

PO Box 19
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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – November 2011

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

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. The news this month is that we have been nominated for a Kookaburra Award. The Award ceremony will be held on Saturday 5th November in Geelong. Ken and few others will go to represent us at the award ceremony.

The Kookaburra Awards recognize and honor individuals and groups who have made an outstanding voluntary contribution to the Victorian park system; raise awareness of the extent and importance of community involvement in the Victorian park system and encourage community involvement in the future development and conservation and use of the park system. (From the Parks Victoria web site) Ken was the winner of Individual Environmental Award at the last awards in 2009. The photo below is Ken along with the other Kookaburra award winners in 2009.



The Friend BBQ is this year on Sunday 20th November. The details and invitation is on the last page.

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

President: Mike Beamish

Vice-President: Ken Harris

Secretary: Beryl Nelson

Treasurer: John Barker

Publicity: Peter McDonald

Public Officer: Beryl Nelson

Newsletter Editor: Darren Hodgson, 51222108, hodgson.darren.d@edumail.vic.gov.au

Other members: Mary Austin, Wendy Steenbergen, Margaret Barker, Cathy Beamish, Eulalie Brewster, Reg Felmingham, Wendy McDonald, Joan Sikkema, Kate Richardson, Hilmar Batza, Bronwyn Grass, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

We have also received a message from Johanna wishing us all good health. She will soon be leaving for a while to Egypt but she will continue to monitor our process through the newsletters. She still remembers the good old days when she worked monthly in the park and was a secretary for a while.

October Activity Reports

Tree Planting

For the first part of this month's activity we had Wendy, Peter, Craig and Darren in attendance. The first task to complete was the planting of the remaining 100 seedlings onto Blue Gum Hill. 1000 seedlings have been planted over the last four months and we still had 100 still to plant.

Craig had brought the quad bike to make transporting the gear to the work site easier. We all boarded the ute to travel to the first creek crossing. Here we loaded up the quad bike and while Craig rode in and we walk to and up Blue Gum Hill. Soon after we started the rain did as well. The walk in was a wet one, especially for Wendy who had left her waterproof jacket in her car.

Walking up Blue Gum Hill we decided to continue up the hill rather than plant adjacent to where we planted last month since in the rain to would have been too slippery. We continued up to the track cut across Blue Gum. Fortunately when we arrived there the rain started to stop.

Wendy got a chance to dry off as we worked across the hill, swapping roles as needed. We found the soil of a better quality and softer than further down the hill and we had fewer rocks to work around. While we planted we had a few more short showers, but we took this as a sign that these plants should also settle in well.

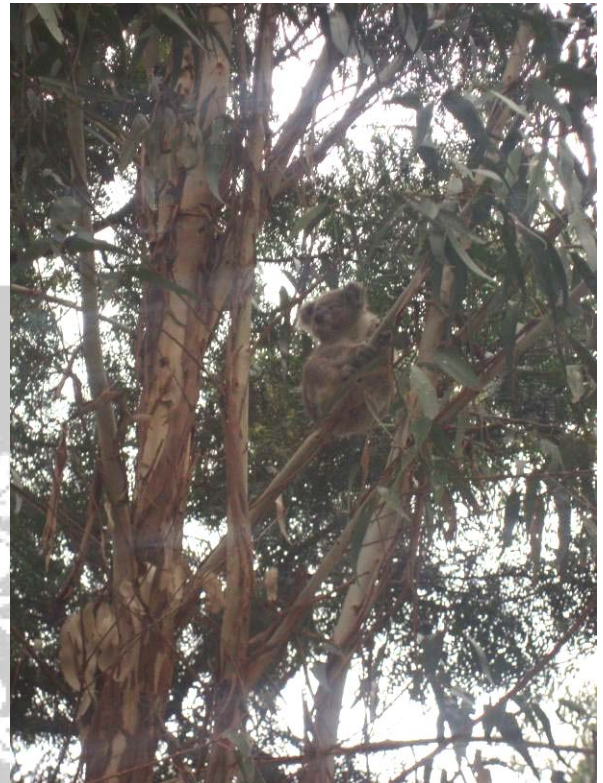
On the way back we checked on the progress of the seedlings planted last month and it was good to see the top of many seedlings above the top of the tree guards. The rain over the last month has helped to establish these plants.

When we returned to the vehicle we were greeted by Bronwyn who had come along for the koala count. The koala count was her first activity with our group last year. Together we all squeezed into the ute to travel back to the car park and rush off (a little late) to the Koala Count.

Koala Count

For the Koala count we had John, Margaret, Wendy, Beryl, Ken, Peter, I Mei, Jhinfeng, Hilmar, Bronwyn, Darren, Craig and 10 members of the community for the start of the koala count. It was great with the slightly wet conditions that so many people came out.

All of the walkers were organized (and reorganized) into three groups of walkers. Each group had five-six walkers. The first group to depart was lead by Peter and travelled over Stringybark Ridge Walk. They were the most successful by locating 4 koalas. Ken's group travelled in two cars to Jumbuk Road and walked back along Jumbuk Road to the Kerry Road car park. They had the more difficult terrain to travel and spotted two koalas. The last group was led by Darren and walked the Foster's Gully track. Bronwyn and Craig walked to Lyndon's Landing on the Foster's Gully track before returning. This group spotted two koalas making a total on 8 koalas located during the count. This total is similar to the number located during the counts for the last two years.



November Activity

10.00am Sunday 20th November

The group will meet at 10.00am the Junction Road car park to undertake the Butterfly Orchid survey and other odd jobs. The Butterfly Orchid survey will be conducted at Foster's Gully and will require a few photographers to take good photos of the Butterfly Orchids as well as record the orchid numbers.

The odd jobs the remainder of the group will undertake should include removing star pickets and some track clearing in the Billy's Creek section of the Park. We will need to collect the gear from the shed. You will need to bring your lunch and clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

Also remember the Parks Friends BBQ on Sunday 20th November from 5.30pm.

Latrobe Friends & Volunteers BBQ Dinner

Friends of Baw Baw National Park
Friends of Morwell National Park
Friends of Tarra Bulga National Park
Friends of Mt Worth State Park
Friends of Tyers Park
St Gwinear Ski Patrol
Friends of Lyrebird Forest Walk
Friends of Crossover Regional Park
Friends of Glen Nayook
Friends of Traralgon South Flora & Fauna Reserve
Australian Deer Association

The Latrobe Ranger in Charge extends an open invitation to you and your family to join Parks Victoria staff for a BBQ dinner to celebrate the significant contributions made by Friends Groups and volunteers in park management during 2011.

This is a great opportunity to network with members of other Friends Groups and celebrate our achievements together. The BBQ dinner will be held at the **Bert Thompson Reserve** (Behind Red Rooster in Argyle Street, Traralgon) on **Sunday the 20th of November 2011** starting at 5.30pm. Soft drinks and food will be provided. BYO drinks, plastic plates, cutlery and chairs.

RSVP: to Andy Gillham at Parks Victoria, 71 Hotham St Traralgon, on 5172 2186 or Email andy.gillham@parks.vic.gov.au by **Thursday 17th November 2011**.

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Name(s): _____

Group: _____

I / we will be attending the Friends & Volunteers BBQ Dinner on 20 Nov 2011

No. of adults: _____ No. of children: _____