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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – October 2013

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.net>
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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. Let's start with an update on the news over the last month. We were unsuccessful in our application for a grant to replant Blue Gum Hill. There were more applications than available resources, so we were not successful with this grant application. We will try to make another application to a different funding stream for this replanting.

Over the last month there has been graffiti put upon all surfaces (noticeboards and barbeque) at the Kerry Road car park. Craig will try some solvents and see whether any of these will remove the graffiti. An insurance claim has been successfully made for the replacement of the first bridge across Billy's Creek. The footings have been washed out in one of the creek floods and now the bridge is at an angle. The plan is replace the bridge (under insurance) and hopefully move the old bridge to make a new creek crossing near Baniff road.

A Flickr account has been setup for the sharing of photos and image files, online. Darren, Ken and Cathy have the login details and will experiment with this new account. We hope that it will become a place we can store and share photos taken from around the park. Currently many individuals have photos they have taken but we don't have a communal collection. The hope is that we all will be able to share and view these photos online. Rob has recently located some old photos taken from around the park. Craig will pass these photos onto John to go through.

September Activity report Coprosma track maintenance

At this month's activity we had Beryl, John, Peter, Wendy, Wendy (briefly), Darren, and Craig. We had apologies from Ken, Margaret, Mike and Cathy. The group met in the Junction Road car park and planned the day ahead. Wendy (S) met the group in the car park and was ready to join into the day's activity if needed. Since we had enough, she sat out the day's activity.

The group moved to the beginning of the Coprosma track and tried to find the beginning of the track. The beginning of the track had become greatly overgrown. This is where the most work needed to be done. The condition of the track improved as was moved up the track. Towards the top of the hill a few wattles

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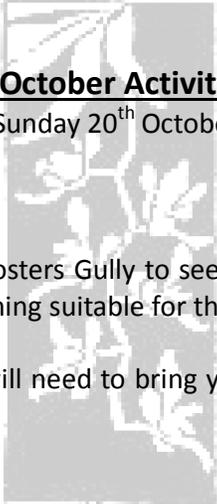
Other members: Mary Austin, Wendy Steenberg, Margaret Barker, Cathy Beamish, Eulalie Brewster, Reg Felmingham, Wendy McDonald, Joan Sikkema, Matt Campbell and Kerry Proud, Emma Pallett and Rod Haggith, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

had fallen across the track. Craig removed these with the chainsaw. In a little more than an hour of work this track was cleared. This track currently only goes half way to the top of Blue Gum Hill. Future plans have this track continuing to the top of Blue Gum Hill.

We returned to the Grand Strzelecki Track. Here we spent some time removing foxgloves and tutsan from beside the track. We continued along the Grand Strzelecki Track removing more weeds. There had recently been many cattle along the track. Previously there had been cattle in the park, but a new small fence that Craig had put up had stopped these cows. These new cattle will be a future challenge for Craig.

Before lunch Craig took the chainsaw up the Blue Gum Hill spur track to cut two larger trees which were across the track. These trees were left from the activity two months ago where they were too large for the chainsaw we had then.

We had lunch back at Billy's Weir. Here we removed more weeds from around the weir. After lunch we went to the base of Zig Zag Track and removed the tree guards from a tree planting a few years ago. These guards were not providing much protection to the surviving plants. Wendy S will be happy to have these tree guards gone! The group finished for the day, after removing the tree guards. This meant an early finish and the group was done by 2.00pm



October Activity
Sunday 20th October

Activity 1 – Orchid Walk

10.00am

The first activity will be a walk of around Fosters Gully to seek out the orchids which can be found at this time of the year. You will need to bring clothing suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

If you are staying for the koala count you will need to bring your lunch, which can be eaten in the Fosters Gully picnic area between the activities.

Activity 2 - Koala Count

1.30pm

The Friends of Morwell National Park will be carrying out the annual 'Koala Count in the Park' on Sunday 20 October 2012.

Willing participants are requested to meet at the Kerry Road - Fosters Gully car park at 1.30pm to commence the Koala count.

The 'Koala Count in the Park' event is part of the long term strategy to document the numbers and health of the koalas within the Morwell National Park.

Bring your family and friends together and enjoy a pleasant stroll in the park while simultaneously helping the team in spotting the resident koalas that may be found in the park.

Participants are advised to bring suitable clothing and footwear applicable for the weather conditions, and if possible, bring a pair of binoculars as it certainly makes it easier to spot the koalas.