



Brisbane Ranges Friends News



The Friends farewell Judy
Photo: Lindy Allinson

Activity Report

Meeting of FoBR on Saturday 9 May at Staughton Vale Hall - Sarah King

The Main Event

As President of the FoBR Colin had the important job of presenting Judy, our much loved retiring PV Ranger, with a beautifully framed selection of photographs of wildflowers of the Brisbane Ranges and three ceramic 'pods' nestled in a satin-lined box and, of course, the *Certificate of Honorary Membership of the Friends of Brisbane Ranges*.

Judy told us how much she has enjoyed her involvement with the group over the years. She said that she will miss that contact, and the friends she has made, but plans to keep in touch. Tears were shed! Judy introduced Alexandra Shellard (Alex) who is now Acting Ranger, the new 'go to' PV person.

Introduction to NatureShare

Cathy Powers introduced a new project for the Friends group to become involved with. Next year there is to be a conference of Friends of Botanic Gardens, the theme of which is *Regional Relevance: botanic environments and their survival in a time of global warming*. Cathy has offered to do a short presentation at this conference on what makes the Brisbane Ranges unique. She is hoping that the FoBR will help produce data to support her talk by getting involved in a citizen science project via NatureShare.

Colin Cook then told us of the plans afoot to upgrade the glass house area at the Depot. This will be used for propagating seed collected in the Park. Seedlings can be grown to allow further seed collection from plants that are perhaps rare, endangered or difficult to find in the wild. It is hoped that this will be done in collaboration with the Geelong Botanic Gardens, which has a designated Brisbane Ranges bed.

Chris Lindroff then took to the floor and asked us to think of three features that make the Brisbane Ranges special. The top answer was wildflowers! He spoke of the wide diversity of plants in the area, for example 17 different eucalypts and over 100 orchids. In consultation with other members of the FoBR 26 species have been identified for this project, most of which can be identified all year round, i.e. not seasonal plants such as lilies and orchids.

A sample identification sheet was handed out and Chris outlined how we can become involved:

- Identifying plants can be done in a group or by individuals.
- You may choose a single species, or focus on a particular area, or just identify plants when you are out walking.
- There is good knowledge within FoBR of where to look for what, and there are existing records that we can use, too.
- There is no deadline and the project is open to everyone.

Chris said that it is fun and can become addictive!

After lunch Cathy told us that we, as citizen scientists, can make this survey happen using NatureShare. This is a database for individuals and groups to share information about their local environment. It is primarily targeted at Victoria. She gave us a comprehensive rundown on how to use and enjoy NatureShare, and even provided a CD of instructions. It can be accessed by logging in to the site at <http://natureshare.org.au/>. To record data it is necessary to have proof of a sighting (photograph), the date and time of this, and the location. A GPS is not essential as an accurate map reading will do. NatureShare will accept photographs of a species that you may be unable to identify as the site is interactive and another user may be able to help.

We need your help!

There will be another training session on how to use NatureShare to help you with the process of logging in and entering your observations and photographs.

JUNE 2015

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Upcoming Events

Sunday 14 June, 10am at Anakie Depot

Track definition and marking along Deadman's Track near Steiglitz

Sunday 12 July, 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
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

Farewell from Judy

Dear Friends of the Brissies and Back to Steiglitz members.

I wish to thank you for your kind and generous farewell, I felt quite overwhelmed but really pleased to see you all. I really did enjoy my PV role working with the local community, but more importantly, it is the friendships that have evolved from meeting all of you that is so important to me.

I feel quite honoured to have joined a special group of dedicated and high achieving FOBR members and be awarded an Honorary Membership - I thank you.

And my gifts, the handmade pots made by Vicky, the glass Wathaurong plate inscribed by the BtS and the Brissies flora montage selected and photographed by Cathy, will all be on display in our new home as a instant reminder of the Brisbane Ranges and Steiglitz. I do appreciate the thought that went into choosing these as they are just perfect - thank you. I will keep in touch with the occasional bulletin from green (and wet) Uki and please, if ever up in northern NSW, please call in or happy to meet somewhere for a coffee and chat. Colin will have my mobile details and address or you can use my email gold-grev@bigpond.net.au.

So farewell for now and I wish you success with all your future endeavours. A special plug for FOBR's latest project on the effects of climate change on significant flora of the Brisbane Ranges.... for those with a botanical persuasion, it is the perfect project to further develop that passion so if you have the time, please support it.



*Judy says farewell
Photo: Cyril Curtain*

Development next to the Park

- Colin Cook

Bacchus Marsh Grammar have recently placed a deposit on a 200 acre property at Staughton Vale, just down the road from the hall. I recently attended an information evening they conducted at the hall to provide information to the locals about their intentions. They are planning to set up a mixed activity farm (sheep, horses, orchard, forestry, vines) as well as put in some glasshouses. They have plans to put in classrooms for natural history teaching. A house will be constructed for a live in manager/farm operator. They will probably also put in a second entrance/exit for safety reasons. Some sporting facilities are also on the plans. Initially, no students will be staying overnight but facilities may be built for this later.

They are keen to get out into the park for natural history lessons and projects. Ideas for mutual projects are high on their wish list. They are keen to become part of the local community and involve as many local groups as possible, as well as providing access to the facilities they will develop.

Plans are currently with the Geelong Council for assessment/amendment/approval, following which there will be a period of public consultation. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

For your diary! Join us

Sunday 16 June, 10am at Anakie Depot

We'll be doing some track definition and marking along Deadman's Track near Steiglitz, as well as taking care of any weeds we find along the way. If enough people turn up, we may send a few out to Marshalls Road to pull out some emerging boneseed before joining up with the track working party.

Sunday 12 July, 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

Just a reminder about the new edition of the Brisbane Ranges map. If you have any suggested corrections or changes, please send them to Colin Cook for incorporation into our draft copy. Also, the publisher intends to have a different cover photo on the new edition (currently flowering grass trees). If you have a suitable photo that you would like to donate for the cause, please contact Colin. Photos must be high resolution and suitable for portrait orientation.