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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – July 2012

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

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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter.

In good news this month, Rob is back from leave and working again for Parks in a projects role. It is good to have somebody of his knowledge and experience working again for Parks.

While in the Kerry Road car park for the activity, we investigated the Friends noticeboard and saw that there has been some water damage to several of the items on the display board. It appears that this is the result of condensation and the laminated items are not as badly affected. The other items will need to be laminated. John will look into this.

Over the last month, heavy rains have resulted in some local floods especially in Traralgon and Morwell. Billy's Creek also had an increase in water and rose to just below the bridge crossing at Junction Road. Billy's Creek flooded and broke the bank in many places. In some parts of the Billy's Creek Track the flood waters covered the track. Some large trees have fallen down across the creek. (photos follow) As quickly as the water level rose it also fell again.

The floods and storms have resulted in the closing of the Grand Strzelecki Track. After all of the work to open the track the weather has quickly closed it again.



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

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Vice-President: Ken Harris

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Other members: Mary Austin, Wendy Steenbergen, Margaret Barker, Cathy Beamish, Eulalie Brewster, Reg Felmingham, Wendy McDonald, Joan Sikkema, Kate Richardson, Hilmar Batza, Bronwyn Grass, Matt Campbell and Kerry Proud, Wendy Ritchie, Emma Pallett and Rod Haggith, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

The storms and flood in Billy's Creek have resulted in the creek undercutting the foundations on the first bridge crossing. The foundations have moved downwards and the bridge is solid (safe to walk upon) but twisted and not flat anymore.



The pipeline track has been widened and the large earth slip that was blocking the track has been removed. The track has been greatly improved and is being used by the people in the Baniff Road area to access the Park. With the recent wet conditions the track is breaking up and moving down the hill in some places, hopefully the recent earthquake has not resulted in the track moving further.



In early August, the annual general meeting will be held. To help with your future planning the details are on the next page. Thanks to Margaret and John for hosting the meeting for us.

**Friends of Morwell National Park
Annual General Meeting**

**Sunday 5th August
1.30pm**

10 Walker Parade, Churchill

A committee meeting will follow the Annual General Meeting

At the conclusion of both meetings we will have Afternoon Tea – Bring a plate

June Activity Report

Sunday 17th June

This month we had Wendy, Ken, Peter, John, Margaret, Emma, Rod, Darren, Salma, Reza and Hadi along to undertake some track maintenance. Salma, Reza and Hadi were back for the second time after helping out with the Koala count last year.

The industrial action by Parks staff continues so we again had no ranger to help us out.

While the group assembled Ken and Peter collected the gear from the shed. It gave the rest of us a chance to appreciate Ken's new wheels. Since we were working in the southern section of the park, three vehicles were used to ferry all of us to the Brewster Road entrance. We were greeted on arrival by a rain shower so before starting off we all donned our waterproof gear.

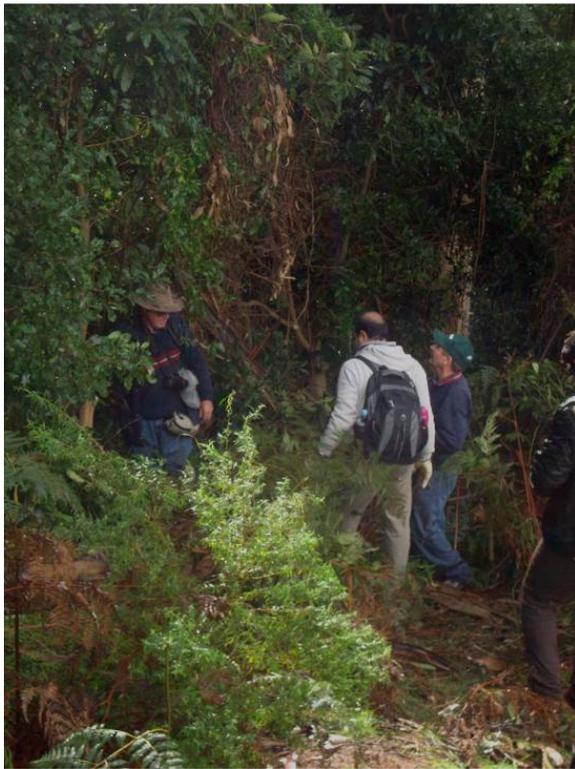
We worked down the southern boundary reestablishing the track along this boundary. This track was lost in a few places and needed to be recreated in some parts. Along this route a few large trees have fallen and we were able to uncover the boundary fence at one point.

On our travels down the southern boundary we located two piles of fencing and barbed wire collected last time we cleared this track. They will soon be lost in the undergrowth.

Today was a great opportunity to discover parts of the park that you would not normally see.

At the end of the southern boundary we reached Muttonwood Creek Track and turned towards the west. Here we stopped for lunch and soon after stopping for lunch light rain made having lunch a little less comfortable.

After lunch we cleared the remaining section of the Muttonwood Creek Track (west) towards Silvertop Track. These tracks require regular maintenance since fallen trees; weeds and undergrowth invade the track. At the end of Muttonwood Creek Track the group split with Wendy, John, Margaret and Darren walking back to the Kerry Road car park via the Stringybark Ridge Walk. This group cleared this track while the rest of the group cleared the Silvertop Track up the hill towards Brewster Road.



July Activity
Sunday 15th July 10.00am

Note: this is a change from the original calendar

We will meet at the Kerry Road car park to undertake some track maintenance on both of the Muttonwood Creek Track (east) and the Stringybark Ridge Walk. You will need to bring your lunch and clothing suitable for the weather conditions on the day.