



Brisbane Ranges Friends News

Friends of
Brisbane Ranges

March in the Depot

One month later than originally planned, the group pounced on the Anakie Depot garden and surrounds for a big clean up for the year. Regular workers who have been doing such things for more than 30 years – Judith and Lance Lewis and Geoff Durham led the assault! Gardens were weeded and watered, plants were sorted, repotted and planted, paths were swept and everyone keenly made the place look much tidier! After lunch a walk was suggested but the team got straight back into finishing the job instead.

New look -

Since this get-together, Parks Victoria has received a preliminary report on the condition of the buildings and potential hazards to ensure all comply with current OH&S standards and the buildings will soon be getting some attention.

The report indicated the presence of lead paint and they are still checking for possible asbestos. Lead paint has been confirmed on some of the external surfaces and the good



news is the buildings will now be cleaned up, made secure using a base coat, and then finished with a new top coat.

In the meantime - no children may enter the depot grounds and everyone is to avoid entering any buildings, including the toilets, until the check for asbestos has been completed.

We can use all outside areas such as the garden areas and hothouse! More info and a new brighter depot soon

Our FoBR

Following our Wildflower Show last year, this year has started rather slowly, particularly with our February event cancelled due to weather. We are all relieved to be able to say we have escaped the hot summer and the grass and bushfire threat again this year although everyone, everything and all the wildlife are very keen for some much needed rain.

In the next few months we will be continuing our important monitoring of the Phytophthora cinnamomi in our grasstrees with the Victorian National Parks Association and they will also be under-taking further monitoring in our park as well. Quarterly Waterwatch program will continue and a small group of Friends are becoming quite expert at this now.

Before long we will be facing the end of another financial year and will be planning for new activities and priorities for the coming year. It is already time to start thinking about our FoBR and how we want it to continue into the next few years.

We always have wonderful support on the weekend of our Wildflower Show and everyone makes a great contribution to its success. On the other hand we often have just a small group of people who attend monthly events with many members not able or interested in attending regularly.

Unfortunately, due mostly to family commitments, I miss many events however I have been able to do some of the behind-the-scenes jobs which are always a requirement in an incorporated association. After three years in the role of President of FoBR, I will finish up in August. One of my aims was to increase membership amongst our local park neighbours however I am sorry to say this has not been the case YET and I do not know why. I am sure they love their Brissies! In fact more of our active members now live some distance from the area.

I would also like to see more new people become involved in the organisation of the group – with fresh ideas and enthusiasm. I will be happy to assist the new committee which will be voted in at the AGM in August so I encourage you all to have a think about taking on a role. FoBR cannot continue as an incorporated association without a President, Secretary and Treasurer and a couple of committee members to manage the group. If there is a full committee and the responsibilities are shared, it is a great job and the commitment is not onerous. Please talk to me if you would like to chat about it and we will be including more information in the next few newsletters.

Caz Bartholomew



APRIL 2014

In this issue

- March in the Depot
- Our FoBR
- For Your Diary

Upcoming Event

Sunday 13 April

Phytophthora monitoring of our iconic grass trees at Switch Rd-VNPA Naturewatch and FoBR followed by walk in the park

FoBR Membership Fees

Annual fees \$11 for single and \$22 for families are due
Pay straight into FoBR bank account - BSB: 633-000
A/c No. 115314882

Friends of Brisbane Ranges inc
C/- Post Office
Anakie VIC 3213

Ph: 5366 0000

FoBR email friends_br@yahoo.com.au

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[FoBR Facebook](#)

ABN: 30 120 139 564 Reg No. A0032647M



“Volunteers Wanted” to prepare You Yangs for Arts Walk

In preparation for the launch of the M~M 2014, district coordinator Sue Hartigan is creating an ephemeral walking circle at Big Rock in the You Yangs. The walking circle, marked with fallen timber and ochre to create a border, will be based on a modified labyrinth design and created with minimal impact on site. To construct this installation, organisers would appreciate the assistance of community members on **25 April 2014 from 10am until 1pm on Big Rock.**

Volunteers need to wear boots, sensible clothing, a hat and bring gloves and a water bottle. Organisers will provide refreshments, sunscreen and first aid. While children are welcome to attend, they must be fully supervised at all times. If you can help please contact Sue on 0411 743 325 or email bluesheep@netspace.net.au



For your diary! Join us

Sunday 13 April

Phytophthora monitoring of our iconic grass trees at Switch Rd- VNPA Naturewatch and FoBR followed by walk in the park

Saturday 10 May

For the adventurous - a special opportunity to visit the newest part of the park near Little River Gorge OR Walk in search of any wombat evidence - along Anakie Gorge and aqueduct south of Switch Road, enjoy the bush and remove weeds we find along the way!

Sunday 15 June

Slate quarries with geological expert Gold mining history walk and walk trails off South Steiglitz Road looking for heritage remnants

Sunday 13 July

Combine with Back to Steiglitz to replant orchard with heritage fruit trees.

Sunday 10 August – AGM

Annual General Meeting, Waterwatch and weed removal or special event.

Sunday 14 September

Watsonia removal at Ballan Road firebreak and a check for early wildflowers

Saturday 11 October

Phytophthora monitoring of our iconic grass trees - VNPA Naturewatch and FoBR and wildflower walk

Sunday 9 November

Phytophthora monitoring of our iconic grass trees at Switch Rd- VNPA Naturewatch and FoBR followed by Waterwatch

Saturday 6 or 13 December

evening end of year event venue tba

Also at a date to be announced monitoring mammals and/or reptiles with Colin Cook – can be midweek if you are interested – please let us know your thoughts at friends_br@yahoo.com.au

Your articles: We would love to publish your stories of bushwalking in the Brissies. In last month's newsletter Wendy Cook provided a marvelously descriptive piece on a walk she did with Vicki Grosser in the north of the park. Send in your contributions to friends_br@yahoo.com.au The Editor

Whats On?

Photo Competition—Get snapping!

The Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority has launched a photo competition seeking great images of the natural environment in this region. They are encouraging entries that feature a favourite location or how the many residents and visitors in the region spend time enjoying the natural environment. All ages and experiences are eligible to enter and there is **\$1,100 in prize money**. To obtain further information, including the terms and conditions, visit www.ppwcm.vic.gov.au. Entries close Wednesday 30 April 2014

5th Victorian Weeds Conference -

Invasive Plants and Animals – Contrasts and Connections
Tuesday-Thursday 13-15 May 2014 at Mercure Hotel, Geelong. <http://www.wsvic.org.au/node/97>

WMCN birding events –

20 Apr Sun 9:15am - 3:00pm [Bird Survey at Mt Rothwell](#)
6 May Tue 8:30am - 3:00pm [Birding at Brisbane Ranges](#)
18 May Sun 9:15am - 3:15pm [Bird Survey Pinkerton and Eynesbury](#)

Special opportunity!

Saturday 10 May

An invitation for FoBRs to check out our newest bit of the the Brissies thanks to Trish Edwards and Mark Trengove.

You can join us to see this new section of the park that is otherwise difficult to access - note the terrain is a bit challenging including parts with no tracks.

Approx 20 hectares backing on to the Little River Gorge has been given to the BRNP and this will be a great opportunity for us to access it through private land.