



Bonye Bu'ru News

Bunya Peoples' Aboriginal Corporation and the
Bunya Mountains Murri Rangers Newsletter
Reconnecting Country and Culture

Logo artwork by Maurice Mickelo



Bunya Mountains Work Update

The Murri Rangers have been involved with a number of work activities across the Bunya Landscape over the past few months. Activities have included the clearing of woody vegetation on Mount Mowbullán, maintaining walking tracks, installing seats and other general ranger duties on the Mountain.

Mount Mowbullán bald has come along nicely after many days of hard yakka clearing mainly woody acacia from the grassland.

In this issue

- Bunya Mountains Murri Rangers Works Update
- Bunya Peoples' Aboriginal Corporation update on new board of directors
- South East QLD Spring Fire Forum
- Bunya Mountains Murri Rangers year in review
- Bunya Mountains fungi

December 2013

Phone: 0448 058 734

Email: BRAdmin@bmrq.org.au

Post: PO Box 181 Wondai QLD 4606

Office: 32 Bramston Street, Wondai QLD 4606

BPAC News

The rangers are planning to have this work completed before Christmas although the task is proving challenging with changing weather conditions.

Seating has also been installed in Russell Park at the entrance to the Chute 3 track. Situated under a large Fig tree the rangers hope its location will be well received, providing a rest point for bush walkers to stop, catch their breath and take in the surroundings.

Rangers will be working on the Russell Park walking track before the Christmas break to ensure it is in tip top condition for public use. In a bonus for the team, two enthusiastic school students have been assisting the Rangers (through a work experience program) to cover as much ground as possible.

By Michael Smith



Mount Mowbullán 12th Nov



Nick Rodgers in action clearing wattle

Thanks to all the members who attended the BPAC AGM on Saturday the 19th September at the Camp Bunya Mountains hall. This was BPAC's first AGM since its incorporation, and the organisation is looking forward to an exciting new year. The Board of Directors all stood down after their inaugural 12 month term and were required to re-stand if they wanted to remain on the board. A process where half the board has 2 years and the other half 1 year terms is now in place. Congratulations to all the elected Directors, and thanks for committing to driving the BPAC forward. The new Directors are:

Mal Collinge (Chairperson); Darby McCarthy (Vice-Chairperson); Lurlene Henderson (Treasurer); Cheri Yavu-Kama-Harathunian ; Donna Moodie; Dave Calland; and John Davis.

One of the Boards first resolutions has been to approve the BPAC Forward Focus Guide (Draft), which provides the organisation's strategic directions for the next five years. This document is in the final stages of editing and will be available early in the New Year.

The Bunya Peoples' Community Day and a Murri Forum will be run again in March 2014. Planning is underway and the events look like they will be exciting. The BPAC hope to engage as many Aboriginal people with links to the Bunya Mountains as possible. Keep an eye out early in the New Year for info and promotions for these events.



Murri Ranger Coordinator Update

The Bunya Mountains Murri Ranger Team has had a busy year incorporating many different activities. We would like to thank all our stakeholders and people who have helped the team throughout the year. Highlights for the 2013 year include:

- The burning of Little Mowbullán bald to assist in the preservation of the important ecological system.
- Attending a number of community events from NAIDOC week celebrations at Cherbourg to Barambah Environmental Education Centre open day.
- A visit from Muru Mittigar Aboriginal Cultural and Education Centre from Penrith to share and gain knowledge about the work the ranger team undertake in weed control and pest management.

We also had the pleasure of two work experience students for a week. Frank and Braydon from St Marys Catholic College worked alongside the Rangers, helping the team complete their day to day works on the mountain.

A big thank you also goes out to Eamon from University of Queensland who also donated his time for the week, bringing valuable knowledge and skills to the team.



The team with the volunteers after a hard week at work.

South East Queensland Spring Fire Forum

On the 7th November the Murri Rangers team travelled to Brisbane to attend the south east Queensland Biodiversity Spring Fire Forum. The Rangers heard from lots of different speakers. One highlight was the presentation from Dr Rod Fensham, who spoke on the use of fire to manage different ecosystems. The main example of fire management Rod discussed was a case study of the Bunya Mountains which include a landscape photo of Russel Park overlooking Munro's camp. We also met Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service staff from Stradbroke Island who spoke about fire management and other Traditional practices such as cultural knowledge, and pathways/song-lines to the Bunya Mountains. At the conclusion of the forum Maurice Mickelo, the Bunya Mountains Murri Ranger Cultural Programs Officer, took a tour around the Aboriginal plant trail at the Brisbane Botanic Gardens discussing the plant uses.

By Nick Rodgers



Theory in practice: Little Mowbullán burn

Fungi of the Bunyas and its uses



Laccocephalum myliiatae

For thousands of years Indigenous Australians have made good use of fungi through knowledge passed down from generation to generation. Over time that knowledge has diminished but there are 19th century records from early European settlers recording Aboriginal uses and beliefs about fungi. As there were an abundance of fungi used by Indigenous Australians I will name a few that were in common use such as:

- *Choiromyces aboriginum* is a truffle-like fungus found in dry areas and grows to about 7cm in diameter. It is a traditional native food and also used as a source of water.
- *Laccocephalum myliiatae* is commonly called native bread, this was eaten raw or roasted and is described as having the flavour of boiled rice.
- *Lactiporus portentosus* was most likely eaten as an emergency food, as this is a species of polypore. This type of fungus was used as tinder and to carry fire as it would smoulder all day.



Lactiporus portentosus

Bunya Peoples' Community Day, Early March 2014, Date and Venue to be announced.

Welcome and Smoking Ceremony; Traditional Dance Competition; Art comp and workshops; Music workshop; Murri Ranger Tours; Bunya Lounge; Cultural crafts; Kids activities; stalls



Murri Forum, Early March 2014, Date and Venue to be announced.

Reviving Murri Connections to the Bunya Mountains

Sharing experience about caring for country

Cultural knowledge and natural resource management

Engaging with your NRM Region