

PO Box 19
Churchill
3842



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – July 2014

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

A0016319X

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter.

Green Walks continue to be held in the park each month with aim to get more people walking, more often, in local parks, state parks and bushland reserves. The next Green Walks planned in Morwell National Park are:

Thursday 3rd July 10am

Billy's Weir Walk (starting from Baniff's Rd)

Sunday 24th August 10am

Foster's Gully Walk (meet at Kerry Rd)

The plans to erect new animals boxes along the Baniff's Rd entry track have been postponed since there have been some sponsorship problems which need to be resolved. Hopefully this will occur in the near future.

In other news, Mark brought a copy of the shed and gate keys. In some of the past activities we have had trouble accessing gear from the shed, so another key will help to remove this problem. John now has these keys.

At the beginning of August we will have our Annual General Meeting. This hoped that all members can attend. For this meeting we will need a ranger's report. Included is the membership form to complete if you are unable to come to the Annual General Meeting. Thanks goes to Margaret and John who again, have offered to host the meeting for us.

Friends of Morwell National Park Annual General Meeting

Sunday 3rd 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

Friends of Morwell National Park Inc: PO Box 19, Churchill, 3842, <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.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, hodgson.darren.d@edumail.vic.gov.au

Other members: Mary Austin, Margaret Barker, Cathy Beamish, Eulalie Brewster, Matt and Kerry Campbell, Wendy McDonald, Joan Sikkema, Neil Slater, Wendy Steenbergen, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

To: Treasurer, Friends of Morwell National Park, PO Box 19, Churchill, 3842

Please find enclosed the amount of \$_____ (\$10 per person, \$15 per family/group) being for membership 2014/2015.

Name:.....Telephone:.....

Address:.....

Email:

John's Jottings

John has continued with his historical collecting and this month his jotting comes from an article "Some historical facts – Morwell National Park" compiled by Ellen Lyndon.

"A man named Alf Foster selected 60 acres on the flat below the Quigley selections, on what is probably Lot 17 on the Shire maps. Foster built a hut about half way up the flat, which then was only a swamp into which the creek disappeared. He fenced a couple of acres with a slab fence to grow potatoes. A road cut across the flat close by the hut. My informant was Reg Page who later owned this little farm. He thought it was then the only route from Morwell to the hills about Budgeree.



Mr Page said, "About 1954 Jack Grant of Budgeree told me he used to cart from Morwell with the bullocks and when crossing the flat the mud and water would be up to the bullock's bellies. I knew Alf Foster junior who is 86 now, and I think father was out there on the flat before he was born (1866). Reg Page drained the flat by cutting a drain through to take the seasonal water down to Middle Creek. Very little water passed down in summer.

It was thought at the one time that there was gold in the gully. A prospector was working in the present park during the thirties, one George Edwards. He sunk a fairly deep shaft just off the present creek track just before one reaches the old gravel pit on the creek side in scrub. I doubt any gold was found but the orchids were discovered.

Edwards' camp was on the highest point of the hill behind the Ranger's house, on what was later APM land. It was hung about with orchids on the neighbouring shrubbery, and he used to take generous samples to the neighbouring town's flowers shows and exhibit them. I suspect that he took a basket full down to the National Herbarium at one time.

June Activity Report

At this activity we had John, Neil, Darren and ranger Mark. The group meet in the car park and caught up on the last month's news. It was only a small crew but it was great to have Neil back for his second activity. Neil completed his membership to the friends group and will be the first member signed up for 2014/15. It is great to have another member with new members always welcome.

With a small team it was easy to all travel together to our worksite in one vehicle. We travelled to bottom of Zig Zag Track and there we suited up ready for the creek. Three of us put on waders while Neil remained on the bank since there were no waders in his size. We all travelled to Potato Flat where we tried to find a point to access the creek.

As we worked along the creek we removed a variety of weeds and collected many berries from the advanced tutsan plants we found. We definitely located less tutsan, so it reassuring that our work over the past few years has been worthwhile. Few tutsan seedlings were found and this is a good sign. Most tutsan could be pulled with the soil being soft. The spraying that had been done a few months ago has been

effective on the blackberries and partly effective upon the tutsan. These tutsan still had fruit and some were shooting again.

The creek was deep in some sections and the waders were important to keeping us dry. The waders were also useful to reach some hidden parts of the park and helped us to discover some previously unseen treasures. Located in the creek were a number of reflector posts taken from beside the vehicle track. Somebody has been removing these and throwing these into the creek. It will need to be decided whether these posts should be collected and repositioned.

During our time in the creek John located the fender from old tractor and a pipe from the old Morwell water pipeline. Neil needed to leave after a few hours, so the rest of us continued up to the third bridge crossing (just before Billy's Weir). We finished early and left at lunchtime. During a day that promised rain we came out dry. Now the area between the car park and the third bridge crossing are weed free.





July Activity

Sunday 20th July

The group will meet at 10.00am in the Junction Road car park. This month we will travel to the top of Blue Gum Hill and work on the removal of the fence at the top of the hill. We will need the star picket remover, gloves and wire cutters. You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

