



Brisbane Ranges Friends News



Grasstree Monitoring

Our last activity started with a small group of FoBRs gathering at the Anakie Depot to pick up the gear left in the hothouse. Due to the buildings being off-limits, we stood around outside waiting for any late arrivals and made sure no-one nibbled on the paintwork out of boredom while waiting.

We headed off to Switch Rd, with the monitoring site being on a ridge at the top of the road leading up from the Stony Creek Picnic Area. This was one of Gretna Weste's original monitoring sites from the 1960s. Dr. Weste established long term monitoring sites in the BRNP in 1968 and published many papers on the impact of PC, both on vegetation and dependent fauna.

Once at the site, Carolyn, Bruce, Barbara, Wendy, Owen, Kristen and myself soon located the 4 quadrats. Splitting into two teams, we set up the measuring tapes and got to work. Because of the large number of healthy Xanthorrhoea plants and the occasional unhealthy one, there was a liberal use of the metho spray to clean our boots before entering the quadrats.

Soon, calls of measurements began bouncing back and forth, as well as the common description of "healthy". Each team finished a quadrat before breaking for lunch and some warm drinks.

Revitalised, we returned to measure and assess the final two quadrats, with only the occasional interruption to look at fungi which had appeared since the recent rain.

We soon finished the quadrats and, after some QC checking by Carolyn and some retaking of photos, we packed up and headed off.

It will be interesting to see the next NatureWatch report on this project so we can see what changes have been happening over time.



Photos and text—Colin Cook

MAY 2014

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Upcoming Events

Saturday 10th May— A special invitation to FoBR to check out our newest bit of the Brissies backing on to the Little River Gorge.

Meet at 10am at the intersection of Staughton Vale/ Murphy's Road

Saturday 17 May - Parks Victoria's special Regional Volunteer Recognition Event

Lunch 11am to 3pm Steiglitz

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

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FoBR email friends_br@yahoo.com.au

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[FoBR Facebook](#)

ABN: 30 120 139 564 Reg No. A0032647M

Saturday 10 May - walk the Little River Gorge



Note that some parts of the terrain are challenging, including steep slopes and trackless areas. Strong footwear and outdoor clothing is advised particularly now that we have finally had some rain.

There will be soft options available for those who prefer to avoid the difficult parts of the walk.

FoBR has invited the Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group to join us on this exploration of the new part of the park. Meet at 10am at the intersection of Staughton Vale/Murphy's Road in the area which locals call "the triangle". The walk will take 2-3 hours.

Bring your thermos etc and we will have a cuppa, check out a special tree and chat before heading off.

Sat 17 May Regional Volunteer Recognition Event

You are ALL invited to this special lunch event **acknowledging outstanding voluntary contributions to the Victorian parks system.**

It is special to be recognised by Parks Victoria and it would be great if there was a good attendance from FoBR ... so hope you can all make it.

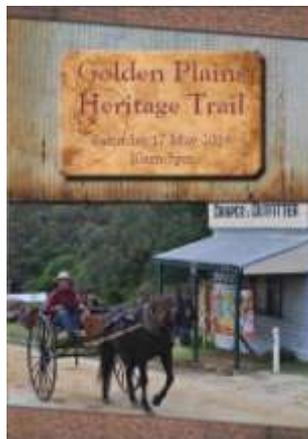
Please RSVP to Scottie for catering purposes. It will be a big day in Steiglitz!

Golden Plains Heritage Trail Sat 17 May 2014 - 10am to 3pm

Steiglitz is a must-see on the [Golden Plains Heritage Trail](#) which showcases Stories of our Hidden Gems on a trail through the Golden Plains region

Located in and around Main St, activities will include an historic display at St. Paul's Church, the historic Scotts Hotel Bar will be open for viewing, and the Courthouse will display memorabilia.

Steiglitz Historical Society members will be on hand to assist and answer any questions. Visit the website for more details. • <http://www.backtosteiglitz.org.au/heritage-steiglitz>



What else is on?

M~M2014 Geelong's 24hr extreme arts walk 9th-10th May -

Choose to walk 3km or 80km and learn about the region on the way. Starts late afternoon at You Yangs Big Rock and finishes late afternoon at the mouth of the Barwon River, Barwon Heads. Find out more about the M~M 2014 and to register, visit www.geelongaustralia.com.au/mtom

WMCN birding events –
Tuesday 6 May 8:30am - 3:00pm

[Birding at Brisbane Ranges](#)

18 May Sun 9:15am - 3:15pm [Bird Survey Pinkerton and Eynesbury](#)

5th Victorian Weeds Conference -
Invasive Plants and Animals – Contrasts and Connections.
Tues-Thurs 13th-15th May 2014 at the Mercure Hotel, Geelong.
<http://www.wsvic.org.au/node/97>

And the latest news regarding the Anakie Depot from Judy Locke...

As of 1 May buildings can now be used ie toilets, lunchroom, storeroom and offices.

For your diary! Join us

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

Saturday 17 May

Parks Victoria's special Regional Volunteer Recognition Event

Lunch 11am to 3pm at Bert Boardmans Recreation area Steiglitz. RSVP by Friday 12 May to scott.nicholson@parks.vic.gov.au. All FoBR invited!!

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

Event updates

If we ever need to change or cancel an event due to weather or other reasons we will try to post update on our Facebook page.

This will be visible to everyone from our website home page -

so if in doubt please check <http://fobr.org.au/> before heading out