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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter - July 2003*

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.net>

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Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter.

### July Activity

Our next activity will take place on Sunday, July 20, starting at 10am at the Junction Road entrance, as per our published calendar. As well as searching for eucalypt seed, we will also continue to plant out our supply of trees, providing we are able to safely access the sites that Rob has in mind. Be prepared with lunch and refreshments and suitable clothing and footwear to ward off the wintry weather.

### Annual General Meeting

Just in case I don't get the August newsletter organised in time, the AGM is scheduled for Sunday, August 3, to be held at 1.30pm at Ken's residence. I think everybody knows how to get there, but if you are a bit unsure, please contact Ken or myself. A plate of goodies for afternoon tea would be appreciated.

### International access to our Web Site

From Ken Harris

Friends might be interested to see how much our Morwell National Park web site is being accessed, not just in Australia, but all round the world. Here are the latest figures recorded for the web site. Several of the overseas readers have contacted me by email and I shall report more on some of them later.

Domains / Countries		Unique Visitors	
.au	Australia	1642	73.99%
-	Unknown	359	16.17%
.net	Network	126	5.67%
.com	US Commercial	35	1.57%
.uk	United Kingdom	12	0.54%
.edu	US Educational	7	0.31%
.nz	New Zealand	6	0.27%
.nl	Netherlands	5	0.22%
.za	South Africa	5	0.22%
.be	Belgium	5	0.22%
.jp	Japan	5	0.22%
.de	Germany	3	0.13%
.fr	France	2	0.09%
.us	United States	2	0.09%
.es	Spain	1	0.04%
.org	Non-Profit Organizations	1	0.04%
.sg	Singapore	1	0.04%
.cl	Chile	1	0.04%
.ca	Canada	1	0.04%

## **In the Mailbox**

Received this month were:

- Friends Network News No. 43 for May 2003.
- Friends of Coolart Newsletter 2/03.
- Canopy (Parks Victoria magazine) Issue 20 for May 2003.
- Under Control Magazine Issue 23.
- An invitation from Latrobe City to enter the 2004 Tidy Towns Competition, closing May 28.
- An invitation from Latrobe City to attend the latest Community Groups Information Forum on June 11.
- An invitation from Pest Animal Control CRC to attend a public meeting on the 'Daughterless Carp' project on May 12.
- An invitation from the Regional Achievers Awards Coordinator to nominate individuals for consideration, by July 11.

If you wish to have a look at any of these, give me a yell.

## **News and Views**

The assistance we hoped to receive from The Green Corps to erect the fencing on Blue Gum Hill has not eventuated and is unlikely to in the near future. Difficulties with access, equipment and organisation were the downfall of the idea. Rob now believes our best chance of getting the job done is by a future grant for enough money to pay a contractor to do the job.

Further to the Little Ath's saga last month, Rob tells me that all has been sorted out and appropriate permits have been applied for and issued for all their upcoming events in the Park.

The European Wasp nest disturbed while removing tree guards last month has not yet been dealt with. Fortunately, it is not near any of the tracks and is unlikely to be disturbed by general Park users.

The old wire tree guards kindly (and gratefully) donated by Rob to the Boolarra Primary School are now being put to good use in the planting out of various garden beds and other areas in the school grounds. Without them, I doubt the plants would last a week! You wouldn't believe how tough kid's are on plants.

Beware of dragons in Foster's Gully! Recently while working in my garden, my neighbour popped her head over the fence to warn me of a large and aggressive snake she had seen near the toilet blocks. She had been pre-warned by other walkers, but was still surprised by the beastie, which was at least five feet long, a mottled brown colour like my Carpet Python and coiled ready to strike. She is convinced that it was a cross between a Diamond Python and a Tiger Snake!!

## **Tree Planting 2003**

After the downpour on Saturday, it was still very cool on Sunday, but at least it was dryish. We were the first to arrive, a miracle, and waited patiently for Hilmar, Wendy and Rob to turn up. Nobody else appeared to be forthcoming, so we left the Eastern Whipbird to his fossicking and headed for Braniff's Road, where Ken caught us. With no hesitation, we were right into it, quickly getting 60 or so trees into the narrow strip between the drain and the firebreak along the road just down from the gate. A mob of a dozen Grey Kangaroos bounded down the hillside and over the fence, disappearing into the trees along the creek.

Next on the agenda was a clean-up and replant in the swampy area just below the entrance road. Another tall, pink, plastic guard was consigned to the scrap heap along with a few disintegrating green ones. A new record for Billy Creek was uncovered when a Maccoy's Skink, *Nannoscincus maccoyi*, showed up while hoeing grass away ready for planting. Lunch was had while Rob and Hilmar disappeared for a bit to photograph an old sign that Rob had in storage. After lunch, we finished off by planting the remainder of 228 trees in the gap heading up to the Pipeline Track behind the first ford. There are plenty more trees left for planting next month.