

OCT 2014

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Upcoming Events

Sunday 12 Oct, 10am at Steiglitz

FoBR will have a stall at the Back to Steiglitz Festival, running from 10 AM to 3 PM. Volunteers needed to man the stall for an hour session. Email friends_br@yahoo.com.au if able to help.

FoBR Membership Fees

Annual fees \$11 for single and \$22 for families are due
Pay straight into FoBR bank account - BSB: 633-000
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ABN: 30 120 139 564 Reg No. A0032647M



Weed and Weed

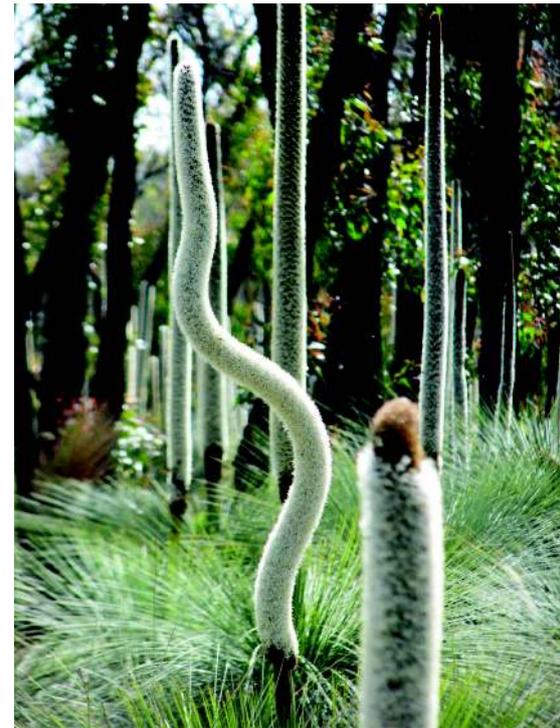
Our last activity is a story of weeding in two parts. The first part took place at the depot, where a determined posse of FoBRs gathered to do battle with the persistent sorrel in the depot flower beds. While this was being dispatched, others organised materials and plants for the Back to Steiglitz Festival to be held on October 12th (in case we haven't told you enough times already). Some of us gave in to our mechanical desires and rejuvenated the large trolley on wheels; with air in it's tyres and a liberal dose of WD-40, it was finally able to roll again and we got it out of the way. Next job, Boxy's caravan!

After lunch and a cuppa, we headed up the road to the start of Triggs Track. We were on the lookout for any remaining Sallow Wattle seedlings which we did, unfortunately, find. The good news is that the weeding we have done in the past has certainly reduced the number of seedlings present. It didn't take very long before we ran out of seedlings or more mature plants to knock off. We have a couple of other areas to check but this is one of the success stories; a good group effort and persistent follow up will likely see the end of this invasive menace.

Next FoBR Meeting

Meet at Steiglitz at 10am on Sunday 12th October.

The morning activity: We will be setting up our stall from 9 AM, located near the Church of England. Help needed at setup time if you can get there and also to man the stall during the day.



Afternoon activity: all available hands to help pack up at 3 PM. Take lunch and a camera. See <http://www.backtosteiglitz.org.au/festival> for a full listing of events and activities.

Future activities

We are currently planning a list of activities for next year. If you have any suggestions for activities or other projects, please let us know.



Invites

Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

Thursday 16th October 7:30 PM at Balliang Hall

Diana Kuchinke is a PhD candidate from Federation University (Ballarat), researching the impacts of time-since-fire and fire frequency on the woodland birds of western Victoria - from Linton in the west to Creswick in the north and the Brisbane Ranges in the east. 84 sites across this region were monitored for 2 years and Diana is currently writing up results for publication and her PhD submission. Diana lives in the Brisbane Ranges; as a result of her studies she has some interesting points to make on the impact of fire regimes on local bird populations.

A spokesperson from the Anakie Action Group will also give an update on the quarry proposal for the Three Sisters area (see <http://www.anakieactiongroup.org/> for more info).

The Great Koala Count

The National Parks Association of NSW is running an Australia wide koala count from 7th - 17th November. All koala sightings will eventually be entered into the Atlas of Living Australia database.

Register at:

<http://www.npansw.org.au/index.php/campaigns/citizen-science/koala-count>



For your diary!

Join us

Sunday 12 October

Back to Steiglitz Festival

Sunday 9 November

Phytophthora monitoring of our iconic grass trees: VNPA Naturewatch and FoBR, followed by Waterwatch

Saturday 6 or 13 December

Evening end of year event venue tba

January 2015

No activity. Resume February.

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

Your articles: We would love to publish your stories of bushwalking and other activities in the Brissies.

Send in your contributions to friends_br@yahoo.com.au

Weather Update

Colin Cook

Thought I'd fill you in on the way the current rainfall is going around here, and it's not a pretty story. Since we moved into the area in 2001, our recorded rainfall has averaged 607 mm per year. For the first 9 months of this year, we've recorded only half of that, 303 mm. A plot of cumulative rainfall for this year is shown below, compared with what would be expected in an average year. We will have to receive at least average rainfall for the rest of the year to avoid recording our lowest rainfall in 14 years. Our current record for lowest rainfall is 457 mm in 2006.

A neighbouring farm has had an official rainfall gauge operating since 1875. Only six years have had recorded rainfall below 450 mm; 1914, 1967, 1979, 1982, 2002 and 2006. So it's not looking good. Spring has certainly sprung, but it will probably be a short-lived one. Once the regular rainfall eases off and the temperatures start rising, the vegetation will dry out very quickly. This will place additional stress on the local flora and fauna and will probably lead to an early and extended fire season.

If you're planning any trips to the Brisbane Ranges (or any other parks), please check the weather and fire conditions just before you head off.

