



Brisbane Ranges Friends News

APRIL 2015

In this issue

- Activity Report
- Monitoring Update
- For Your Diary
- Brisbane Ranges Map
- Farewell Judy

Upcoming Events

Saturday 9 May, 10am at Staughton Vale Hall

Training session on the use of NatureShare and plant ID, followed by farewell for Judy.

Sunday 14 June, 10am at Anakie Depot

TBA

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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Activity Report

*Grass Trees off Switch Rd
Photo: Carolyn Edwards*

Grass Tree Monitoring - Colin Cook/Carolyn Edwards

The April activity had two stalwart FoBRs (Lance and Judith) at the depot involved in more cleaning up. Keep this up and we won't recognise the place.

The rest of the horde headed off for Switch Rd to carry out our regular monitoring of one of the sites set up to determine the long term impact of Phytophthora on Grass Trees, along with volunteers from the VNPA NatureWatch group.

The Switch Rd site is the "control" site for the monitoring program so there are only four plots (rather than four healthy and four unhealthy as at the other sites). With a number of experienced volunteers the monitoring went very smoothly, and with the large group of volunteers present on the day we finished in record time and headed back to the depot for lunch.

For a good summary of the impact of PC, there's a recent article with comments by David Cahill of Deakin University (<http://www.thecitizen.org.au/news/killer-plant-pathogen-decimating-australias-bush>).

We were reminded on the day why Grass Trees are so important in the local environment, when we discovered this well-hidden nest.

It was beautifully constructed, made primarily out of Stringybark on a framework of Grass Tree leaves, and lined with fur. A bit of research suggests that it was probably built by a Honeyeater (given the size of the nest, possibly a White-eared Honeyeater).



As well as the nest we found a Case-moth in the Grass Tree. We also saw ants busily foraging along the leaves.



Grass Trees are obviously a hive of life and activity!

*Grass Tree inhabitants
Photos: Carolyn Edwards*

Monitoring Update

- Colin Cook

Following the Grass Tree monitoring at Switch Rd, I returned a few days later to set up several camera traps. My current area of attention is along the eastern half of the Brisbane Ranges and up towards the north as well. While not much activity was recorded, I did manage to get photos of a Brush-tailed Phascogale (top), as well as the ever-curious Swamp Wallabies checking out the cameras (bottom).

I also managed to have a discussion with the new Area Chief Ranger, Stuart Lardner, about our monitoring programs. He is very keen for them to continue and is interested in getting some more monitoring conducted in the areas of control burns, both pre- and post-burn. We'll probably have a get together with all interested parties to plan how, what, when and who, so I'll keep you informed about this one.



For your diary! Join us

Saturday 9 May, 10am at Staughton Vale Hall

A training session on the use of NatureShare, as well as identification of significant plants of the Brisbane Ranges. A farewell for Judy Locke, with morning tea and lunch catered. Please RSVP to Colin Cook, including any dietary requirements, friends_br@yahoo.com.au

Sunday June, 10am at Anakie Depot

TBA

We'll catch up with our new contact Ranger and work something out.

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

Brisbane Ranges Map

We have been contacted recently by the publisher of the Brisbane Ranges National Park map, which was published in 2010. They are up to the stage of producing a second edition and will take the opportunity to make any alterations or corrections to the map and information panels. If you have any suggested corrections or changes, please send them to Colin Cook for incorporation into our draft copy.

Farewell Judy

It feels like farewells to our rangers have overtaken our newsletter recently. Hopefully this is the last one!

The History of the World (Brisbane Ranges anyway)

This article first appeared in the FoBR history "The first 30 years"

Ok, so where will I start, I guess the beginning is as good a place as any so here goes.

In the beginning there was a park, now in that park there dwelt a Ranger In Charge who went by the name of Chrissy Worrall. Now many feared this RIC but down deep he was a good and kind old soul who ruled with nothing but the best interests of the park in mind. Although he was feared by many, there was a band of merry men and women who helped the dreaded RIC tend his park and protect its many plants and animals.

Then one day two peasants came from the far away kingdom of Meredith, saw the RIC needed help with his park and decided to stay. Eventually the older one said "I have done all I can here" and left, however the handsome young peasant (really a prince given up at birth to protect his identity) stayed to help protect the pristine kingdom from those who would do it harm. During this time a lady came upon the kingdom and decided to live high on a hill where she could watch the peasants below tending their crops. One day while sitting on her hill she said "I like the look I of this kingdom, I think I will stay and help the RIC tend his books". And so it did come to pass that the lady did come to tend the RIC's books.

The lady did also come to know the band of merry men and women who came to the park every second Sunday of the month (except in January, or if it was a public holiday, or Mother's Day or Father's Day, or a Total Fire Ban day, or a Code Red Day or any other day they didn't think appropriate), and seeing their enthusiasm did want to join the group. And the friends seeing the lady was of good morals did say "yes, come and join us" which she did.

While working in the kingdom the young peasant did also come to know the band of merry men and women who came to the park every second Sunday of the month (except in January, or if it was a public holiday, or Mother's day or Father's Day, or a Total Fire Ban day, or a Code Red Day or any other day they didn't think appropriate). They were known as the "Friends" and that they were, friends to each other, friends to the RIC, friends to the lady, friends to the young peasant, but most of all they were friends to the park and all the plants and animals that did live there. Now this friends group did dig, did build, did pull down, did remove, did admire, did photograph, did plant, did highlight, did show off, did talk, did walk, did look, did find, did identify, did protect, did lobby, did smile, did laugh, did frolic, did investigate, did monitor and all the dids you could think of doing in a park. And they did did their dids with a great passion, great enthusiasm, great humour, but most of all, with great friendship for one another, the park and all it contains and the people who work within it.

Judy's history with PV - Peter Box

Judy started work with PV in 1997, originally based at Anakie. Judy previously worked for the Metropolitan Board of Works at Werribee (which later became known as Melbourne Water) and has valuable knowledge and experience in understanding the birds and habitats associated with coastal saltmarsh communities as a result.

Judy provided valuable business support at both the You Yangs and Moorabool prior to becoming a Ranger.

Judy is well known in the local community for her involvement as a volunteer in the Anakie Tree Group (revegetation project of denuded farmland in the local area and revegetation of small holdings that ended up becoming lifestyle properties during the 1990s) and the Friends of Brisbane Ranges.

Judy is probably best known for her involvement in helping to organise the Brisbane Ranges Friends Group Wildflower show, which was originally held annually, but is now held every second year. The wildflower show has become a well-known community event and attraction in the region. A story about the Park and wildflowers relating to this event featured on the TV show 'Gardening Australia'.

Judy and her husband have been acknowledged for their contribution, information and advice in the book published by CSIRO titled "Wildflowers of the Brisbane Ranges" by Clive and Merle Trigg.

While working with PV, Judy was well placed to liaise with the various Friends and volunteer groups including the Back to Steiglitz Association and Steiglitz Historic Society as well as local Landcare groups and Anakie Primary School. As a result of Judy's efforts, the school now holds a Parks Discovery Day featuring interpretive walks and education programs with the Park.

For your final chance to farewell Judy, join us this Saturday (NOT Sunday) at Staughton Vale Hall. Morning tea (cake), lunch (wraps), juice, tea, coffee, biscuits and fruit supplied. Please RSVP to Colin Cook, including any dietary requirements, friends_br@yahoo.com.au



It proved quite difficult to track down photos of Judy, but we found a few (largely thanks to Helena Lindorff)