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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – June 2010

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeaan.net>
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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. Winter is now well and truly coming and days are getting shorter (and yes I know there are still 24 hours in every day) and colder. Is it good to regularly have rain in the gauge rather than thinking the gauge might have a hole in it. Everything is now a lush green rather than the range of browns you get used to during the summer months. The outlook is improving.

Last month I managed to totally miss the activity. Why does any activity I need to do on a Sunday come up on the third Sunday of the month? Even worse than that is I forgot to email beforehand, to tell others that I could not get to the activity. Realizing on the day was not good for informing the others.

Just as well Mike has been good to me and written up about what happened in the May activity. It is good to have Mike's writings back with us and a pleasure to have the picture of what happened at the activity told by Mike. Is it so easy to follow along with Mike's straightforward conversational style. Thanks Mike.

May Activity Report - Weed Wars Continued

By Mike Beamish

Cathy and I were running late on the morning of Sunday, May 16, because Cathy had taken on the running of the local wildlife shelter while the operator, Jean, was recovering from a strained knee. The animals can't tell time, but they all still know when they are due for a feed! Consequently, we didn't pull into the Junction Road car park until about ten past the hour and were the last to arrive. Ranger Jenny, Ken, Beryl, Peter and John were all gathered together having a chat as we parked nearby. John wasn't staying, as we soon found out: he had only come along to display the certificate he had received for participating in some Parks Victoria sponsored training. The official title of the thing was a

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Statement of Attainment: Work Safely in the Construction Industry, which both John and Jenny now have and which allows them to officially assess and supervise our voluntary work efforts in the Park with regard to the hazards and risks involved and the methods and controls we can put in place to remove or minimise them. Hopefully down the track there will be some more training opportunities for Friends group members in other useful areas, such as chainsaw operation, 4WD vehicle driving skills, chemical use and no doubt many others.

As no-one else seemed likely to turn up (Wendy and Margaret were off doing some catering for the Lionesses, and Reg, so we found out later, had completely forgotten about the day), we hopped into the vehicles and made our way up to the information board at the first creek crossing, where we had finished our last weeding exercise a couple of months ago. Ken was not going to risk his sore knees by stumbling around in the creek, so he armed himself with his camera and stayed up on the flatter ground looking for lichens, mosses, liverworts, fungi and anything else of interest to take photos of. That left five of us to look after the weeding, so we decided to all stay in a single group and thoroughly cover not only the main creek bed, but also the anabranches, billabongs and flats alongside the creek. It was a good thing we did, too, as we located and removed several large and healthy Tutsan plants, carrying plenty of berries, from these areas. Some were a considerable distance, 30 or 40 metres, from the current line of the creek!

Lunch was called at about 12.30pm. Most looked for a patch of sunshine to sit in and it was pleasant enjoying the sociable banter while listening to the creek burble by, the breeze ruffle the leaves on the trees and the odd little brown bird defy our attempts to identify it. The White-eared Honeyeater and the Grey Fantails were easy to pick out, but the others were probably Thornbills, though they wouldn't sit still long enough for a good look. The only downside was the odd European Wasp wafting about and having to be discouraged from joining in with our lunch. After lunch, it was back to the grind. As well as dispatching any Tutsan we found, we also did some damage to Teasels and other thistles, the occasional Foxglove, removed one little Pussy Willow and a couple of *Prunus*, and gave the Nightshades and Verbenas a bit of a hiding. We were most pleased to see a couple of young Austral Mulberry trees self-seeded on the silt jetties in the creek, but not so pleased to still find a few tree-guards littering the banks. Where was Wendy when you needed her! Time was called at about 3pm, just in time to catch the last half of the football on the telly.

June Activity

10.00am Sunday 20th June

The group will meet at the Junction Road entrance to complete track maintenance on the Clematis and Lodge tracks. This activity will allow us to walk these tracks while also clearing the tracks making them safer for all walkers.

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

Where in the park is this?

Your task is to identify where in the park the following photo has been taken. The park has many wonderful views to see and here is an opportunity to share your prize pictures with others.

Where in the park has the following photo been taken? To take part in the discussion of possible answers you can come along to this month's activity. For those who are really keen, you can even go on a search for the spot the photograph was taken from.

So if you have a photo of a special corner or an unusual event that has occurred in the park, please send in your photos. They could be of one of the wonderful vistas or a rarely seen part of the park.

Please send them to Darren via email to dhodgson@wideband.net.au.

