

Mar 2015

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Upcoming Events

Sunday 15th March, 10AM at Anakie Depot
Waterwatch and Sallow Wattle removal

Sunday 12th April, 10AM at Anakie Depot
PC monitoring

Note that on days of Total Fire Ban, activities will be cancelled. Brisbane Ranges is in the Central fire district.

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An artistic tribute to Boxy



Bits and pieces

Last activity

The February activity had many FoBRs at the depot involved in a big cleanup, especially around the glasshouse. Flower beds were weeded and mulched, rubbish removed, plants repotted and things rediscovered or recycled. Many thanks to everyone who came along to lend a hand.

Next activity

WaterWatch testing in the morning at Sutherlands Creek. After lunch, we'll proceed to Grasstree Track and remove Sallow wattle seedlings. Bring lunch, gloves, good boots and weather appropriate clothing.

Birding in the Brissies

The Geelong Field Nats are running a birding field trip on Sunday 29th March, and would like to invite members of FOBR to join them. The walk will be around Kangaroo Track, Old Thompson Track, Quarry Track and Slate Track (a total of about 6 km). Meet at 9.00am at the Anakie Store. Please contact Grace Lewis on 0438 046 363 if interested in attending.

Judy Locke retiring

Nooooo! It's not fair. Just when we've said goodbye to one Ranger we have to farewell another. Judy Locke is planning to retire from Parks Victoria within the next couple of months and move northward, where "there's soil and rain". We'll be organising a farewell for Judy sometime soon, so stay tuned.

AAFBG conference paper/project

The project/talk proposal has been kicked around the sub-committee and, mainly based on a proposal by Chris Lindorff, is developing along the following lines. The project will focus strongly on citizen science through the gathering of significant flora information that can be used for monitoring over time. In mind are the possible effects of climate change on significant plant species.

The following ideas were developed:

1. Identification of 28 plant species that are significant to the Brisbane Ranges area. These species were chosen for being either: i. endemic to this area; ii. a disjunct population; or iii. locally very rare or unusual. Not all rare and threatened species for the Brisbane Ranges were included in this collection. Also, we have decided to avoid including any orchids, lilies, grasses, rushes, or sedges – many of which are either difficult to identify or difficult to find (or very seasonal).
2. A 'collection' of these 28 species was created in Natureshare (<http://natureshare.org.au/>) and any current observations in Natureshare made of these species were added to this collection. The list of species can be seen by visiting the Natureshare collection, called "Brisbane Ranges Significant Flora Species" (<http://natureshare.org.au/collections/54cae891ed2a8980b7000211>)
3. Each of the 28 species will be profiled with easy-to-understand descriptions and photographed. This may be presented on a double A4 sheet or similar. These profiles will assist with identification and become useful educational material for members of the Friends group and the wider public. The profiles will also have a map of the area showing the known distribution of the species, which can be updated over time as more observations are recorded by participants of the project.
4. This project can operate at any time during the year, with anyone being able to participate either as an individual visiting the park and surrounds, as a small team who focus on targeting a small number of species, or as a larger group.

An important part of the project is not just to monitor the plant species, but actively do something to mitigate any threats. The project Chris proposed linked in nicely with an idea that Helena, Judy and Colin have been kicking around recently and that is, what to do with the glasshouse facility at the depot? We propose setting up a seed production facility, initially using seeds collected from plants growing in the bush and then growing more plants in tubs as a source of seed. The Greening Australia facility at Point Henry has such a setup. The advantage of doing this is that you can collect much more seed from hard to find plant species, once you have a few seeds to start with. Thus, we get a project that can bring in ideas and support from the Geelong Botanic Gardens (what is the best way to start and grow seedlings, seed collection and storage techniques etc.). Produced seed could be given/traded/sold to other groups for use in revegetation projects or even to botanic gardens for display plants.

As an introduction to the 28 'special' species of the Brisbane Ranges, it is suggested that at one or more of the Friends group meetings, a tour around the park is made to become familiar with these species and their environment.



For your diary! Join us

Sunday March 15th

Morning: WaterWatch testing.
Afternoon: Sallow Wattle weeding.

Sunday March 29th

Birding in the Brissies

Sunday April 12th

PC monitoring

Your articles: We would love to publish your stories of bushwalking and other activities in the Brissies. Send your contributions to friends_br@yahoo.com.au

Dogs on the Loose

Please keep an eye out for a lost red Kelpie in the area - and report this or ANY roaming dogs to Parks Victoria or local council. It is illegal for dogs to chase wildlife and they can be dangerous.

Last month Lindy Allinson in Steiglitz reported "One of our beautiful young female roos was euthanized" following a likely attack by a 'lost' dog. First thought was that it was a fox but it just did not look right. Just prior to this a man had visited twice looking for his lost red Kelpie.

Lindy explained that the kangaroo had come there to die. They thought she was probably just old until they saw the awful bites and injuries. After she was gone they were surprised to see her sister and their babies (these sisters had always stayed together since babies themselves) staying with her. Kangaroos have a very close family bond, complex social structure and do experience grief and loss, particularly the mothers. Caz also let us know that a kangaroo mother who had lost her joey recently spent more than 48 hours trying to rouse it.

Contact numbers:

- Moorabool Shire Emergency Animal Control 0400 501 696
- Golden Plains Council 5220 7111 (will divert after hours)
- Geelong Council 5272 5272 (will divert after hours).
- Parks Victoria 131 963 / 0408 105 668

A selection of plant species from the Natureshare site: Satin Daisy-bush, Golden Bush-pea, Rosy Baeckea, Spiky Guinea-flower and Glandular Pink Bells