



Brisbane Ranges Friends News



Sallow Wattle removal team
Photo: Bart Bartholomew

Activity Report

Sallow Wattle removal from Ballan Road on Sunday 11 October - Bart Bartholomew

A small dedicated group met at the Anakie depot before heading out to Ballan Road and parking near the entrance to outlook track.

Our guide was Garry Walker from Bacchus Marsh PV. Keep an eye out for him if you are in the You Yangs, as he will soon be stationed there.

As usual, we took time out to investigate some native plants but we were also keen to remove wattles and managed to solve the problems of the world as we swept in a north west direction. Howard noticed some Cootamundra Wattles so we removed a large patch of those too. Someone found some bones and Garry described the difference between the thigh bone of a wallaby and kangaroo - the kangaroo has a definite node where a sinew attaches.

This area has a reasonably thick under storey with lots of Myrtle Wattles, Hakea and our local Golden Grevillea dominating.

Did you know that the Black-anther Flax-lily (*Dianella revoluta*) has enclosed anthers, only a small hole for pollen release and therefore relies on buzz pollination? Our own native bees such as the beautiful blue banded bee vibrate at the correct frequency to stimulate the plant to release pollen. Honey bees do not do this so we need more of these native bees.

We noticed a significant reduction in the number of Sallow Wattles since our last visit and it was heartening to see that wattles cut just above the base previously were showing no signs of regrowth.

NOVEMBER 2015

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Upcoming Events

Sunday 8 November 10.00am at Anakie Depot
Boneseed pull along Marshalls Road

Saturday 12 December, 5.30pm at Anakie Depot

End of year celebration

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

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Schools in the Brisbane Ranges

Colin Cook

Earlier this year I gave talks to students from two colleges at Fridays Camping Area. Wyndham Central College and Newcomb Secondary College both undertake various activities in the Brisbane Ranges and had asked if there was any work they could do while out here. I passed them on to the Rangers who have lined them up with several tasks, especially track maintenance. Both schools have provided a rundown of the environmental programs that they are running.

Newcomb Secondary College - Peter Currie

Newcomb Secondary College has conducted its three day outdoor education bushwalk in the Brisbane Ranges for the last four years. It is a remarkable place. The flora and fauna, the outstanding geology and the heritage all combine to make it the perfect place for outdoor education studies.

As the lead outdoor education teacher at the school, I have felt that students needed more than just the three day bushwalk. This year I added an environmental day so students could learn a little about what it takes to maintain a national park and a trip to Serendip Sanctuary prior to the bushwalk.

We did the Serendip trip in August. The special focus was on the indigenous fauna species that lived at nearby Brisbane Ranges and the captive breeding program for Eastern Barred Bandicoot and Tiger Quoll.

In September, armed with secateurs, loppers and small shovels, we worked alongside park rangers and pruned tree branches back from the toilet block and rainwater tank at the Old Mill campsite. We then cleaned out Acacias that had sprouted along fire tracks. The rangers gave a great talk on their responsibilities and some of the problems that they encountered. In the afternoon, we met with Colin Cook who generously gave up his time to let us know about the work the FOBR undertook to help maintain the park.

The third piece of the jigsaw was the three day bushwalk following the Burchill Trail from Fridays Campground to Boar Gully. This was a genuine highlight. Some students had had never walked so far, others had never slept in a tent and some had never been out of mobile phone range before and fretted badly.

Along the way, I noticed areas that we would need to visit next year on our environmental day. A large patch of boneseed was establishing itself between Quarry and Slate Tracks, and the vegetation was starting to cover the tank at Little River campsite.

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For your diary! Join us

Sunday 8 November, 10.00am at Ana-kie Depot

Come and help us remove Boneseed along Marshalls Road, where a new outbreak has been discovered.

Saturday 12 December, 5.30pm at Ana-kie Depot

End of year celebration

Update meeting 5.30-6.30: What's happening in the Brissies and how can we be involved?

Dinner from 6.30: pizza cooked in the pizza oven, BYO salad or dessert to share.

RSVP to Colin Cook with dietary requirements.

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

Grey Fantail Research

A research project on Grey Fantails going on in Brisbane Ranges National Park.

The students on the projects would welcome some volunteers in the field – one is working on the evolution of female song. She is taking recordings of males and females singing and searching for nests. The other student will be starting an artificial nest project this week (it will run for 2 weeks), where she is investigating if the spider web that the birds coat the outside of their nest with influences predation rates by birds. Spider web reflects UV light, which is visible to predatory birds. So she has fake nests, some she coated with spider webs and some without!

If you are interested in helping please contact Dr. Christa Beckmann (Alfred Deakin Research Fellow, Centre for Integrative Ecology, School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Deakin University Waurn Ponds) c.beckmann@deakin.edu.au

Grey Fantail on nest
Photo: [Patrick K59 on Flickr](#)
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Wyndham Central College - Allan Bernardi



Students are offered an environmental elective at year nine. They choose areas of study and volunteering while at the same time participating in adventurous journeys. Our curriculum is bracketed under sustainability and indigenous study.

Litterwatch is addressed by studying plastics in Port Philip Bay. We snorkel and clean plastics at Portsea. We have a Point Cook clean up day as well as sail days on Corio Bay.

Our adopted endangered animal is the Malleefowl. We attend a three day camp, north of Nhill, at Mali Dunes in the Little Desert. We participate in line searches for Malleefowl mounds, plant trees and plot GPS co-ordinates. Bernie Fox (president of the Victorian Environmental Network) and recipient of Victoria's Best Friend Award 2014, leads and helps us camp and cook. Allan Marks from Landcare Victoria guides us through the desert.

We have been going to the Brisbane Ranges for many years, where Parks Victoria rangers and Colin Cook (president Friends of the Brisbane Ranges) address us. We help clear walking tracks and cook on the open fires while becoming aware of sustainability and help with the management of the Ranges. We have been participating in these activities for many years.

In November we have an environment camp at Cape Otway and help out with the Otway Koalas. Cape Otway Conservation addresses us and Parks Victoria works with us to clear the tracks. Frank Fontinas of Bimbi Park works with us to band trees with metal bands. We canoe the Barwon and Aire Rivers while collecting unwanted plastics and other pollution. We ride horses at the Cape Otway coastal dunes.

The students attending have set up a lunchtime environment club at Wyndham Central College as well as a drawing and dance club. We look to expand our Litterwatch program into next year. These initiatives would not be possible without the guidance of a supportive administration team, generous sponsorship by LENDLEASE and Advance, and students who want to make a difference.

*Above and right: Students from Wyndham Central College in the Brisbane Ranges
Photos: Allan Bernardi*

