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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – June 2004

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

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Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. In particular, welcome to new member Jenny Farrar, who signed up at the Churchill Festival without hesitation, even though we were not expecting people to join on the day. Several other people (Laura Dunn, Pam Lawler, Dianne Summers and Nathan Chapman) expressed interest in our group at the festival, and they will receive copies of this newsletter and group details. Hopefully, we can entice them all to come along to future activities to see what we are really all about, they will all be very welcome.

Mail this month consists solely of the draft Latrobe City Community Plan. Time permitting, I'll attempt to have a read and reply on the provided feedback sheet by May 21.

Ken Harris received a phone call from Geoff Durham, the Friends Network Coordinator, complimenting us on our May newsletter and expressing interest in receiving more information (in the form of a short article for the FriendsNet newsletter) on our experiences with European Wasps. Again, if time permits, I'll organise something for him.

Included below are the minutes of the Committee Meeting, held in early May. Thanks to our Secretary, Jane Sultana, for these. I've already mentioned a couple of items in last month's newsletter, sorry to steal some of your thunder, Jane.

I shall forego any lengthy description of our activities at the Churchill Festival last month, suffice to say that erection and dismantling of our display went off without a hitch and we gained some excellent exposure for our group, as well as selling a few more books. Thanks go to Rob for his efforts in preparation and sourcing all the equipment, as well as manning the display all day, along with Ken, Wendy, Danny, Jane, Joan, Kai Ming, Cathy and myself at various times. Mary Austin even popped in at one stage, to allow some of us newer members to finally put a face to her name!

June Activity

Our first tree planting session for the year is programmed for Sunday, June 20. We will meet at the Braniff's Road carpark at 10am to arrange the car shuffle to the worksite. You will need to bring suitable clothing and footwear for the time of year and possibly for working on some steep hillsides. You will also need to bring your own lunch and refreshments. Tools will be provided, as will chairs for our lunch break. I hope to see all of our current members, as well as a few new faces.

Friends of Morwell National Park ***Committee Meeting- 3/05/04***

Committee meeting declared open at 7:15pm

Attendance: Ken Harris, Wendy Steenbergen, Jane Sultana, Mike and Cathy Beamish, Rob Howell.

Apologies: Denis Sultana, Hilmar Batza.

Minutes of the previous Committee Meeting on 3rd August 2003 were read and accepted as a true account: Moved: Jane Sultana Seconded: Wendy Steenbergen

Business arising from previous minutes:

Nametags for members: Wendy has plastic name holders, Mike to type up names on the computer to slot into the holders.

Correspondence:*Inwards:*

- Parks Victoria re: Our 2003-2004 grant application for installation of picnic tables and directional signs in Morwell National Park. The application was unsuccessful.
- Parks Victoria re: Application form for the 2004-2005 Parks Victoria Volunteer Groups Grants. Applications close Friday 14th May 2004.
- Frank Fass re: *Pittosporum undulatum* in the park.
- All other correspondence as listed in the monthly 'Friends of Morwell National Park' newsletters.

Outwards:

- Ken Harris replied to Frank Fass regarding the state of *Pittosporum undulatum* in the park.
- Mike Beamish replied to a request by Scot Gardner for information on the Friends' group and activities.

Treasurers Report:

As attached. Moved: Wendy Steenbergen Seconded: Jane Sultana

Rangers Report:

1. A firebug has been active in the park. A fire was lit last Thursday (April 22). Luckily it was spotted and reported early and was extinguished very quickly. The fire burnt out an area about 10m square. A walker in the park has given a description to police of the suspected firebug.
2. An upgrade has been done on the access road into the weir. Pipes and gravel have been laid where necessary.
3. It has been a good year for weed spraying: thistles, ragwort, and blackberries.
4. New picnic tables have been installed at the weir and at the Junction Rd carpark.
5. Thirteen wasp nests have recently been removed from the park.
6. The RFA land, which is set to become part of the park, will pass through parliament at its next sitting. Once the land is officially recognised as an extension of the park the Friends' group will be able to start looking at ways of rehabilitating it.
7. A Powerful Owl was spotted recently in scrub near the Junction Rd car park.
8. Our seedlings are looking healthy with the exception of Varnish wattle. For some unknown reason they are failing to thrive.

General Business:

1. Finance: It was decided that we would renew our term deposit (\$6462.58) for another twelve months at 5% interest.
2. Volunteer Groups Grant: Closing date Friday 14th May. The Friends' group has decided to apply for a grant to remove the weed Tutsan from the park. Contractors could be hired to spray some sections away from the water but the majority would need to be done through cut and paint along the creek. Tutsan is extremely noxious and must not be disposed of in landfill. Therefore we would need to hire a contractor to dig a deep trench on parkland and the weeds would be buried. Rob will complete the Volunteer Groups Grant application form on behalf of the Friends' and submit it to Parks Victoria.
3. Churchill Festival: Sat 15th May 10am-3pm. The Churchill Festival will be held at the Glen Donald Recreation Reserve. The Friends' group has a site 7m by 7m. On this site we will erect a marquee to house displays about Morwell and Tarra Bulga National Parks. Throughout the day the Friends' will man the display, hand out park brochures and provide information to the public. Rob needs helpers at 8:30 am to set up the marquee and display. Ken, Mike and Cathy have volunteered to get there early but other members will be greatly welcome too. Jane and Danny have promised to arrive by 11am to help man the marquee.
4. Forthcoming AGM: Sunday 1st August. Place: Wendy Steenbergen's house: 118 Manning Drive, Churchill.

Meeting Closed at 8:55 p.m.