

PO Box 19  
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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter – May 2011*

President:  
5122 3137

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

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. The month has again been wet with the last two seasons (summer and autumn) being a lot wetter than it has been over the previous five years. It is a welcome change.

During the last month the toilets at the Kerry Road entrance have been closed. The stability of the structure is of concern (the concrete slab is falling) and these toilets will be removed. Parks will put in submissions for funding to replace these toilets. Hopefully they will be successful with their submissions. The article from the Latrobe Valley Express about the toilet closure is on the last page of the newsletter.

At the beginning of the April activity the group approved the purchase of timber for the new bat and nesting boxes to be made by John. John intends to make 15 nesting boxes with 3" holes (with the option to fit a smaller hole on some) and 12 bat boxes. These are being constructed from plans which Bronwyn sourced for John. The total cost will be around \$300. John intends to have them completed for the next activity in May.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration for the Friends of Morwell National Park is coming soon. So keep Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June free. Details of the celebration are on the next page.

Please note that the next activity will start at the earlier time of 9.00am on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> of May.

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

**President:** Ken Harris, 51223137

**Vice-President:** Peter McDonald

**Secretary:** Beryl Nelson

**Treasurer:** Wendy Steenbergen

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**Newsletter Editor:** Darren Hodgson, 51222108, [hodgson.darren.d@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:hodgson.darren.d@edumail.vic.gov.au)

**Members:** Mary Austin, John & Margaret Barker, Mike & Cathy Beamish, Eulalie Brewster, Reg Felmingham, Tom Lawless, Peter & Wendy McDonald, Joan Sikkema, Kate Richardson, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2011



1.30pm

**Walk in the Park**

Meet at **Junction Road Car Park** to walk along Billy's Creek Track to Billy's Weir. Observe the changes that have happened in the last 25 years. At Billy's Weir we will share an afternoon tea with Billy tea.



6.00pm

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner**  
**Dal Mondo Restaurant Traralgon**  
7 Post Office Place, Traralgon  
Mediterranean and Italian Cuisine  
Drinks at bar prices  
**Dinner starts at 6.30pm**



RSVP: to either Bronwyn Grass ([bgrass@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:bgrass@parks.vic.gov.au)) or Wendy Steenburgen ([wendy.st@bigpond.com](mailto:wendy.st@bigpond.com)) and please tell them if you have any special food requirements.

## April Activity Report

For this month's activity we had Ken, Joan, John, Wendy, Rob, Mike, Cathy, Reg, Peter, Brownyn and Darren in attendance. The largest group we have had for a while with a promise of a good walk ahead.

Firstly we discussed arrangements for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, John's timber needs for the nesting and bat boxes and the closing of the toilet at Kerry Road. The brochure needed to be discussed and this was left until lunchtime when more time could be given to it.

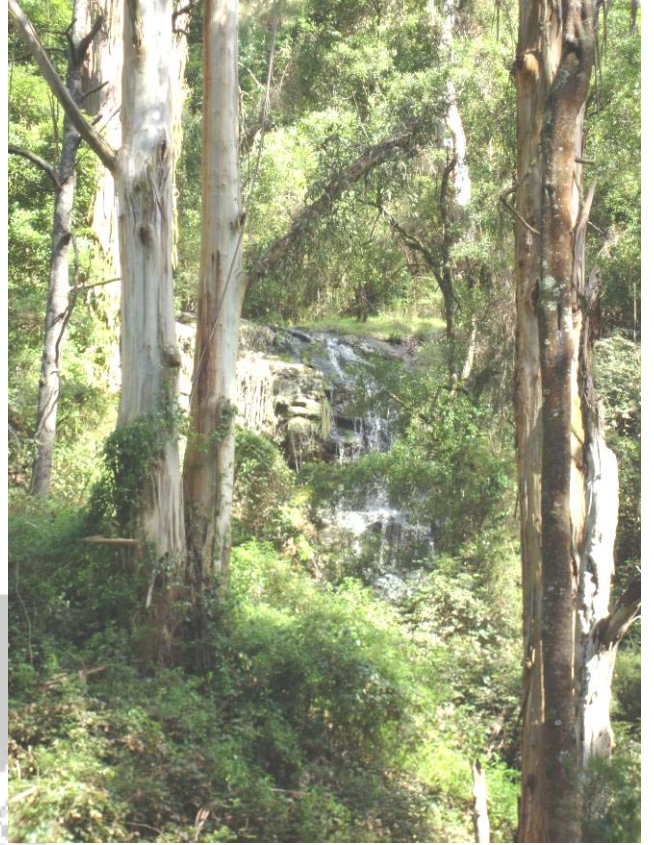
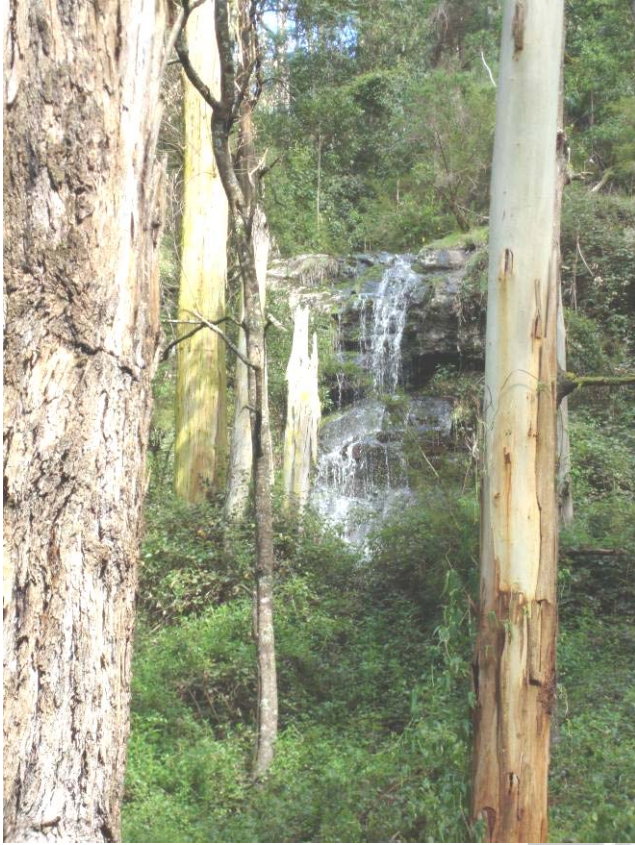
In three vehicles we drove to the end of the Billy's Creek track. We travelled by foot along the Coprosma track to the beginning of the Grand Strzelecki track. Over the last two month work crews have been starting to form the track which will become the Grand Strzelecki track. Tractors have slashed a track along Billy's creek and have recently returned to spray the blackberries along the track.

The group walked for over an hour along the track and in this time we crossed the creek 13 times. The track is been put through very close to the creek and this part of the park has been greatly unexplored. With more water in the creek we all ended up wet. Gumboots were not enough to keep us dry. Ken during the walk was busy taking notes about the plants and animals, since that part of the park has been hard to traverse and he has few records of it.

The track will be attractive when finished since it travels through the creek gullies and contains many fern varieties. With the recent rains a new waterfall has been created that was not there last month. (Photos included below) The group did not travel much further than last month since the track finishes not far from where we finished our walk last month. The estimate is that the track stops at least 1 kilometer from the park boundary. There is still much work to be done to finish the track with the Park. On the following pages are photos of our progress along the track.

At lunch and at the end of the day the brochure was discussed. Parks wants us to produce a Friends of Morwell National Park pamphlet rather than a Morwell National Park pamphlet. They prefer that all of the Friends pamphlets are of a similar format and an example was given to us. There will be another meeting before Easter to decide the action to be taken with the brochure.





## May Activity

9.00am Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

**Note:** For this month's activity we will have the earlier starting time of 9.00am and yes this activity is really on the fourth Sunday of the month!

The group will meet at the Junction Road entrance to collect the barbed wire located around the park for removal to the tip and also work on the placement of new the bat and nesting boxes John is making for us.

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

1480 11 THE BRISBANE TIMES PAPERS, THURSDAY, 11 APRIL, 2011

# No loos for national park

By PHILIPPA WILLIAMS

MORWELL National Park's toilets, at the Kerry Road entrance, will be removed soon.

Parks Victoria Ranger in Charge Andy Gillham said the toilet facilities were built more than 30 years ago and were simply at the end of their serviceable life.

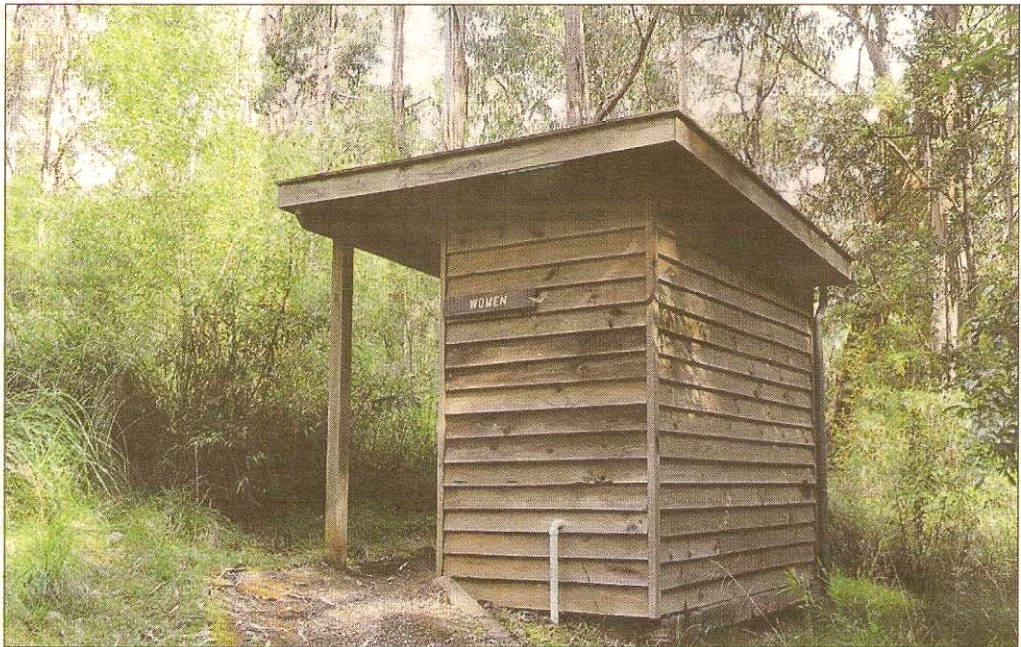
"We were concerned about the stability of the structures as the floors were beginning to give way, due to landslips caused by the ongoing damp conditions in the park," Mr Gillham said.

"Therefore, we made the decision to remove the toilet facility promptly and have since engaged contractors to beginning the excavation process."

A request has been made for funding, from the head office, for a new composting toilet facility.

The cost and time frame of replacements are unknown.

For now, public toilets at Churchill are the closest.



**Closed:** Toilets at Morwell National Park have been closed.

photograph bryan petts-jones