

PO Box 19
Churchill
3842



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – March 2010

President:
5122 3137

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaean.net>
A0016319X

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. Welcome to the end of summer and start of the autumn months. Hopefully we will have lots of rain this autumn. Summer has not been too bad to us with a little rain falling occasionally and the surrounding paddocks are still a little green rather than the brown which is common to this time of year.

Before the February activity a quick committee meeting decided to transfer \$5,000 from the at-call account and add it to the amount currently in the term deposit account.

With the Churchill Festival coming up in April we have decided to change some of the activities so that our April activity will be at the Churchill Festival instead of working in the Park on that weekend. So next month we will work on the Cosprosa Track (departing from Junction Road) and in May we will carry out weed removal. An updated copy of the activities calendar is at the end of the newsletter.

Jenny has also passed along information on courses available in chemical handling and first aid. These flyers give details of what the courses offer but few details of when or where the courses will occur. If you are interested I can email the details (I have) to you.

February Activity report – “Up the creek”

For this month's activity we were joined by Craig since Jenny was on holidays in Canada (the other side to the Winter Olympics). Craig had collected all of the gear that we needed but could not stay to help us. He was required to visit four other sites around Gippsland and was also on call if a fire started somewhere around Victoria. He had had problems with the keys to the gates of the Park (each lock has a different key and few have the keys for each lock) but he had still managed to collect the gear that we needed. It was organized for Craig to return later to collect and stow the gear.

There to go “Up the creek” were Beryl, Margaret, John, Peter, Cathy, Mike, Ken, Wendy and Darren. The group divided into three groups of three with Mike, Cathy and Beryl starting above Billy's Weir and working downstream, Wendy, Ken and Darren starting from Billy's Weir working downstream and Peter, Margaret and John working upstream from Potato Flat.

Friends of Morwell National Park Inc: PO Box 19, Churchill, 3842, <http://morwellnp.pangaean.net>.

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Members: Mary Austin, Jack & Margaret Barker, Mike & Cathy Beamish, Eulalie Brewster, Reg Felmingham, Tom Lawless, Peter & Wendy McDonald, John Pulis, Joan Sikkema, David Stickney, Laura Webber, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

All of the groups still found many mature Tutsan plants in seed and it seems our many previous efforts are not having a large effect on the Tutsan. Our group did not travel far in our first hour since just below the Weir we found a large collection of advanced plants. So an hour after starting we had only travelled a total of about 10 metres. Ken needed to go for a wander downstream just to feel that he was making some progress. It was just as slow for the other groups with a many Tutsan and other weeds being located.



At lunchtime the two downstream groups met up back at the Weir, while the group upstream of Billy's Weir continued to battle downstream. Many calls were made to this group(both verbally and car horns), but for this section of creek they were travelling through they needed to travel to the Weir. There are no places where you can get out of the creek and get to the track without being swamped by stinging nettles. This was not good

enough for Ken since his lunch was awaiting him in Mike's locked car. Cathy eventually returned with the car keys so that Ken could have his lunch.

The group travelling above the Weir found many wasps and a large active wasps nest.

After lunch the two groups from below Billy's weir continued until that met up. Mike, Cathy and Beryl started at Potato Flat and worked downstream. Our time "up the creek" finished at the first bridge crossing next to the information stand.

During the day we located first a dead wallaby in the creek and later a dead fox. It is all part of the circle of life, but why does it need to smell so bad?

March Activity

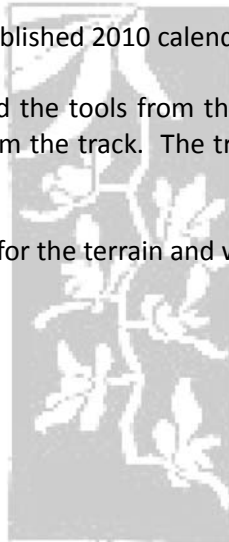
10.00am Sunday 21st March

The group will meet at the Junction Road entrance to undertake track maintenance on the Cosprosmas Track.

Note: this is a change of location from the published 2010 calendar of activities.

In a note to the ranger - the group will need the tools from the shed and the chainsaw since there is a tree, which has fallen and needs to be cleared from the track. The track is starting to get overgrown and clearing it will make it easier to use for park users.

You will need clothing and footwear suitable for the terrain and weather conditions on the day.



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Calendar 2010

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

Date:	Activity:	Venue and Time:
January 17	Weir Walk Weed Removal/Seed collection	Junction Rd, 10.00am
February 21	Weir Walk Weed Removal	Junction Rd, 10.00am
March 21	Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
April 17	Churchill Festival	
May 16	Weed Removal	Junction Rd, 10.00am
June 20	Tree Planting	Junction Rd, 10.00am
July 18	Tree Planting	Junction Rd, 10.00am
August 1	AGM	To be advised, 1.30pm
August 15	Walk in the park	To be advised
September 19	Spotlight walk or Weed removal	To be advised
October 17	Koala Count	Kerry Road, 1.30pm
November 21	Orchid Survey/Odd jobs	Junction Rd, 10.00am
December 19	Nesting box survey/Christmas Function	Junction Rd, 10.00am

For all activities, it is BYO food, drinks, suitable clothing and footwear, and other personal items, unless otherwise indicated in the newsletter. Up to date details of each forthcoming activity are provided in the monthly newsletter, which is mailed to members and available to the public on the website.