



Brisbane Ranges Friends News

DECEMBER 2016

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Upcoming Events

Sunday 11 December, 10am at Anakie Gorge Picnic Ground

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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Parks Victoria team
Photo: Vicky Grosser

Activity Report - Nest box installation

Colin Cook

Our scheduled Sunday activity was called off due to forecast bad weather with strong winds (again!!). However, several of us managed to get out with a whole fleet of Rangers on the following Friday and installed 23 nest boxes and 9 cameras. The nest boxes were made by students at Wyndham Central College, who are still making more boxes and intend to continue next year as well. The school students who made the boxes weren't able to attend this time due to the procedural requirements of organising field trips well in advance, but we intend to get them out next year.

The nest boxes will be regularly monitored using camera traps and a nest box inspection camera and we will report on the results as they come in. Next year we shall hold a get together of interested people in FoBR to work out what additional activities can be undertaken and funded using the project



Phascolgale nest boxes
Photo: Colin Cook

Appreciating the Brisbane Ranges in Spring Time

Vicky Grosser

In mid November I invited a friend who lives in Melbourne to come and walk the Burchell Trail with me. We took our time over the 3 days (with day packs this time - my first 2 times walking the Trail involved more carrying of gear!), and used car shuffles to ensure safety after Colin kindly texted me with a strong wind and potential thunderstorm warning.

My friend hadn't been to the Ranges for many years, since camping there with her boys who are now in their twenties. She was so delighted with the range of trees, flowers and the conditions of the paths. I surprised myself with my knowledge and the stories I could share with her about the history of the area, the reservoir and activities that we do together in the FoBR group to assist in maintaining the park. I fall in love with this park more and more over the years. And am so grateful for the good map and Wildflower Book. We saw heaps of Helmet Orchids this year.

So when Colin asked for help a few days later to join the first setting up of the nesting boxes for the Brush Tailed Phascogale research project, I dropped my tools (computer, etc.) and dashed off to join him, Wendy and the Park Rangers who enjoyed a day helping us set them up. The photo is a bit misleading as they didn't all stay to do the job, but it was clearly an attraction to come and see what was happening at lunch time!

It will be exciting to go back and monitor the next boxes and cameras. Thanks to the school children who made the next boxes. A highlight was finding Beard Orchids, as I'd never seen one before!

Thanks Colin for co-coordinating the project. I learnt heaps, including that I don't really know what 100 meters is, when asked to walk that distance and find the next tree for a nest box to be screwed onto!



South African Weed Orchid
Photo: <http://www.retiredaussies.com/>

Weed alert

South African Weed Orchid (*Disa bracteata*) invades native bushland and competes with and replaces the native ground flora. It therefore has the potential to impact on rare and endangered plants in the understory. It invades conservation areas and develops underground tubers that make it difficult to eradicate.

A good ID brochure is available at https://www.treesforlife.org.au/sites/default/files/Monadenia_African%20Weed%20Orchid_Weed%20Profile.pdf

We have had a sighting of this weed along Waterhole Track reported to us, which we have passed on to Parks Victoria. Please keep an eye out for this weed and let us or Parks Victoria know of any possible sightings.

For your diary! Join us

Sunday 11 December
End of year celebration

Time: 10.00am

Where: Anakie Gorge Picnic Area

What: We will be having a walk and talk with Mel King, from Echidna Walkabout, the Koala Clancy Foundation and the Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-op. She will be educating and entertaining us with her knowledge and passion for koalas. Afterwards, we will have a BBQ lunch, with meat provided by FoBR (but please let us know of any special dietary requirements). Please bring a salad or dessert to share.

Please RSVP to Colin if you are attending, also advise of any dietary preferences.



Hornet Orchid
Photo: Vicky Grosser