fashioned home made food goodies and lace making. Both churches were filled with historical photographs and documents along with many mining artefacts. There were demonstrations on rope making, blacksmithing, sheep shearing and a sweat producing competition for the fastest person to dig a section of road gutter down to the original sandstone drain.

The day was a great success, all due to the hard work put in by volunteers from the Back to Steiglitz group, the Steiglitz Historical Society and Friends of Brisbane Ranges.

Judy Locke

The enthusiastic FoBR team started earlier than normal loading up the vehicles and heading off to Steiglitz to get organised. **"Wow is the weather really this beautiful"?**

Throughout the day there was a constant flow of happy visitors to the Festival and many interested in the information about our park and our plants.

Judy, Marilyn, Barbara, Cathy, Bruce, Bart and Caz spent the full day and were joined by Elspeth and Kathy Burman as well. We took turns to go and check out the

Festival displays, activities and of course the variety of food and coffee. Our bargain plants, wildflower books and others sold well and the FoBR stall managed to raise \$481 on the day!

The wildflower walk was a great success with some special spider orchids being found unexpectedly which even surprised Cathy - our orchid guru. No-one was keen to finish so the one-hour walk took a lot longer.

*Read Cathy's column page 3 for more.*

## For your diary!

- **Saturday 10 November afternoon and evening**  
FoBR 30th birthday celebrations back where FoBR began in Steiglitz. Presentation, guided tour, afternoon tea, bbq and more. Hoping to have ALL founding/ previous members attend at least part of this special occasion.
- **Saturday 8 December evening soiree**  
Celebrate the end of a busy year with Friends at Serendip Sanctuary, Lara. Details to follow soon, but mark it in your diary now.

### Can you help?

With our birthday celebrations on Sat 10 Nov there are a few behind the scenes jobs to be done – so if you wish to help it would be great (please let Caz know). Some jobs could be -

- setup up for our 30<sup>th</sup> – marquee, tables, afternoon tea, bbq etc,
- stay for pack up afterwards – most will help with this
- displays of photos for 30<sup>th</sup>
- and more



## Cathy's Column In the Eyes of the Beholder

I always marvel when walking in our Ranges with people who are not overly familiar with our biodiversity (both flora & fauna). By taking a step back and viewing the beauty as seen through their eyes, it reminds me fairly quickly how lucky we are to have such a unique place to enjoy and protect.

Recently Judy Locke and I went with a group of people on a walk near the Boardman Reserve (during the Back to Steiglitz Festival). It was great fun and very interesting to watch the members of the walking group select plants for a closer look.

Typically, orchids were front runners. We found quite a few with the help of many –



*Thelymitra antennifera* (Rabbit-ears)

The common name comes from the appendages on top of the column (middle part of the flower) that are supposed to look like a rabbit.



As we walked along looking at the wonderful palette of colour provided by the 'pea family', we also encountered the *Calochilus campestris* (Copper Beard Orchid)

The stand-out feature of this orchid is in the top half of the labellum. This area is very difficult to see and I highly recommend using your camera to appreciate the beautiful purple coloured plates rather than touching the orchid. Like most soft plants, bending it can cause damage to the flow of moisture to the top of the plant and it never recovers from this damage.



The other thing about touching orchids is the theory that touching orchids causes you to leave an odour that attracts herbivores such as rabbits and wallabies. The end result of this could be an eaten orchid and a loss of the plant's ability to reproduce through seed.

The other orchids we found were: *Caladenia carnea*, *Caladenia transitoria*, *Caladenia tentaculata*, *Diuris orientis*, *Glossodia major* and hints of more to come.

We used the photos from our 2011 Wildflower show in a display that was appreciated by many visitors to the Festival. There were many compliments for the quality of images and all who provided these should be proud of their contributions and photographic skills. These also helped to show some of the visitors an image of what they might have already found during their visits to our area or potential plant purchasers what to expect from the more mature plant they just bought. The popularity of the photographic exhibit in 2011 was proof that we should do something similar in 2013 so I urge you all to get your camera warmed up and your shoes on. Head to the park during this Spring and Summer because we are having a great year for wildflowers and it is an opportunity not to be lost. We have a meeting for the 2013 Wildflower committee coming up soon and I will be recommending the use of photos again – but new ones!



Unusual natural hybrid  
*Diuris chryseopsis* X *Diuris orientis* (I think)

If you become bored with our wonderful area, there is a good spot to visit not too far from our Ranges. This is Bungala State Forest near Ballan. I have been going there a couple of times over the past few weeks and it has some great wildflowers as well as quite a few orchid species, one of which is the hybrid pictured above. The biodiversity is not as extensive but it is worth a visit to explore and it appears that the season is a few weeks later than in the Brisbane Ranges (perhaps due to the cooler climate). Sad to note, an unfortunate part of the State Park is the lack of care by motorcycle riders, horse riders and rubbish dumpers. All I can say is, thank goodness our Park has a very active Friends group as well as Parks Vic involvement to assist in mitigating damage caused by inconsiderate users.

My other hobby continues unabated and the other night there were 12 Emperor Gum-moths on my sheet. Things got fairly crowded because when they arrive, each individual flops around (scientific term for not sitting still) for a few minutes before deciding to quieten down. I can see my tree leaves diminishing as I type because the beautiful mature green caterpillar is a voracious consumer of eucalypt leaves.

The most recent beauty I photographed is



The *Iropoca rotundata* (one of the Tussock Moths)

My partner, who sleeps through these late night photographic sessions) suggested that it was of an American Indian descent because it has a headdress with feathers and all. I was going to wait until the female arrived so I could compare the size and antennae. This would have been a long wait since the female has only vestigial wings, is about 2cm in length and is described as looking like a big hairy ant. When the female emerges from the pupa, she has a very large abdomen full of eggs ready to lay and is often not particular where (even using the old cocoon).

Well, so much for the day and night adventures of the trepid photographer and enjoyer of nature. Just before I close I should mention that Stage 2 of the Australian Garden located at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne is now open. What a fabulous place to spend a day!

Cathy Powers

## The first 30 years ...

The Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) in conjunction with the Geelong Environment Council and the Geelong Field Naturalists' Club, sponsored the formation of the Friends of Brisbane Ranges. In doing so, the eleventh Friends Group was formed.

An inaugural meeting was held at the Steiglitz Courthouse on the 3 October 1982, and the first Friends activity was carried out. Since this memorable moment, the Friends of Brisbane Ranges have shaped an important relationship with locals and Parks Victoria.

Friends have conducted and assisted with numerous park activities, developed life-long friendships among members, educated, researched, built, cleaned, and recorded many aspects of the National Park.



*A history booklet is being prepared as a celebration and thank you to the many Friends who have made tremendous contributions to the group and to the Brisbane Ranges National Park over the past 30 years.*

*Photo below was taken at our 25th birthday!*

## Did You Know?

Consultation on the *draft Victorian Waterway Management Strategy* is underway

DSE is currently updating the *Victorian River Health Strategy* (2002) to provide a single framework for the management of rivers, estuaries and wetlands across Victoria.

The *draft Victorian Waterway Management Strategy* was released for a six-week public consultation period. The draft Strategy, and accompanying summary document, can now be downloaded from the [DSE website](#).

Free public information sessions are being held across Victoria. Join in and have your say. To book a session in your area go to the website <http://draftvwmspublic.eventbrite.com.au/> or you can contact Dr Amber Clarke (Manager - Waterway Policy and Strategy) for further information on (03) 9637 8568 or email [amber.clarke@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:amber.clarke@dse.vic.gov.au)

### Vale Betty Curtain

Betty Curtain and her family were FoBR "originals". She was a quiet reserved lady with a smile, quiet intelligence and support for her family, with enthusiasm for projects and days in the bush, and always happy to see all of the Friends.

Betty and Cyril made a significant contribution to FoBR and were awarded with Honorary Membership many years ago.

Betty had been ill for some time and died on 9 October. Our kind thoughts are with her family and we look forward to seeing Cyril and Roger back with us soon.

## Monitoring Programs

### September Waterwatch Monitoring

I think I can safely say that splendid day was had by all, with results to match!

The weather looked threatening at times, but the rain held off, and we even saw the sun several times!

The monitoring took place at Sutherlands Creek, in the picturesque gorge where time seems to stand still. Results showed a waterway in good shape; pH, Dissolved Oxygen, and Turbidity were all excellent, with Electrical Conductivity and Reactive Phosphorus fair.

The macro-invertebrates sampled were abundant and diverse, again indicating a healthy waterway. Among those sampled, we came across various dragonflies, beetles, bugs, worms and snails. An interesting resident of the creek that we found was the Water Scorpion. It is a large long legged bug, which uses "snorkel tail" for breathing. It looks a lot like a stick insect, so is well camouflaged.

Sher Swinden

