

Sept 2015

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Upcoming Events

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Sept, 10AM at  
Anakie Depot. Significant plant  
species survey

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October TBA

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Brisbane Ranges Grevillea  
Photo by Kristen Cook

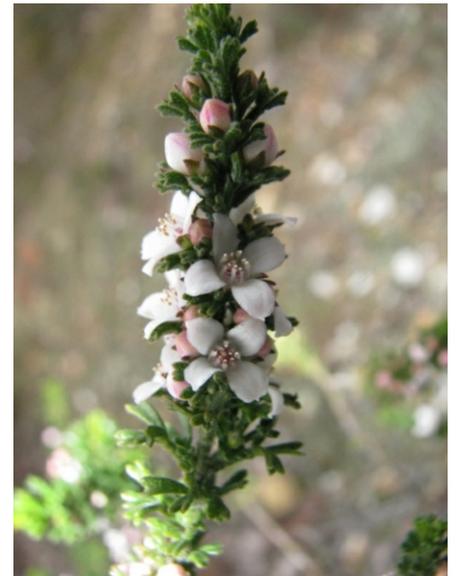
## Fungi and Lollies?

Going into the bush is always an adventure with Wendy. It was a treat to walk along the track beside Grahams Creek. A hidden spot which we accessed via The Burchell Trail. I usually like to walk quite fast but I'm learning how much you can miss seeing at the Brisbane Ranges if you try and take the exercise approach.

This time of year is perfect for fungi spotting, and Wendy came with her little dental mirror and a large fungi identification book!

Besides contemplating whether the creek had escaped some of the challenges of post settlement run off, we utilised that little mirror. So I discovered that fungi remind me of Lollies. ...popping temptingly out of the earth. Or a cup cake?

By Vicky Grosser



Sticky Boronia  
Photo by Kristen Cook



Photo by Vicky Grosser

## Results of AGM

The AGM went along as per usual. A copy of the minutes will be sent to members by email/post with this newsletter. The results of the elections were:

**President:** Colin Cook

**Treasurer:** Deirdre Murphy

**Secretary:** Howard Patterson

**Executive members:**

Carole Bartholomew

Bart Bartholomew

**Special roles:**

Newsletter editor – Carolyn Edwards

Sarah King has resigned as Secretary and I would like to thank her for her support in this role (and keeping me on my toes when I needed it).

The Rangers will be working on a list of suitable activities for the Friends group, which I hope to pass on to you soon. Their budget for asset maintenance has been drastically cut by 60%, so we may have to do more jobs that have previously been undertaken by Parks Vic staff.



Shiny Leionema  
Photo by Kristen Cook



Blue Caladenia  
Photo by Kristen Cook

## Next activity

Sunday Sept 13<sup>th</sup>

We will be doing a walk and talk looking at some of the plants on the significant plant list for the Brisbane Ranges (see March 2015 newsletter), as well as going through some of the techniques for recording and reporting sighting information.

Meet at 10AM at the Anakie Depot. From this point, we can discuss the plan for the day, hand out some material, and then car-pool to various destinations.

We can look at some of the plants in the southern portion of the park, then break for lunch (either Stony Creek PA or other choice), then meet at the northern end of the park (Thompsons Rd/Reids Rd corner) at 1pm. From here we can look at different plants on the significant plant list.

The main objective of the day is for people to become familiar with the 28 species through close inspection and ID tips. We will also talk about recording observations, from photography, recording location (GPS, etc), and other usual processes for the project.

Bring cameras, GPS if you have one, notebooks, plant ID books.

## What about the Wildflower show?

There were some questions and discussion at the AGM about the future of the Wildflower Show. I would like to promote any discussion about ideas for running it in the future, in a way that will not be too onerous on any volunteers. It was suggested that an informal meeting be held with any interested members attending. If you would like to be involved, please contact me via the FoBR email address or on 5286 1252 and we'll organise a convenient location, date and time for everyone.

## On a cold Saturday

On a cold Saturday at the start of August, Vicky, Colin, Wendy and Kristen met at Boar Gully Campground for a picnic lunch. The weather had scared away all the campers, but scarlet robins and superb fairy-wrens hopped around on fences and trees nearby. After lunch we set off for a gentle stroll down Red Ironbark Track, between Reids Road and Sapling Gully picnic area. The track wound its way down the steep hillside, with high banks, allowing us to easily admire mosses, lichens, fungi, small plants and a few late winter flowers. We detoured up a narrow gully and over a steep rocky hill, where we encountered the prickles of hedge wattles, and the camouflaged flowers of small mosquito orchids. As one member of the group regularly attracts mosquitoes, even in winter, we renamed the plants purple heart-leaf orchids, in recognition of the dark green heart-shaped leaves with dark purple undersides, much more obvious than the flowers. We descended another steep narrow gully back to the track. The slope was gentler as we followed the mostly dry creek down to the picnic area, stopping often to investigate anything that caught our attention.

We decided to go for a second walk along Shoot Track, which the map shows running off Reids Road and rejoining it later, making a short loop walk. Reality was rather different. We had trouble finding the track due to the lack of a signpost. We started down it, through an area of bushes, and quickly arrived at a fork in the track, not marked on the map. We chose to go left, but would like, one day, to explore the other path which lead down to a gully. Our track stayed on the hilltop. We soon found a small rise covered in beautiful pink flowers of little shrubs of rosy baeckea (*Euryomyrtus ramosissima* ssp. *ramosissima*). On the opposite side of the track we found many bushes with white or pale pink flowers, and small divided leaves with a not entirely pleasant odour. It was sticky boronia (*Boronia anemonifolia* ssp. *anemonifolia*), one of the significant species which FoBR members were asked to seek and list on NatureShare. After taking photos and a GPS reading, we continued along the track, and turned right at the next unmapped intersection.

We walked along a ridge through a forest of tall straight red ironbarks. There was no sign that the area had been burnt in recent years, which in this heavily burnt park is a real treat. The understorey was sparse, with occasional small spindly bushes of bushy parrot-pea (*Dillwynia ramosissima*) noticeable due to their yellow and red flowers, and a few more of those unnameable orchids with the heart-shaped leaves. We eventually reached the edge of the park with a new fence and a gate to make sure we were aware that private property was ahead. Shortly before the gate was a rare ancient ironbark. Its original trunk was huge. The top of it, high above our heads was broken off and mostly bare of bark. One side of the trunk had living bark and a few small branches. Three small trunks curved outwards and upwards from near the base of the massive trunk. Much of the bark was worn, so it required careful investigation around the tree to find the deep furrows in the grey bark, which are an identifying feature of red ironbark.

We walked parallel to the fence for a short distance, to a small, very rocky hilltop with a view over bush and cleared land on both sides of Spring Creek, far below. The trees on the hilltop were stunted, due to the poor soil, but here we found numerous plants of another of the NatureShare species, shiny leionema (*Leionema lamprophyllum* ssp. *obovatum*). They were small bushes covered in tiny shiny green leaves. Their branches ended in clusters of white flowers with long stamens.

After admiring the view and the old tree, we returned to our car parked on the side of Reids Road. Close to it, we were surprised to find one shiny leionema and a large bush of spiny bossiaea (*Bossiaea obcordata*) with a few small bushes beside it – our third NatureShare species for the day. It wasn't flowering, but its spiny branches and tiny leaves are distinctive. After carefully cleaning and spraying our boots to prevent the spread of *Phytophthora cinnamoni*, we all headed to the warmth of our homes, agreeing that a cold winter's afternoon in the bush was an afternoon very well spent!

**By Wendy Cook**