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President:
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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – October 2006

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

A0016319X

G'day everyone, welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. It's a short one this month, as my paid workplace is taking full advantage of my return from holidays and is doing its best to extract the maximum output from me. Then there have been the school holidays and bored teenagers requiring constant motivational input to distract them from their anti-social obsessions. Cathy and I did manage to escape for a weekend trip to the Grampians, but even there we were obliged to attend meetings and scored ourselves more work to do in our various voluntary capacities. That next holiday just can't come quickly enough!

Weed Wars, Episode XII **September Activity Report**

Our war on weeds along Billy Creek resumed on Sunday 17th, since our last efforts back in April. Rob, Ken, Wendy, Beryl, Sheina and ourselves all fronted up to the Junction Road gate at the appointed hour, primed and ready for the battle. A short chat later, we'd sorted our plan of attack for the day and were ready to board the vehicles for the drive up to the weir. Rob, Ken, Wendy and Sheina went right to the end of the track and walked up to the last creek crossing on the future Coprosma Track, while Beryl, Cathy and I started at the weir and worked downstream.

Progress for our team was steady. A few Tutsan plants were found here and there, along with Teasel, Thistles and Foxgloves. All were dispatched with equal enthusiasm, no quarter given regardless of size, location or difficulty of access. By the time lunchtime arrived we had almost reached the Potato Flat area, near the base of the Zig Zag Track. The other crew were waiting for us back at the weir, but had a completely different story to report. They had made very little progress from their starting point, finding large numbers of Tutsan seedlings in a number of spots, some of which could be sprayed, but others requiring time consuming individual eradication. After lunch it was suggested that we again start at the weir, but work upstream in the hope of meeting the others working downstream, completing the weeding on that part of the creek.

We willingly obliged and luckily did not encounter the same numbers of weeds in the process. We found a few, but much the same as downstream of the weir. A couple of leech covered crayfish, one of those native land snails which have a shell too small for their bodies and some playful White-naped Honeyeaters taking their daily drinks, all served to entertain us in our labours. Even so, it was still close to 4pm by the time we met up with Rob, Ken, Wendy and Sheina as they dutifully destroyed the last colony of Tutsan they had come across. There is one positive outcome, though. Ken had located a single plant of *Blechnum chambersii*, Lance Water Fern, a new record for the Park, although common elsewhere.

October Activity

Our next activity, the annual Koala Count, is scheduled for Sunday, October 15, to commence at 1.30pm. Please invite anyone who might be interested in a leisurely stroll in the Park, the more Friends and members of the public that attend, the more enjoyable and successful the day should be. Clothing and footwear should reflect the weather conditions on the day and the environments you may be working in. Binoculars may come in handy for assessing any of the critters we may encounter.

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Calendar 2007

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Activities are scheduled for the third Sunday of each month, with extra days scheduled as required.

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Activity:</u>	<u>Venue and Time:</u>
January 21	Weir Walk	Braniff's Road, 10.00am
February 18	Odd Jobs/Weed Removal	Kerry Road, 10.00am
March 18	Track Maintenance (Coprosma)	Junction Road, 10.00am
April 15	Track Maintenance (Coprosma)	Junction Road, 10.00am
May 12	21 st Birthday Celebration	To be advised.
May 20	Tree Guard Removal (Lodge Tk)	Braniff's Road, 10.00am
June 17	Tree Planting/Odd Jobs	Kerry Road, 10.00am
July 15	Tree Planting	To be advised, 10.00am
August 5	AGM	To be advised, 1.30pm
August 19	To be advised	To be advised, 10.00am
September 16	Excursion (Organ Pipes?)	To be advised, 10.00am
October 21	Koala Count	Foster's Gully, 1.30pm
November 18	Butterfly Orchid Survey	Foster's Gully, 10.00am
December 16	Christmas Function	To be advised.

For all activities, it is BYO food, drinks, suitable clothing and footwear, and other personal items. Up to date details of each forthcoming activity are provided in the monthly newsletter.