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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – August 2005

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

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Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. Normally I would be nowhere near organised enough to have the newsletter ready, or sent out so early, but the pressure is on, with the AGM programmed for the first Sunday in August. There is nothing like a deadline to promote inspiration or motivation!

In the Mailbox

Due to the short turn-around time, there is not a great deal to report, but a couple of items did make it onto the desk:

- ❖ Friends of Tarra-Bulga National Park newsletter for winter 2005. There are a couple of items that may be of interest: the Lyrebird Count is on Saturday 6/8/05 at 6am, register with Ranger Craig Campbell on 5196 6166 asap if you would like to participate; their AGM is on Saturday 10/9/05 at 3pm, at the Visitor's Centre I presume?
- ❖ An invitation from the Churchill Festival Coordinator to participate in next year's event, to be held at Glendonald Park on April 1, 2006. Assuming that this is not an April Fools Day prank, we will discuss our involvement at our AGM.
- ❖ Some official paperwork from the Department of Justice, including our Incorporation forms, which we will also sort out at the AGM.

August Activity

The next activity is a replica of our last, a continuation of our Tutsan removal program. This will again entail brave participants donning warm and waterproof clothing in an attempt to stave off the chill of Billy Creek in mid-winter as we walk the riparian realms seeking escapees from the spraying and cutting sessions held earlier in the year, in much warmer conditions. We will try to stay out of the water as much as possible, in an attempt to avoid accidental inundation and subsequent hypothermia. There should be a half-dozen pairs of waders available, but bring your own if you have them, as well as any loppers or secateurs you may prefer to use. We will meet at the Junction Road car park at 10am on Sunday, August 21. As always, bring your own lunch and refreshments for the day.

Subscriptions!!!

If you haven't already taken care of business, please take advantage of the cut-off slip below, otherwise you may be deleted from our member list.

To: Treasurer, Friends of Morwell National Park, PO Box 19, Churchill, 3842

Please find enclosed the amount of \$ _____ (\$10 per person, \$15 per family/group) being for membership 2005/2006.

Name:..... Telephone:.....

Address:.....

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM is hereby declared to take place at the home of Jane and Denis Sultana, 37 Tulloch Way, Traralgon, at 1.30pm on Sunday, August 7. A draft agenda is included below. Please bring along all your ideas for the next 12 months, as well as a plate of nicies to share for afternoon tea. For those who don't know, Tulloch Way is in the eastern end of Traralgon, near the Glenview Park Racecourse. Turn south off the Prince's Highway onto McNairn Road, cross the railway line and take the first right turn into Tulloch Way, opposite the southern boundary of the racecourse grounds.

Agenda (Draft)

- 1. Attendance**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Previous AGM Minutes**
- 4. Business Arising from Previous AGM**
- 5. President's Report**
- 6. Ranger's Report**
- 7. Treasurer's Report**
- 8. Election of Office Bearers**
- 9. General Business**
 - New Members
 - Membership Fees
 - Incorporation Fees and Forms

Committee Meeting (if required)

Weed Wars, Episode VI **July Activity Report**

The hail had rattled on the roof a couple of times overnight and it continued to bluster and shower well into the morning. We were not confident of a pleasant day in the Park! Rob and Reg and a couple of unfamiliar faces awaited us in the Junction Road car park. One turned out to be Ken sporting a new haircut and the other was Sheina Renton, a prospective new member whom I had spoken to on the phone a couple of days earlier. Very brave of Sheina to front up in such lousy weather for unfamiliar tasks with unfamiliar crazy people. Wendy arrived before too long, with Robyn and Maurice wandering in from their residence. Nobody else appeared foolish enough to brave the weather, which actually began to look up a bit, so we split up into various groups, some intending to walk the streamside, others wandering into the plantation areas. Weed pulling was the order of the day, as we enthusiastically tackled anything that looked as if it shouldn't be there. Tutsan was the first priority and we found a few plants that had either avoided our initial spraying or cutting and painting sessions, or had survived spraying to re-sprout from their bases. We also pulled out any thistles, teasel, ragwort, nightshade, verbena or pittosporum that we came across, unless they were in big enough patches to warrant spraying in warmer weather.

Why pull out pittosporum, a native plant, you may ask? Native, yes, but there is some debate as to whether it is indigenous, so the current philosophy is to leave established plants in the gullies, but remove seedlings from areas away from streamside or where they haven't been in recent history, such as Stringybark Ridge or the Billy Creek flats. We did come across a few oddities. Rob and Ken removed a couple of oak tree seedlings and a passionfruit in the morning session, and Rob and I came across a small loquat after lunch. We mistakenly removed a couple of native elderberries on steroids before realising what they were. We found a single plant of Indian Weed, a native that Ken recognised, and a patch of weedy looking stuff that Ken didn't recognise, and will stay in place until we can identify it. Lots of tree guards were also removed, mainly by Wendy of course, and piled up for Rob to collect and dispose of at his leisure. We managed to cover the area between the Junction Road bridge and the Braniff's Road ford by 2.30pm, which leaves the remainder for next month.