



The first 30 years ...



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Front cover photos -

First FoBR activity, Grasstree Monitoring, Kids at work, FoBR 25th

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November 2012



In the Beginning....

The Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) in conjunction with the Geelong Environment Council and the Geelong Field Naturalists' Club, sponsored the formation of the Friends of Brisbane Ranges National Park. In doing so, the eleventh Friends Group was formed.

An inaugural meeting was held at the Steiglitz Courthouse on the 3 October 1982, and the first Friends activity was carried out. Since this memorable moment, the Friends of Brisbane Ranges have shaped an important relationship with Parks Victoria.

They have conducted and assisted with numerous park activities, developed life-long friendships among members, educated, researched, built, cleaned, and recorded many aspects of the Brisbane Ranges National Park.

To measure the great success of the Friends Group, you only need to visit this wonderful park they have been working for. Clearly, the Friends have made an enormously positive impact on the welfare of the Brisbane Ranges National Park.

This booklet is a celebration and thank you to the many Friends who have made tremendous contributions to the group and to the Brisbane Ranges National Park over the past 30 years. These are just a sample of the many stories of great experiences and wonderful people.



On That Very First Day in 1982...

All great stories have a beginning, yet the significance of this story's beginning may not have been realised by members who turned up at Steiglitz on Sunday 3 October 1982 to gather ideas, enthusiasm and like-minded spirit in the formation of a Friends Group.

Geoff Durham, the Activities Co-ordinator of VNPA, wrote the announcement of the Friends Group formation and invitation to the inaugural meeting at Steiglitz on 14 September 1982.

From the first invitation to the Friends' first meeting, people were asked to bring gloves, working tools and their friends - and this tradition continues today.

It was a good turn-out for the first meeting with 30 enthusiastic people meeting at Steiglitz Courthouse at 11am.

They started the morning with the usual introductions and welcomes and Ranger Jim Allen led a tour around Steiglitz.



Perhaps he spoke of the long-term vision of a self-guided tour around the historic town dotted with interpretation signs, or maybe about how they should clean out the rubbish dump or replant the old Cooper's fruit orchard. Even if he didn't mention these things, the Friends must have seen a need as these tasks were carried out in years to follow.

During lunch, the `bush telegraph' gave word of a distraught koala trapped at the bottom of a mine shaft. Friends to the rescue - saving the koala was certainly more important than finishing lunch!



After lunch, the Friends went to task on cleaning out the old stone gutters around Steiglitz. Many of the gutters were completely covered in soil and with careful management, the group unearthed the old stone drain to its former glory and function. They weren't to know that almost 20 years later, the Council would cover them with soil again during roadworks! !

Ranger John Miller was the first lucky Ranger-in-Charge to be receiving assistance and partnership with the Friends of Brisbane Ranges. At the time he is noted for saying that the National Parks Service (as it was then called) encourages the formation of the Friends Group to provide assistance as there are many projects which the rangers are not able to attend to because of pressure of other duties, but which are suitable for volunteers. This attitude has clearly been echoed with subsequent rangers continuing the fantastic relationship with the Friends Group.

So, a rather successful first meeting, and we still have some of these founding members from the first meeting attending and helping out at Friends activities all these years later!

From this first meeting in October 1982, the Friends Group has gone from strength to strength.



An early FoBR event

“The Friends” by Chris Worrall



Within the Brisbane Ranges the **Friends** are a like-minded group who come together with similar aspirations which, at their very core, is the love of our natural environment. I worked alongside this wonderfully supportive group for almost 23 years.

When I joined the National Parks Service in 1980 at Port Campbell I had never heard of the concept of a **‘friends groups’** or ‘support groups’ before. The nearest I had experienced was the support and friendship that occurs within a family (sometimes), neighbours (mostly) but with older aunts and uncles related or nonrelated (always).

How practices have changed but the support has remained a constant throughout my life.

The 1980s were the days of using 44 gallon drums to collect rubbish at the popular tourist sites around Port Campbell National Park. I fondly remember balancing 44 gallon drums full of rubbish into the rear of a caged truck on the edge of the cliff overlooking the Twelve Apostles; the lighter material being whipped out of the drum and over the cliff by the coastal gales.

Moving around the state of Victoria it wasn't until I arrived at Warrandyte State Park that I became aware of the notion of groups called *‘the Friends of’*.

I had very little interaction with the ‘Friends of Warrandyte State Park’ other than remembering there were two elements to the group at that time; those with a political agenda and those interested in the plant nursery aspect. I did work a bit with the plant group in building a large shade area and glass house.



When I was interviewed for the Brisbane Ranges National Park (BRNP) Ranger-In-Charge job the importance of working with local groups was identified. The Country Fire Authority (CFA) received a mention but not the local 'Friends' group - I enjoyed the interaction with both.

Some of my earliest memories of FOBR was Nola welcoming people at the court house, Tom rattling the donation box (which he had constructed), the uncle and aunt type people in their dark waterproof coats having a cuppa in the Court House prior to setting out to work somewhere in the park.

I was always salivating at what people brought along in their lunch boxes (and I mean boxes - some were so big they were lucky to fit in their car boots). Whereas I had my dry old sandwich and 2 pieces of fruit, the cakes that were carefully extracted from the boxes were always offered around and always scrumptious. I enjoyed these times of communion in the Court House.

Some of the things I remember Friends of Brisbane Ranges for

- At lunch everyone had a folding chair or 2 in the boot.
- Tom had his chair and his hatchet.
- It was always a highlight to meet up with Tom and his green Holden adjacent to Manna Gum or Koala Track, have a cuppa, a chin wag and especially hear how the Koala grid pegs (nearby) and his plantings near Bert Boardman Reserve) were going.
- The building of the picnic shelter at Bert Boardman's reserve.
- The front steps at the Church of England church.
- Upgrading of walks (moving logs and sticks)

- The trailer loads of rubbish from the north side of Bacchus Marsh Mt Wallace Rd - Fence track I think? And some exciting finds.
- Working with Barwon Water in aligning the pipeline through BRNP.
- Working towards the Barwon Water land being part of the BRNP.
- The wildflower shows, the planning the organisation that was put in by FOBR was amazing. The pressure that was put on Judith that she shared, or not, with Lance.
- Being supportive in all the Green Corps (and similar groups) that we had working in our Park. When we had a launch or finale the Friends group was always welcoming of these young people.
- Being supportive and leading in all things to do with reducing the spread of PC (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*).
- Being supportive of ideas with the Anakie depot when we were forced out.
- The knowledge of Cyril Curtain.
- Being a part of our Annual General Meetings (of which we only had 2 or 3). This was an idea to get key stakeholders involved and seek their input as to where we had gone wrong and where we should be going. The meeting caused a bit of a storm within Parks Victoria as they thought they should be the only guidance. An Anakie resident gave the then Chief Ranger a mouthful because there was talk of closing down the Anakie Depot. A stirrer initiated the need for a Ministerial response because he thought he should have been there.



- Camping at OLD MILL during a mammal survey and dancing around the open wood fire with friend group members.
- The wonderful supportive leaders of the Friends group who were always available for a chat and moral support.
- Merle and Clive.

The meeting at the Anakie depot around the large table, Merle and Clive always bringing something scrumptious for morning tea before they headed out to take photos for their wonderful book. With all staff and sometime visitors it was like a big family and Merle and Clive the favourite aunt and uncle coming for a short visit.

- Words of wisdom
- Friendly smiling faces
- Supportive in projects and emotions.
- Being able to share ideas both futuristic and in the now.
- The Friends group helped manage the park, as a sounding board, and a constant as we PV or whatever we were called at the time changed. Along with the Chief Rangers who came and went like seasons.

Thank You

Chris Worrall

My first involvement with the Steiglitz area was in the early 1960's when Geelong Grammar School was caring for the Church of England there. St Paul's Church was "propped up" by a group of GGS staff in 1962/63. In 1964-5 the Third Form (Yr 9) camp was held at Steiglitz - down the creek in the bush and the Church was used for a Service on the Sunday of the camp. In 1965 a number of Year 9 boys and I painted the outside of the Church after repairing some of the weatherboard cladding. GGS continued to use the Steiglitz area for camping and overnight hikes until the proclamation of the Park in 1979.

Ian Cooper and I were the first leaders of the Friends, a small devoted group of people who contributed to the Park in many ways. Our first activity was to clear the stone gutters in Steiglitz.

I subsequently became the first Co-ordinator in 1983 and with my wife Gladys and son Stuart, visited the Park regularly until I took up weekend study in 1987.

Our activities were many and varied, from rubbish collection, weeding, removing the old miner's shack (a tumbling down interesting wattle and daub construction) to sharing a picnic with other people interested in the environment.

from John Hastie (first Co-ordinator -with Ian Cooper)

The Cooper experience



Ian Cooper

The VNPA Bush Walking Group just started up in the 1980s and we (husband Ian and I) met Geoff Durham and he said they were getting a Friends Group together for the Brisbane Ranges.

As we lived in the vicinity, we said we would like to be involved. John Hastie was the first co-ordinator and Ian Cooper followed him in the role in 1982. About the same time Tom Burchell came on the scene.

Some of the activities I remember -

- Around Steiglitz digging out all the gutters bringing it back to that lovely stone;*
- Knocking down the brick toilet, brick by brick. Ian, Tom and myself.*
- The bringing back of the Catholic Church down the road with a police escort. Ian, Evan, and I stripped off the old boards from the walls to get it back to its original. We almost choked on the dust.*
- We cleaned up the Boar Gully Camp Ground. There must have been decades of rubbish dumped there because we took out about eight truck loads of it. I remember we had a good turn up for that activity.*
- Somebody discovered a live koala down a mine shaft, and it could not get out. Ian and the Rangers went to check it out and found the only way they could help it was by getting a long piece of wood and putting it down the shaft with the top sticking out so the koala could climb up it. They went back later and the koala had gone.*
- Most of the time we were just cleaning up and planting. Ian went to the Friends Conference which was just a day event.*

Of course, then in 1983 Ian died and soon after that Nola came along and did a marvellous job, as did Tom.

Pat Cooper

We, daughter Elizabeth and I, joined FOBR in about 1982. We enjoyed our days in the Brisbane Ranges so much - the freedom of mind and spirit, the industry and learning. Eventually (time constraints and other things) there were just 3 of us, so "do or die" we continued. A newsletter was created, locals joined, prior members were able to return, and by 1990 we were a healthy happy group. We weeded, we dug, we planted, we laughed, we talked, counted koalas, even a few day seminars were organised. There were wildflower walks, we looked at mines, even renovated an old miners hut, camped o'nite at Old Mill (Hanrahan, folk dancing, a ghost story).

As you all know part of my spirit will always have strong connection with the Brisbane Ranges; the Best Friend Award is very special to me. It makes me happy to think I will connect with you all somewhere in our great outdoors! ...here, there, or somewhere else.

Some highlights Nola mentioned earlier -

- Our 10th birthday party at Old Mill*
- Counting Koalas all those years*
- Tom's photo - in the rain*
- Judith's wonderful energy for the Wildflower Shows*
- Judy's friendship;*
- Seeing the Park look so pristine;*
- The 3ft tall sun orchid Harry found on Butcher's Road.*
- The list is never ending and so are the friendships, and I'm glad.*



Reminiscing with Tom Burchell 2003 *by Nola Haines*

Nola - "When did you first go to the Brisbane Ranges?"

Tom - "I got a car in '54 and not long after than I went to the Brisbane Ranges. I went a good many times, especially in the 60s. We'd moved to Footscray from Taggerty near Alexandra, where I was raised on a farm, and I was a country boy at heart."

Nola - "When did you first run into the Friends?"

Tom - "I first met Ian and Pat Cooper. They were pulling down a building, and the month after we pulled down a fence. Ethel was there too. Then I joined the Parks Association. I was interested in the natural world and was a volunteer at the Museum of Victoria for many years. I also went to Geology classes in the 60s.

Then I met you and Elizabeth. You were gathering up rubbish at a Friends meeting - two smiling young women were smiling at me. We started counting koalas in the 80s and I used to put the grid pegs up.

I collected seed and propagated Manna Gums which were planted at the Bert Boardman Reserve and in the Koala grid area.

We always enjoyed pulling out pines up Lease Road. I made the collection box in the Court House and a Friends sign. I remember chopping thistles down at Anakie Gorge and pulling out Caper Spurge down the creek.

We had a great walk from the bottom of Sutherlands Creek all the way up to the bridge at Steiglitz. I was always interested in gold fossicking, and used to help out at gold panning activities at the Back to Steiglitz Celebration.

We fixed up the Miner's Shack with Elizabeth and all of her friends. What a special place. We camped out a few times. I was awarded the "Best Friend" award in the 90s - this was a thrill!

Nola - "Tom, do you remember walking along the northern boundary of the park?"

Tom - "Yes, with Geoff Gaynor, it was a scramble down to cross the creek and up the other side, then along the fence line, a long way.

We just had a very good time altogether every time we met. Now I just go out occasionally and enjoy the bush."

Ten Years of Koala Counts

What good fun days in our favourite Ranges! Hail, rain, or shine (I only remember one day, when it poured rain all day - see photo page 37).

At least 20 or so people - Friends, locals, VNPA members, would arrive at the designated grid area in Durdidwarrah Road, in anticipation of an exciting interesting day. Quite often Kath Handasyde, our Koala expert from the Zoology Department at Monash University would join us, and what a wealth of knowledge would flow around us then.

Tom Burchell would always check the grid pegs in the weeks prior, using a compass to make sure all were in place, and replacing those that were missing - this was invaluable as all the pegs were marked with the necessary reference numbers.

Usually with Geoff Durham - the whistle man - at one end of the line and Tom at the other end to mark (with toilet paper) where we had been, we would attempt to walk, climb, surge, duck, leap, squeeze our way through the bush - quite often thick undergrowth and bracken - trying to keep in a straight line - marking down each koala found, in which tree, in which grid square. And what sex - such discussions - "It's got fluffy ears!" (F), "No! it's got a big nose." (M), "Can you see its bottom?" "Wish it would move so we can see its chest." (the male scent gland on the chest was a convincing argument).

Nola Haines



Male koala from 1986

Many koalas were translocated into the Brisbane Ranges on separate events over about 30 years.

The koala counts saw a gradual decline in numbers from 1986 with 70 in the research area to 16 in 1995 although it was noted there were healthy koalas in other parts of the park. The 2006 bushfires had a large impact on the koala population and recent regrowth makes it harder to see them.



Koala Seminar

At least 45% of Koalas in Australia are infected with disease, causing "dirty tail", blindness, pneumonia, reproductive infections and other fatal complaints.

A count of the famous Koala population on Phillip Island in 1985 revealed less than 200 animals. This population is suffering severely from disease and has a very low reproductive rate. In the Brisbane Ranges there is a much larger population, and here the Koalas are healthier and more fertile.

What do we know about the Koala?

What is its life cycle?

What are its habitat requirements?

HOW THREATENED IS IT?

Major research is under way to remedy what has been described as "an appalling lack of knowledge of Australia's favourite marsupial". Two research zoologists from Monash University who are working in the Brisbane Ranges National Park - Roger Martin and Kath Handasyde, will be the main speakers at the Koala Seminar.

Koala film and slides. Afternoon tea available. Donation.

ANAKIE HALL

SUNDAY 13TH APRIL, 1986 AT 2.00 P.M.

ALL WELCOME.

Organised by the Friends of Brisbane Ranges National Park.
Enquiries: John Hastie (053) 41 5567.

The 6-monthly KOALA COUNT will precede the seminar. Meet at the STEIGLITZ COURT HOUSE at 10.00 a.m. Bring binoculars, pencil and lunch.

ALL WELCOME.

Ecological Burn Monitoring

The Brisbane Ranges has had a long association with fire - plant-fire interactions that often achieve great species diversity and result in impressive and bountiful flowering the following seasons. Such wildflower displays, particularly of the orchids and grass trees, is one of the many attributes that attract visitors to the park and never cease to inspire the Friends.

Members of FoBR are never shy to further explore ecological aspects of the environment, tirelessly feeding on interesting information and new experiences. Upholding the aims to maintain and protect species diversity within the park, FoBR was interested in carrying out research into the effects of fire on plant survival. Questions of concern included: "How long does it take different species to recover from fire?", "How frequent should fires be within certain vegetation communities to maintain species diversity?", "How long can a community's species diversity exist without fire?", "What seasons are most appropriate for burning?", "Should management be looking at prescribed burning in areas for ecological management as well as asset-protection burning?"

Armed with enthusiasm and energy, we set up some monitoring plots within an area proposed for prescribed burning along Aeroplane Road. The 10m x 10m plots, two within the proposed burn area and one outside (for a control plot), were set up and surveyed in early October 2000. We split into teams, allocated with a group of species to count and/or measure foliage cover. Members learnt methods of species identification, estimation of foliage cover, count estimates, and gained an overall appreciation of diversity that can exist within such a small area. Photos were taken for each plot from a designated photo point.



In early 2002, Parks Victoria commissioned an environmental consultancy to research and prepare an ecological burn strategy for the Brisbane Ranges National Park. The research involved the collection of plant vital attribute information, that is, data on how plants biologically response to fire, including methods of regeneration, seed stores, length of the juvenile period, time to maturity, requirement for establishment, etc. This information identified species having special fire regime requirements, namely a minimum period between burning or maximum period without burning. A burning strategy was developed to cater for all plant species within the park.

In 2003, Parks Victoria embarked upon an expansion of the burn monitoring program first set up by the FoBR. Seven burns were set up with 5m x 5m plots and surveyed for pre-burn component of the monitoring. Photos were taken at each plot, including control plots. The data obtained by FoBR for the Aeroplane Road site was incorporated into a new monitoring program.

An attempt to conduct the prescribed burn of the Aeroplane Road site failed in April 2003 due to unsuitable weather and fuel conditions. The Friends eagerly awaited a successful burn attempt so that they could return to gather post-burn monitoring results and further the ecological knowledge of the park.

In January 2006 a major bushfire burned about 40% of the National Park.

Velvet Daisy-bush

The Brisbane Ranges is blessed with tremendous species diversity. Renowned with exceptional wildflower displays, the Brisbane Ranges National Park is home to around 600 plant species including over 100 orchid species and a few hybrids. Amongst such diversity are many rare or threatened species, including the Brisbane Ranges Grevillea - Friends logo (pg 41).

FoBR prides itself on being devoted conservationists. Much has been achieved in the park over the years to maintain and preserve the rare and threatened species of the park. Cleaning rubbish and weeding out invasive alien species is a task that has significant impact on threatened species survival.



The **Velvet Daisy-bush** (*Olearia pannosa* ssp. *cardiophylla*) is one tough-as-nails plant which grows in amazingly dry and harsh environments where other plants wouldn't even contemplate growing. In fact, it almost always grows in the harshest spots - the rockiest sites, the most exposed aspects, the poorest soils. It can grow luxuriously in a

sheltered gully, but for the most part it has trouble (or is not favoured to) growing in damp, fertile soils. Perhaps that is why it is rare - it's either a glutton for punishment by growing in desperate soils or simply can't compete outside of these harsh environments.

There are many features of the Velvet Daisy-bush that work against it. Its biggest threat is heavy browsing by rabbits and wallabies, followed by drought and seed germination. It can only grow slowly in its favoured environment, simply it's happy to 'just hang on' to life.

The Velvet Daisy-bush is considered vulnerable in Victoria and nationally rare. Many small populations of this plant occur through the Brisbane Ranges, but are rarely in good vigour and health, often looking harshly battered and sometimes persisting with only a few leaves. The plant is capable of growing into a medium- sized shrub of up to 1 metre tall (perhaps taller in cultivation), the leaves are large (>5 cm long) and are soft and velvety on their under-surface. The large white daisy flowers are to be admired -produced on long stalks and occasionally prolific over the plant. The plant does, however, spread by rhizomatous growth ie fleshy underground roots, a problem when trying to assess the number of individuals within a population. In any case, the Velvet Daisy-bush must be a fighter, continuing to persist despite the ongoing pressures of grazing.

In 1998, the Friends received a grant of \$850 for monitoring works to be carried out on the Velvet Daisy-bush. FoBR mapped out the distribution of the species, and recorded plants numbers at each site. The program was phased down around 2000 but the magnificent plant was not forgotten, with casual research being conducted in the form of propagation and trialling in various soils types (namely member's backyards!). We have found that this plant grows wonderfully when well watered and sheltered and will flower prolifically each year once established.

Before the 2006 bushfires in the area, the Friends Group was concerned about the future of many of these rare plants. Members noted numerous dead plants and others in small populations that were looking very unhealthy. The plants showed dense regrowth following the 2006 bushfire and some appear to have remained healthy since. In some locations, deep within the boundaries of the wildfire, plants responded with rapid and vigorous growth, benefitting from the absence or reduction of any animals and insects feeding on the leaves.

Keeping the Park Weed Free

Friends have spent many hundreds of hours over the years pulling up, digging out, cutting down, and grubbing out weeds. At only the second activity, the Friends were pulling out Tufted Honeyflower (referred to at the time as 'mock marijuana') along Sutherlands Creek.

Here is just a small sample of FoBRs work in weed eradication and control:

African Box-thorn	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>
Blue Periwinkle	<i>Vinca major</i>
Bluebell Creeper	<i>Sollya heterophylla</i>
Bridle Creeper (Smilax)	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>
Caper Spurge	<i>Euphorbia lathyris</i>
Coast (Sallow) Wattle	<i>Acacia longifolia</i>
Radiata pine	<i>Pinus radiata</i>
Red-ink Weed	<i>Phytolacca octandra</i>
Serrated Tussock	<i>Nasella trichotoma</i>
Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
Tufted Honeyflower	<i>Melianthus comosus</i>

Plus some recent Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*), Watsonia, Pine Wildlings and suckers. Gorse, Blackberry and Spiny Rush are usually left up to rangers.

Although the Brisbane Ranges National Park and Steiglitz Historical Park are host to a recorded 112 introduced plant species, the parks have remained quite low in weed infestations. It is not surprising that the parks have such a high number of recorded introduced species because the parks form a relatively small island of natural vegetation surrounded by vast agricultural country and many small townships.



Many weeds have been recorded from Steiglitz, where large amounts of soils disturbance and other activities in the past benefited the growth and establishment of exotic species. Perhaps the dry, shale-soils of the ranges that prevent weeds from colonising the natural ecosystems, and in turn, prevents the invasion and smothering of our native species.

Photo monitoring points

In 1983, 26 photo monitoring points were set up to “monitor sensitive areas and factors affecting them”. They were marked by white wooden posts with a metal arrow placed on top to indicate the direction the photo was meant to be taken. Photos were taken regularly from 1983 to 1987, then the project lapsed. Some sites were revisited in 1991 and again in 1997.

After the 2006 fires, it was decided to resurrect the project. Finding the photo points based on a cross on a map and some general directions based on temporary landmarks (“North west of cherry ballart, 35 paces in from road) presented some challenges, but 23 of the original sites have been relocated. Some posts were missing or burnt by fire, but all found sites have been recorded by GPS and rephotographed in the last few years. Thanks to Colin Cook, all of the old slides have been scanned into digital format to allow easier access and sharing on the Picasaweb albums linked to the website.



PP25 Bert Boardmans Reserve 9/4/1997 and 3/1/2008

Wildflowers and the Wildflower Shows

From around the beginning of FoBR a special wildflower walk was held about October each year.

The ranger used to see Merle and Clive Trigg in the park photographing and asked for copies of their orchid photos to put on a board to go in the Steiglitz Court House. (Later Merle and Clive Trigg were the authors/photographers of the book *Wildflowers of the Brisbane Ranges* published in 2000 and still available and popular).

Subsequently Ranger Chris Worrall had the idea about a Wildflower Show and asked FOBR to decorate the Court House as a contribution to “Back to Steiglitz 1986.” It was set up as ‘professional wildflower show’.

FOBR created a wildflower show in this manner again in 1991, with art works as well, in the Church of England at Steiglitz (the building was empty at this time but had been propped and renovated).

In 1997, 1998 and 1999 Wildflower Shows and Art/Craft Shows were held in Catholic Church along with Back to Steiglitz celebrations. This included afternoon walks. Better equipment had been acquired from Blackburn Tree Group through Friends Judith and Lance Lewis who were such an important part of the wildflower shows for so many years. We collected wildflowers on private properties thanks to Friends including Harry and Elsa Dunn, Colin Smithyman and Jack Boardman.

In 2001 we again combined with Back to Steiglitz for its Steiglitz Gold 150 years celebration This was a weekend event and the wildflower show was held in the Catholic Church over the two days. The event was a successful fund raiser for FoBR.



The 2002 Wildflower Show was also a weekend event held in November, in the Church of England at Steiglitz, as we were assisting the Victorian National Parks Association to celebrate its 50th birthday. Despite the drought and later month (November) we managed to present 100 specimens and “bulked” these up nicely with some of Judy Locke’s lovely pots and some floral baskets. FoBR also celebrated its 20th birthday in October 2002.

It was decided that the Catholic Church was not suitable for future shows as it was too far away from Back to Steiglitz celebrations.

The Wildflower show was moved to the Parks Victoria Anakie Depot on Geelong-Ballan Rd for 11 September 2005 (see the October 2005 newsletter) and 80 people attended the day. It was decided that the depot was far too small and that we should consider holding the next show at the Anakie Hall.

The 2006 Wildflower Show was held at the Anakie Hall for the first time with a special committee established to assist with the organising of the event. About 200 people visited the display and 120 people took part in the wildflower tours. (November 2006 news).

In 2007 the show was held at the Anakie Hall and again grew with over 300 people attending and 515 plants being sold. The event offered 2 organised bus tours and a photographic exhibition of wildflowers of the Brisbane Ranges. (November 2007 news). We had organisational sponsorship this year too.

That year the committee decided that the show should be organised every two years (biennial event) due to the large amount of work required to organise such a professional event by volunteers with the help of Parks Victoria staff.

In 2009 the Wildflower Show attracted over 500 people. For the first time we delivered a series of workshops and it was a great success. It provided another educational experience for the visitor with topics - Identifying Wattles, Macro Photography and Local Parks of the area. These replaced the Photographic Exhibition. The wildflower bus tours continued to be extremely popular.

Through a mini survey on the day, we found that people had travelled from all over Melbourne - from Dromana and Pakenham to Belgrave and Wallan and in between as well as western suburbs and along the Great Ocean Road. Nearly all indicated they would be keen to attend the next Wildflower Show and to visit the National Park.

In 2011 the Wildflower Show again attracted large numbers although the weather was raining in the morning and somewhat threatening. The bus tours again were very popular with our new online booking system being booked out some three weeks ahead of the day. The free workshops – Identifying Orchids with Cathy Powers and Macro Photography with Chris Clarke were well attended and the photography display was very popular too. A highlight of the event was Uncle David's Welcome to Country as well as the Wathaurong booth.

Judith is still helping with WFS and working with current Co-ordinator Helena Lindorff and the Committee.



A letter following 2001 Wildflower Show

*I've included a list of the flowers shown if you want to stick it into the Friends book. We have kept all the tickets ready for next year and will know next time which specimens need to be collected fresh on the Sunday instead of Saturday - the poor old Running Postman - *Kennedia prostrata*, and Matted Bush pea -- *Pultenaea pedunculata* were not too good on Sunday and needed topping up. Harry (Dunn) was a marvel - he knew all the spots on his block for ever so many of the orchids and found us a Grasstree flowering spike and *Grevillea Steiglitziana* also.*

We also saw the Powerful Owl that lives on his block, in our tracks - a real bonus!

I think Chris Worrall was quite pleased at our finished product and he searched patiently through "Jean Galbraith" (Field Guide to the Wildflowers of South East Australia) for many an identification and somehow found time to take kids panning, visit all the Back to Steiglitz folk, do a tour of the Park and run errands all day!

My thanks to everyone who searched so diligently for flowers on a very hot day, filled empty bottles, sorted tags and lumped and humped trestles about. Elsa and Harry treated us to a wonderful weekend - B&B plus tea and good company.

The Friends donations to the craft stall all sold and the locals had been busy cooking and potting on, and clearing trash and treasure corners so I think the Church Restoration Fund must have had a boost, while socially the weekend was a tremendous success.

Flower specimens - 103 - thanks to those who allowed us onto their properties. Elsa typed 90 name tags of which 68 were used plus 38 flowers we found (especially Harry). There was not enough time to find the other 25 or they may not be flowering at this time of course.

Judith Lewis

We had a dream! .. a dream to showcase the magnificent wildflowers of the Brisbane Ranges - our special part of the world. The idea of a book floated around.

Chris Worrall knew Clive and Merle Trigg had a fantastic collection of photographs - he talked about it. Nola Haines dreamed of it and talked about it. We had a meeting. The Centenary of Federation Grant Scheme was open. Richard Sullivan completed a comprehensive application and to our joy - this was successful. We had some money - and WE COULD DO IT. WE COULD LIVE THE DREAM!

With Merle and Clive's tremendous collection of photographs and complete knowledge of their subject, and hours and hours of their time... and Cyril Curtain's suggestion that we approach CSIRO Publishing, with Parks Victoria support and with many more hours of time from the Committee, help and guidance of many friendly people, enthusiasts and experts OUR LOVELY WILDFLOWER FIELD GUIDE BECAME A REALITY AND WAS PUBLISHED IN 2001.

There were some difficulties along the way, but oh it was such a worthwhile project, which continues to outline and contribute to the ever constant enthusiasm and energy of the Friends of Brisbane Ranges and park visitors.

Nola Haines



The book dream began many years before publication and the book is a wonderful resource showcasing our local wildflowers. The Trigg family continues to be generous friends including donating many books to FoBR. Unfortunately Merle passed away before the FoBR presentation of Honorary Membership to them both. Presentation to Clive was a highlight of the 2011 Wildflowers Show.

Pipeline construction through the BRNP

As a result of their evaluation of the water supply requirements for Geelong and the Bellarine Peninsula in the 21st century, Barwon Water decided to upgrade their supply of water from the Stony Creek Reservoirs situated along the north eastern boundaries of the Brisbane Ranges National Park near Anakie.

Plans included construction of a pipeline from the reservoirs through the National Park to the Sheoaks pumping station outside the park and closure of the historic aqueduct from the Stony Creek reservoirs to the Anakie reservoir.

Closure of the aqueduct provided an opportunity for FoBR and VNPA to lobby for the Anakie aqueduct and some adjoining land to be annexed into the Brisbane Ranges National Park. These negotiations began in 1998. Barwon Water's most economic and efficient route for the pipeline was through the Brisbane Ranges National Park.

The Friends took the view that the pipeline was important. At the same time, they were very aware that they needed to provide support in communicating the values of the Brisbane Ranges National Park as the work proceeded.

FoBR activities during construction involved regular inspection and monitoring of the works. Good relationships developed between the Friends and Barwon Water staff including briefings and walks through the Barwon Water land which later became part of the park.

FoBR provided information and direction about preservation and protection of the flora, fauna and roads in the park and the aesthetics of the landscape along the pipeline route in the park.

After much negotiating over the years, on 20 August 2010 the Lower Stony Creek catchment area of approximately 1165 ha was finally added to the Brisbane Ranges National Park making it a total of 8883ha. This land had minimal disturbance and been closed to the public for about 125 years.

Adapted from an article by Richard Sullivan, FoBR President 2003

Phytophthora cinnamomi monitoring in Grasstrees

Phytophthora cinnamomi is a disease that causes 'dieback' often leading to the death of native plants. It is an introduced plant pathogen that infects the roots of plants, dissolving and feeding off them until it eventually kills the plant. (previously known as Cinnamon Fungus - it is a water mould - not a fungi).

The first evidence of this disease in the park was discovered in 1969 where it is thought to be introduced by using contaminated road materials on park roads. FoBR is well aware that this plant disease is a serious problem within the Brisbane Ranges as well as many other native bushlands around Australia.

The grasstree monitoring project, run by VNPA, Deakin University and Parks Victoria with assistance from the volunteer groups VNPA Naturewatch and FoBR, “commemorates the work of Dr Gretna Weste, who carried out highly valuable research on *Phytophthora cinnamomi*”.

NatureWatch volunteers and the FoBR have monitored the health of the BRNP grasstrees over 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011 and 2012. Naturewatch volunteers are also now monitoring grass-trees in the Wilson Promontory National Park.

There are 6 sites within the park (including Dr Weste's original plots where her stakes are barely recognisable since the 2006 fires). Each grasstree is assessed for height and width and visually assessed for signs of *Phytophthora* ie yellow or loss of leaves, crown collapse, stem collapse or hole in ground where a grasstree had once existed. Photos and soil samples are collected and provided to VNPA.

Results will be used to help with the management of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* in Brisbane Ranges and other parks. This is important ongoing research and FoBR's valuable contribution is greatly appreciated by the project partners.

Minimising the spread of the disease through hygiene practices is a focus for all activities.



Boxy with the famous Anakie Scrubber hygiene station



Geoff Hannon's highlights

The highlight of my experience as a Friend of Brisbane Ranges is not any one event, but the magnificent environment of the Park itself: the rich texture and detail of the flora, the rocks underfoot, the dramatic landforms cut through by streams, and the many birds and animals.

The complement to that environment is experiencing it with people who are similarly moved by it. The feeling of the group has always been positive, friendly and committed and a day walking and working with the Friends produces a feeling of satisfaction and refreshment (as well as fatigue!).

Geoff Hannon



L—R Gwen McDowall, Ann Stokie, Chris Worrall, Judith Lewis, Geoff Hannon, Ann Lee and Cyril Curtain.

Years of pulling Milky Thistles, Pine Tree seedlings, Periwinkles, evasive Wattles and Cape Weeds, not to forget Patterson's Curse, Blackberries, Holly, Agapanthus and St John's Worts are quite an achievement worth a celebration. Years of shrieks of delights to be celebrated when coming across the elusive Spiny Tree Hopper, Bald Headed Frog-mouth, Crimson Crested Siberian Woodpecker and the Horn Billed Mongolian Duck.

And then there are years of exciting Wildflower discoveries, from the Flying Mouse Orchid to the Soft Sheaved Grass Tree and sprouting fence posts. Tom's applied Geology and Mining engineering lectures, picking up other peoples left-behind picnic plates and VB cans and years of dusting off cobwebs in the Catholic Church.

However, most importantly is celebrating years of friendship and a common love for this unique patch of nature. I trust there is enough momentum and dedication to keep the Friends of Brisbane Ranges going at least until the last Pine Tree seedling has been pulled up.

I have enjoyed the time I have with you. My boys, who sometimes reluctantly accompanied Dad on these wood-pulling expeditions, learned a lot about nature and most importantly "how to appreciate nature" from these outings. So did I, for which I would like to thank you all.

I have been back to the Brisbane Ranges many times with visitors from overseas. These excursions always give me great pleasure when I see how much they enjoy these walks through the bush. Now, please rise your cups of Billy Tea for three

Wolf wrote this in 2003 when FoBR turned 21. In 2012, when FoBR turns 30 years old, Wolf is still a Friend loving the Brissies.



Leaders of the Pack

The Friends of Brisbane Ranges has been such a successful group since 1982 due to the efforts of many of its members and the invaluable support of Park Rangers and staff.

A Friends group can achieve so much with the commitment of many dedicated members, some working behind the scenes and a team effort to bring together successes in activities.

Nonetheless, group direction is an important and valued component and we have tried to list members of the executive and those who have made valuable contributions in other roles. They are a reminder of the immense input and diversity such people can bring to a Friends Group.

Co-ordinators

Ian Cooper and John Hastie	1982- 1983
John Hastie	1984 -1985
Nola Haines	1985 -1995

Following FoBR incorporation on 16 January 1996, the constitution dictated the terms of the Group, including the



election of President, Secretary, and Treasurer (3-year terms).
*L-R Richard Sullivan, Nola Haines, Bernie Fox, Colin Cook and Chris Lindorff
[our past leaders]*

Presidents

Richard Sullivan	1996 - 1998
Bernie Fox	1999 - 2001
Chris Lindorff	2002 - 2004
Colin Cook (incl 1 year as V/Pres)	2005 - 2010
Carole Bartholomew	2011 -

The roles of secretary and treasurer were shared by many over the years. In the earlier years of the Group, it appears that these roles weren't always clearly defined and as one person said "*there wasn't any money*", but following incorporation, the filling of these positions became mandatory.

Prue Drummond	Secretary	1994 - 1998
Chris Lindorff	Secretary	1999 - 2001
Judy Locke	Secretary	2002 - 2005
Helena Lindorff	Secretary	2006 - 2009
Carole Bartholomew	Secretary	2010
Carolyn Edwards	Secretary	2011
Sher Swinden	Secretary	2012 -
Judy Locke	Treasurer	1997 - 2001
Sue Hayman	Treasurer	2002 - 2008
Helena Lindorff	Treasurer	2009 - 2010
Elsbeth Swan	Treasurer	2011 -
Colin Cook	Vice President	2011 -



Other important contributions to FoBR over the years include -

Nola Haines	Newsletter Editor	1988 - 1991
Geoff Hannon	Newsletter Editor`	1992 - 2001
Bernie Fox	Newsletter Editor	2002 - 2004
Peter Box	Newsletter Editor	2005 - 2008
Helena Lindorff	Newsletter Editor	2009
Carole Bartholomew	Newsletter Editor	2010
Deirdre Murphy	Newsletter Editor	2011 -

Judith & Lance Lewis were our Historians for many years and they identified and looked after a collection of our older photos.

Wildflower Shows were managed by Judith Lewis for many years with assistance over the years by many, particularly Judy Locke. Helena Lindorff has taken on the important role of Wildflower Show Coordinator from 2005.

Parks Victoria roles included -

Court House Information Officers:

Karen Smithyman, Elizabeth Haines, Linda Bye, Colin Smithyman and Dale Smithyman

Seasonal Fire Crew included:

Paul McGoughtry, Rudolf Burchovich, Greg Davies, Phyl Robinson, John Evans, Tim Gaynor, Neil Box, Brian Leary, Mark Morrissey, Hayden Webber, Bill Whiteside

Support officers over the years included Nola Haines, Brenda Browne and *Judy Locke (now Ranger)

Park Rangers

The Friends of Brisbane Ranges has had the pleasure of working closely with Parks Victoria staff since the beginning, including –

John Miller	Ranger in Charge	1980 - 1983
Charles Dickie	Ranger	1980 - 1988
(RIC SHP 1 year and Acting RIC BRNP/SHP 3 years)		
Allan Rampal	Ranger in Charge	1984
Roy Speechley	Ranger in Charge	1985
Sean (Mick) Keenan	Ranger	b4 1986 - 1987
Des Peters	Ranger (Acting RIC 1988)	1987 - 1991
Steve Eddie	Ranger	1988
Chris Worrall	Ranger in Charge	1989 - 2006
Cane Filipovski	Ranger	1989
Dave Farrar	Ranger	1990
Wayne Drew	Ranger	1990
Tony Morris	Ranger	1995
Craig Bray	Ranger	1997
Stuart Willsher	Ranger	1997 -
Bernie McCarrick	Acting RIC	1998
Peter Box	FSO 1987, Ranger	1997 - 2010
	Ranger in Charge	2010 -
Mark Urquhart	Ranger in Charge	2006 - 2010
Scott Nicolson	Ranger	2011 -
Judy Locke*	Ranger	2011 -
Barry Gaylard	Field Service officer	1979 - 1980s
Dave Barker	Field Service officer	1980s
Kari Lehtola	Field Service officer	1981
Other Field Service Officers included—		
Lance Baulch	Robert Bagshaw	Mark Breguet
Peter Wright	Vin Cowell	Don Van Beuchecamp (Dutchy)



Honorary members of FoBR

Honorary membership is FoBRs recognition of outstanding contribution to the group and our park.

All these people and many more deserve a big thank you from nature.

Our wonderful honorary members awarded over the years -

Tom Burchell - *“A lovely man who loved his Brisbane Ranges”*

Cyril and Betty Curtain - *“Quietly knowledgeable with enthusiasm for projects and days in the bush”*

Harry Dunn - *“Great supporter with quiet knowledge and enthusiasm”*

Nola Haines - *“The beautiful lady who always made everyone so welcome”*

Judith and Lance Lewis - *“The backbone of the group”*

Clive and Merle Trigg - *“Such a valuable lasting contribution to FoBR and the park”*

Chris Worrall - *“Enthusiastic and constant lover of the BR”*

Roger Curtain - *“Still quietly making a great contribution”*

Geoff Durham - *“Special interest and support for FoBR over all these years”*

Bernie Fox and Sue Hayman-Fox - *“Eternal enthusiasts with conservation qualities par-excellence”*

Friends of the Year

At the Victorian Environment Friends Network's 5th Conference in 1991 the Best Friend Award was established. The criterion for the Award is: *An outstanding contribution through exceptional dedication as a Friend.* This usually involves constant honorary involvement in the work of the group over a period of at least ten years. Groups nominate and assessment is by an independent panel.

Since 1991 some of our FoBR friends have been recognised for their outstanding contribution and dedication –

1996 Tom Burchell

A foundation member of FoBR, Tom was a stalwart for many years, missing only a few project days and making many other visits to the park. Tom was described as “an unassuming and caring person. Over many year his dedication to the Brisbane Ranges National Park has been enormous.

He really is an unsung hero, so quiet but always putting in more than his share for the environment and the Park that he loves. He is a treasure of a person, invaluable to a group like ours. Tom's comment when he received the award “I'm only doing what I like doing” - luckily for FoBR and the park that benefited greatly.



*Tom and Nola
wet through
following the
best Koala count
in Durdidwarrah
Road. **Poured
rain all day!**
[photo Geoff
Durham]*

2001 Nola Haines

Nola was FoBR Co-ordinator for about 10 years. When times were challenging for FoBR Nola took on this role to ensure the group continued. She was the driving force and organiser and created the first FoBR newsletter and continued with this valuable communication for about four years. With her friendly, co-operative and encouraging manner the group flourished. She organised many volunteer projects, applied for grants and was the Convenor of Friends publication - *Wildflowers of the Brisbane Ranges*. Her contribution was outstanding as an organiser and a regular and reliable participant. She continues to be involved. The present strength of FoBR owes much to Nola's dedication.

2005 Lance and Judith Lewis

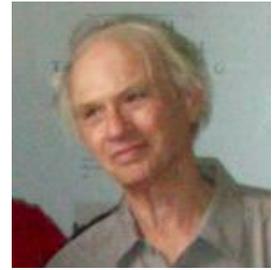
Foundation members and group historians for 22 years as well as Wildflower Show organisers and always dedicated participants and enthusiasts in all activities over the years.



Judith and Lance created the first plant list. Over the years they collected rubbish, removed weeds, planted, counted koalas, repaired old buildings, removed old fences, botanised along tracks, helped with flower displays and explain they have “enjoyed the company of good friends along the way. So many lovely people to remember over those 30 years and so much love and laughter during the lunch breaks and camp outs”. Judith and Lance were awarded FoBR Honorary Members and were then surprised to receive Friend of the Year awards in 2005 at the Friends seminar that they almost did not attend.

2007 Cyril Curtain

Cyril was one of the founding members of the Friends group in October 1982 at the Steiglitz Courthouse. Since then, he has played an active role in many of the Friends activities, including a strong commitment to the publication of the book "Wildflowers of the Brisbane Ranges".



He has been a regular attendee at Friends meetings and has always been willing to volunteer his time for committee activities and organising special events, such as the Wildflower Show at Anakie.

He undertakes his tasks in such a quiet and unassuming way that people could easily think that he is not achieving much: those of us who have worked alongside him know that this is not the case.

Cyril has always been a regular attendee and stalwart, and his measured intelligent words are always of great value.



Friends of Brisbane Ranges Logos

We have had a few logos over the years but the very special *Grevillea steiglitziana* has always been our emblem.

Nola created the first logo. Geoff Hannon created the photo logo in use for some years from the original collected plant specimen which forms part of the Herbarium collection. Geoff Hannon was our newsletter editor for many years.



Helena Lindorff created present beautiful design from the original drawing by Nola Haines.

Helena also created our professional-looking stationery and newsletter templates.



The first Friends newsletter was created by Nola Haines in November 1988 – four pages of pictures, illustrations and tons of information about the park, koalas, FoBR events and the plants.

[here is just first page but the full newsletter is now on our website]



SCIENCE NEWS

News from Tom is that he has been busy propagating - sassa gum and stringy bark. Now seeds will be seeds - as we all know! They either **ALL COME UP** and there seem to be millions of them - or **NONE APPEAR**. Tom must have spoken well to them - and must have the green thumb of the decade - we are all looking forward to tree planting in the future!



Ken, Ian and Trevor (koala hummus/rock collector extraordinaire) joined us for our wildflower walk. People of like interest are special, and Ian is an enthusiast par excellence. We hope to see them all again.

Barbara is a newcomer, and we welcome her warmly, also Bev from Gellibrand Hill. Friends visited on koala counting day. Rosamaria and Clayton helped us count koalas and experienced Friday's Track with us on wildflower walk day. Looking forward to hearing about their penguin counting venture.

DID YOU KNOW...

Koalas eat 32 species of Eucalyptus, and occasionally browse species of other genera, including **FINIS HODINATA**.

At our recent koala count - in September 1988, we recorded 15 females 24 males 15 question marks 4 females & young

TOTAL - 62

Kath Hardside was in the koala grid area later that week and when speaking with her she said she thought we had possibly missed some F with young up at "A" as they had seen more than we recorded.

Oh well! better luck next year.



Kath, incidentally had a possibility of 4 males on Macquarie Island studying FUR SBALS so I hope she made it - what a fabulous experience!

I even offered to pay to go with them, but she seemed to think the only 'guests' would be the barracudas under the boat - and I rather suspect they might have had a cold time - even though it is mid summer!

**
RE: THE KOALA
 by Anthony Lee
 and Roger Martin
 (NSW Uni Press
 1981)

Nola also created information sheets which described the Friends and upcoming activities.

The FoBR newsletters continue to be our main communication with members and associates and it is highly regarded and often forwarded on. They are nearly all emailed these days - less work and cost, quicker and much more environmentally friendly.



FoBR Website

A FoBR website was first developed by Chris Lindorff and launched in July 2000. The role was taken over by Carole Bartholomew in 2005 and a new design launched in 2011.

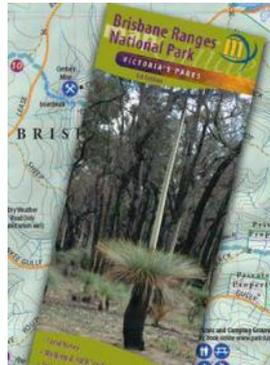
The website is a valuable communication with members and the public. It now includes many years of past newsletters, annual reports, our revised constitution and information about the Park and the Friends. The historical information is accessed often by visitors to the site and is a great way to keep interested people up to date.

A Facebook Page was also started in 2011 to provide opportunities for interested people to engage with the Friends, to promote activities and to post photos seeking identification or comments and interesting observations. More than 60 people now share on our Facebook page.

New Park Map

In October 2010 our exciting new Brisbane Ranges National Park map guide was published and ready for sale including -

- New Burchell trail track alignments
- Extensive walk notes with numbers on the map to help identify walks
- Inclusion of the recently proclaimed new addition to the park.
- Excellent wildlife photos
- Hill shading to identify steep areas
- All camping and picnic facilities



Thanks to a Parks Victoria community grant and assistance by the rangers the project was co-ordinated by Helena Lindorff with some FoBR assistance.

Many grants over the years have assisted the Friends of Brisbane Ranges to undertake projects around the Park.

Some of the long list includes -

- Catholic Church at Steiglitz – front steps reinstated with assistance from money from the donation box at Steiglitz Courthouse. Church was officially opened October 1991.
- Federation grant \$21000 for our Wildflower Book
- \$850 for Velvet Daisy Bush – NRE Botanical Guardianship
- \$85000 for construction of composting toilet behind Church of England, interpretations in Courthouse and around Steiglitz town as well as access tracks to Courthouse.
- Interpretive signs along Yankee Gully explaining the history of mining in the area, as well as one at the Lower Stony Creek dam wall.
- Birds Australia grant \$1161 for software for bird monitoring

Parks Victoria community grants include-

- \$1500 grant for the Information shelter at Bert Boardman's
- Information shelter at Anakie Gorge - officially unveiled 1991
- \$5000 grant for the Picnic Shelter and Gas BBQ at Bert Boardmans
- \$7520 grant - Shadehouse/Nursery upgrade at Anakie Depot
- \$2450 grant for Stony Creek dam wall track upgrade
- \$1000 for Anakie Gorge upgrade of information board
- \$4532 for Anakie Gorge picnic shelter
- \$8000 for Mine site interpretation plaques
- Alliance Track opposite Hut Road and Durdidwarrah



Waterwatch at Sutherlands Creek

A rare find in a dry landscape is the presence of permanent waterholes in the Sutherlands Creek nestled within the gorge below Steiglitz. This was a freshwater refuge providing good quality water and habitat to many animals in a catchment still experiencing drought in 2010. FoBR began Waterwatch that winter because they were interested to monitor the water quality at this important site.

The Waterwatch program was already known to the Cooks so the next step was to contact Deirdre Murphy from the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CMA) to train the group. This became a significant day because while the group began a new activity developing new skills they also made some exciting discoveries.

While surveying the waterbug population using a dip net, native fish were inadvertently caught and subsequently identified. In the next FoBR newsletter (July 2010), Carolyn Edwards described the find

“As well as a Southern Pygmy Perch there was also a Yarra Pygmy Perch *Nannoperca obscura*, which is listed as threatened under the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act and vulnerable under the Australian Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. This species was known to be in the area in the past, and it was quite exciting to confirm its continued presence.”

This was great news for the Corangamite CMA who had been trying to manage Yarra Pygmy Perch populations in lower Sutherlands Creek fish refuges with steadily diminishing water levels and deteriorating water quality.

Waterwatch monitoring has continued since 2010 with quarterly trips to the Sutherland gorge and also visiting the Stony Creek at the lower reservoir and below the Anakie Gorge. The data is collected for long term monitoring of Corangamite CMA's waterway management through regional waterway strategies.

Members are highly proficient with water testing and conducting aquatic macro-invertebrate collection and identification. This may sound like a mouthful but it is really fun.

“The History of the World” *(Brisbane Ranges anyway)*

Ok, so where will I start, I guess the beginning is as good a place as any so here goes.

In the beginning there was a park, now in that park there dwelt a Ranger In Charge who went by the name of Chrissy Worrall. Now many feared this RIC but down deep he was a good and kind old soul who ruled with nothing but the best interests of the park in mind. Although he was feared by many, there was a band of merry men and women who helped the dreaded RIC tend his park and protect its many plants and animals.

Then one day two peasants came from the far away kingdom of Meredith, saw the RIC needed help with his park and decided to stay. Eventually the older one said “I have done all I can here” and left, however the handsome young peasant (really a prince given up at birth to protect his identity) stayed to help protect the pristine kingdom from those who would do it harm.

During this time a lady came upon the kingdom and decided to live high on a hill where she could watch the peasants below tending their crops. One day while sitting on her hill she said “I like the look of this kingdom, I think I will stay and help the RIC tend his books”. And so it



did come to pass that the lady did come to tend the RIC’s books.

The lady did also come to know the band of merry men and women who came to the park every second Sunday of the month (except in January, or if it was a public holiday, or Mothers day or Fathers Day, or a Total Fire Ban day, or a Code Red Day or any other day they didn’t think appropriate), and

seeing their enthusiasm did want to join the group. And the friends seeing the lady was of good morals did say “yes, come and join us” which she did.

While working in the kingdom the young peasant did also come to know the band of merry men and women who came to the park every second Sunday of the month (except in January, or if it was a public holiday, or Mothers day or Fathers Day, or a Total Fire Ban day, or a Code Red Day or any other day they didn't think appropriate).

They were known as the “Friends” and that they were, friends to each other, friends to the RIC, friends to the lady, friends to the young peasant, but most of all they were friends to the park and all the plants and animals that did live there.

Now this friends group did dig, did build, did pull down, did remove, did admire, did photograph, did plant, did highlight, did show off, did talk, did walk, did look, did find, did identify, did protect, did lobby, did smile, did laugh, did frolic, did investigate, did monitor and all the dids you could think of doing in a park.

And they did did their dids with a great passion, great enthusiasm, great humour, but most of all, with great friendship for one another, the park and all it contains and the people who work within it.

who else but ..Boxy



This booklet is a celebration and thank you to the many Friends who have made tremendous contributions to the group and to the Brisbane Ranges National Park over the past 30 years. These are just a sample of the many stories of great experiences and wonderful people.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this booklet.

Much of this information was created before FoBR's 21st birthday and then edited and further developed for our 30th birthday October 2012. Perhaps it can be further developed, and include more of the people and stories, in the next twenty or so years.

THANK YOU ALL!

Carole (Caz) Bartholomew

Friends of Brisbane Ranges
Post Office, Anakie 3213

<http://www.fobr.org.au>

*Back cover photos -
Bird watching, Waterwatch, Miners Hut, Leon Costermans, Wildflower Show,
Bert Boardman's and Kids enjoying!*



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November 2012

FoBR - the first 30 years

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