

May 2016

In this issue

- Vale Bernie Fox
- Last activity
- An interesting find

Upcoming Events

Sunday 8th May, 10AM at
Anakie Depot
Waterwatch monitoring,
followed by a walk in the bush

Sunday 19th June, 10AM at
Anakie Depot
To be advised

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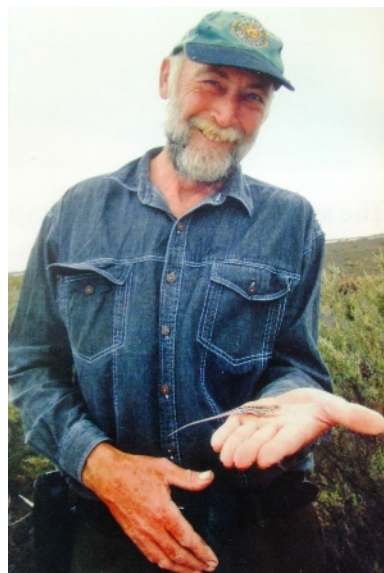


Bernie Fox with a group checking the realignment of the Burchell Trail.

Vale Bernie Fox

Colin & Wendy Cook

Bernie Fox passed away unexpectedly at his home Mali Dunes on the 12th April. His death sent shockwaves through the environmental communities of Melbourne, western Victoria and beyond. Bernie had an impressive understanding of people and politics. He gently inspired and motivated people and had a talent for getting the right people together to get a job done. Bernie loved the natural world and had a fascination for all things in nature, big and small, which is often thought of as child-like, but is common in adults with a love and understanding of the natural world. We met Bernie when we moved to a property near Meredith, close to the Brisbane Ranges National Park and chased up the Friends group. Bernie was President at the time and made us warmly welcome, passing on the history of the area and the Friends group, what activities they were involved in and the challenges facing the park. Bernie encouraged children (and adults) to investigate the world around them, and to join in the day's work with the adults, which they did enthusiastically, having fun, learning new skills and feeling that they contributed to the group's work. Bernie was a great Friend of the Brisbane Ranges, and a great friend.



A celebration of Bernie Fox was held at Nhill on Friday 29th April, attended by about 200 family members, friends, members of Friends groups, environmental groups, Mallee residents, Parks Vic, Landcare groups and many others. Many tributes were made to Bernie during the celebration, including one by Peter Stokie that highlighted Bernie's commitment to many Friends groups, the Malleefowl Recovery group and environmental causes in general.

The Victorian National Parks Association, of which Bernie was President for several years, will be publishing a tribute in their June Park Watch magazine. For those wishing to donate in Bernie's memory, donations may be made to the Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre Revegetation Project. BSB: 083-752, Acct No: 83325-2480, Acct Name: NAHC, Ref: Bernie Fox

Last activity: PC monitoring

Colin Cook

We conducted another set of quadrat monitoring along Kangaroo Track. We were joined by a team from the VNPA NatureWatch program, so there were plenty of helpers to get through the sets of healthy and unhealthy quadrats located here (with plenty of boot spraying in between).

This program has now been running for 10 years, with a huge amount of data collected, with occasional reports provided by the VNPA. They are hoping to raise funds to get a scientific assessment and report on the 10 years of data collected so far, and also get some recommendations on the future of the program (continue as before, monitor less often, stop altogether are some alternatives).

We may find that PC monitoring stops or become less frequent (every few years?). However, NatureWatch is commencing another monitoring program that will interest us. They received funds to purchase 6 high quality wildlife sound recording devices and will be using these in collaboration with many community groups such as FoBR. The devices will record sounds from locations in the park and, with help from Museum Victoria, be processed and analysed for bird calls (and hopefully frogs and other things later). They are hoping to commence working with groups next year.

For your diary!

Join us

Sunday 8th May

Waterwatch monitoring at Sutherlands Creek, followed by a walk in the bush

Sunday 19th June

To be advised

Your articles: We would love to publish your stories of bushwalking and other activities in the *Brissies*.

Send in your contributions to friends_br@yahoo.com.au

An interesting find

Colin & Wendy Cook

Nearly two weeks ago, we went for an explore of the almost completely dry bed of the Lower Stony Creek Reservoir. The old tree stumps that have been underwater are very well preserved. In the middle of one, we found a fern and photographed it. The photo doesn't show all the details, but the fern was hairy, including fine hairs on the fronds. There were no sori, which contain spores and develop on the underside of fern fronds. The fronds were growing up in clumps from the inner edge of the stump, where there was a gap between wood and soil. We only found it in one stump. Wendy has been trying to identify it and thinks it's *Hypolepis* and is favouring *H.australis* (Austral Ground Fern). The Brisbane Ranges plant list has *H.rugosula* listed and the flora book says they are difficult to identify. Flora of Vic shows *H.australis* was changed to *H.amaurorachis* and is not found near here. The ALA has a record from the You Yangs in 1963. We're circulating the photo to see if we can improve on the ID.

