



DECEMBER 2012

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## Upcoming Events

**Saturday 8 Dec 2012**  
**- Evening Soiree**

End of Year celebration at Serendip Sanctuary, Windermere Road, Lara

Please Meet at **6pm** at front gate [or call Judy on 0439 067 141 as gate will then be locked]

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Anakie VIC 3221

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## Great 30th Birthday Celebrations!

Wonderful weather and a great day of celebrations

The highlights of the day included all our very special attendees, the chance to surprise four very worthy Honorary Members and the Col and Chris show! Everywhere we looked there were smiles and lots of laughs all day.

We were delighted to see the "originals" and many who have supported FoBR for lots of years - particularly Geoff Durham, Nola Haines, Judith and Lance Lewis, Cyril and Roger Curtain, Harry Dunn, Pat Cooper, Gwen McDowall, Bernie Fox and Sue Hayman-Fox.

Guests also included John Miller (right in photo above) who was the first Ranger-in-Charge to work closely with FoBR as well as the legendary Chris Worrall, Stuart Willsher who left us for the Bellarine but often comes back with support, our RIC Peter Box and his lovely Blonde [dog that is], Scott Nicolson [a brand new Dad] and our special Friend Judy Locke who provided such wonderful help with the event (as usual).

## Honorary Memberships

As agreed at our AGM earlier this year, we awarded four honorary memberships to special members who have made wonderful contributions to the group. We welcome them to our amazing group of honorary members -

- **Geoff Durham** who has been supportive from before we began and still maintains a special interest in FoBR

- **Bernie Fox** and **Sue Hayman-Fox** (below) who made a great contribution as office bearers and although they now live in Northern Victoria they still provide valuable support.

- **Roger Curtain** began with his family and has been regularly attending and helping with all the jobs in the park ever since.

Thank you to Cathy Powers and Judy Locke for the great photos for the awards!

## FoBRs First 30 Years Booklet

was launched but unfortunately technology went haywire and printer problems prevented us from handing out copies on the day. Thank you to all of those who contributed - much of the content was collected before our 21<sup>st</sup>. We hope it brings back some memories that all our members can enjoy and there are not too many errors.

## Chris and Col

Chris Worrall (our RIC for much of FoBRs life and our Friend) joined with Col Smithyman (our Character from Steiglitz) to give us plenty of laughs (below) while sharing anecdotes about the Friends and people in the park. Col guided us around Steiglitz - along the old roads, past the first FoBR project, and finished up in the pub [no beer]. Most of us then topped our great day with a BBQ. See more pics on page 4



# FoBR - The first 30 years ....

The history booklet is a free pdf download for everyone from the website.

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

We would like to keep it up to date if possible so welcome your comments, additions and corrections where appropriate.

To keep the size downloadable we are not including any additional photos in the document but will be progressively adding more online photos - so keep an eye on the website.

If required we can send out a printed copy to our financial members so please email [friends\\_br@yahoo.com.au](mailto:friends_br@yahoo.com.au) or let us know.



## Been to Serendip lately?

### How well do you know our local open-range sanctuary in Lara?

Serendip is a favourite place for some of us and now all FoBR members get a special opportunity to take an evening visit .... and finish our FoBR year with a great BBQ, walks and good company <http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/parks/serendip-wetlands-education-facility>

Serendip is an excellent example of the open grassy woodlands and wetlands of the volcanic Western Plains and the perfect place to learn about and experience birdlife and wetlands ecology. The rain this year filled the lake which had been empty for many years and the wildlife have been enjoying it immensely.

See some of the 150 species of birds which breed at or visit Serendip. Brolgas, Australian Bustards and Magpie Geese were part of the captivity breeding programs to reintroduce these birds to the area.

The Wildlife Walk is a popular walk offering close encounters with wildlife. Meander past emus and Eastern Grey Kangaroos to the viewing areas, hides and flight aviaries perfect for bird watching. You may be treated to Brolgas trumpeting, Whistling Kites soaring high overhead, magnificent Yellow-billed Spoonbills wading through the shallow water, or even a glimpse of a well hidden Tawny Frogmouth as it watches you pass by.

## For your diary!

### • Saturday 8 December evening at Serendip

Meet at front gate at 6pm (special access) and join us for our evening end-of-year get-together at Serendip Sanctuary, Windermere Road, Lara. Gate will be locked after we enter so please be there at 6pm (or call Judy 0439 067 141)

We will walk and use the Sanctuary BBQ area so bring everything including your special BBQ food, plates/cutlery/glasses, a salad or dessert to share, drinks, etc. Suggest you also pack your camera, binocs, insect repellent & folding chair.

Sausages, hamburgers (meat and vege) bread, tea/coffee & cordial provided so **PLEASE RSVP**. FoBR financial members - FREE. Non members welcome \$10 each [Hint hint - membership is just \$11 single & \$22 family]

### • Sunday 10 February Kicking off 2013

Our first FoBR event for 2013 – more details to come

### • Here is a quick glimpse at the planned activities for 2013 - all are subject to confirmation

- \* Quarterly Waterwatch
- \* Phytophthora monitoring
- \* Monitoring projects and talks – mammals, birds and reptiles
- \* Koala talk and guided walk
- \* Plant propagation at Anakie
- \* Barrier plantings at Anakie Gorge picnic ground
- \* Acacia longifolia removal
- \* Sucker removal – aqueduct Lower Stony Creek
- \* Boneseed removal – Lower Stony Creek
- \* Weed removal along aqueduct upstream from the storage tank /Anakie basin
- \* Evening walks/talks
- \* Watsonia removal – Ballan road fire-break and Marshalls road
- \* Burchell trail – check accessibility and orange triangle track markers
- \* Weed removal – Anakie Gorge and Stony Creek walk
- \* Replant Steiglitz orchard with heritage fruit trees (combined project with Back to Steiglitz group)
- \* Check walking trails/management vehicle tracks off South Steiglitz road
- \* Guest speakers for geological and gold mining history walks
- \* Remove barb wire Lower Stony Creek

## A warm welcome to our newest members

**Kathy Burman** from Werribee, **Robert Wood** from Geelong and **Bruce Guy** also from Geelong.

We are delighted to have you as members of FoBR. Thank you for already getting involved and helping out. We hope you continue to enjoy the activities and involvement.

We also welcome the **Haih/Wilde family** from Geelong – **Andrea, Michael, Jack, Jordan and Anji**. Andrea is studying and is keen to do some volunteering.



## Did You Know?

### Good news for our native vegetation and wildlife!

Grow West has received funding from the Australian Government's Clean Energy Future - Biodiversity Fund to create a biolink between Werribee Gorge State Park and Brisbane Ranges National Park and eligible landowners in the area are encouraged to apply for financial assistance through this Fund. See website for details -<http://www.growwest.com.au/> and then for more information about the Biodiversity Fund contact Helena Lindorff on 0437 195 511 or email:[helena.lindorff@ppwcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:helena.lindorff@ppwcma.vic.gov.au)

### Congratulations!

Our Ranger Scott Nicolson has been keeping alert for THE phone call for some time ... and yes we are now pleased to announce that he and Kelly are very proud parents of Layla Evelyn Nicholson who according to Dad – “ is pretty cute like her Mum”. They are all doing well but we wonder just how their much-loved dog Nelson will feel about the new addition and all the attention SHE will steal from him!



### Chilean Needle Grass

Two small populations of Chilean Needle-grass (one of the dreaded Nassella species, a weed of national significance) have recently been located on the Staughton Vale - Balliang Road.

Both populations are marked with pink tape so they could be seen as you drive by but they have to be removed very soon before seed set so may be gone by time you read this.

It appears that although this weed is well established at near-by locations such as Melton and Moorabool, it is yet to get a hold in the Anakie-Balliang area.

FoBR member Mark Trengove identified it and has been showing locals how to positively identify the species and how to differentiate between it and the similar native species. If you wish to know more or think you may have seen this weed please contact Mark at [mtrengove@pipeline.com.au](mailto:mtrengove@pipeline.com.au)

## Fire Danger Days

Please note that if the FoBR event day is declared a Total Fire Ban Day, the FoBR activity will be cancelled.

This is in line with Parks Victoria's Emergency Management guidelines where on days of extreme or severe fire weather conditions, park visitors will be strongly advised not to enter the park.

On days deemed “Code Red”, under the National Fire Rating System and issued by the Bureau of Meteorology, all of Parks Victoria's estate will be closed to public access.

### If you see .....

Anything strange or suspicious around the park, particularly during the coming bushfire season, please do not approach the people directly but call **000** if there is an emergency or Parks Victoria on **13 1963**.

## Sick or Dead Native Wildlife

**Sick or injured wildlife** - Please call a voluntary wildlife rescue body such as our local BADGAR **1300 223427**, Wildlife Victoria **1300 094535** or your local wildlife shelter for advice. Please add these numbers to your phone.

**Dead wildlife** - If you see dead wildlife from free ranging populations of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, the Melbourne Uni's Werribee-based Wildlife Health Surveillance Victoria investigates reports of sick & dead wildlife to understand baseline health, detect changes & identify risk factors. You can call Pam Whiteley 0400 119 301 or email [pamw@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:pamw@unimelb.edu.au) or get more information and fill in form at <http://www.vet.unimelb.edu.au/wildlifehealthsurveillancevic/survey.html>

Photos on page 4

*Bernie's award, our first sign, Chris, Lance and photo albums, Steiglitz with Col, Sue's award, Roger's award, Steiglitz walk, happy 30th, Geoff's award, presentations.*



## Seasons Greetings to you all

FoBR will go a bit quiet after our end-of-year event at Serendip on Saturday 8 December and begin again with enthusiasm with our February newsletter and our first event on Sunday 10 February.

Thank you all for your support and involvement during 2012 – we hope to see you all enjoy another year with us in 2013.

We hope for an uneventful and safe summer in and around our bush for people, plants, animals and our native wildlife.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year holiday period with family and friends.

# 30th Birthday Celebrations



Blackbutt  
Blackbutt is a tall, straight tree that grows in the Blackbutt Forest in the Brisbane Ranges National Park. It is a member of the Myrtaceae family and is one of the most common trees in the forest.



Five 100th age  
members  
from Brisbane



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