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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – October 2015

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaean.net>
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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter.

As we come into spring and the weather improving it may be just the opportunity to take part in a Green Walk. The upcoming Green Walks planned for Morwell National Park are:

Thursday 1 st October 10am	Foster's Gully Walk (meet at Kerry Rd car park)
Tuesday 3 rd November (Melbourne Cup day) 10am	Billy's Weir Walk (meet at Baniff's Rd car park)
Wednesday 2 nd December 10am	Foster's Gully Walk (meet at Kerry Rd car park)

For registration and program updates go to www.heartfoundation.org.au/greenwalks or call 1300 362 787.

John's Jottings

This month I am providing ongoing snippets lifted from the Morwell National Park Management Plan (1998) which I'm sure will make interesting reading for you too. I have split the heading **4.2 Pest plants and animals** into 2 parts, covering Pest Plants. This month I will deal with animals.

Management Plan continued from last month.....

"4.2 Pest plants and animals" Part 2

"As with most urban fringe parks, domestic pets, particularly cats and dogs, are a serious problem (section 6.2). Other introduced species in the Park include rabbits, foxes, sheep, feral goats, European wasps and starlings. Rabbits contribute to erosion problems by burrowing and can have detrimental effects on regeneration and rehabilitation projects.

The fox is an opportunistic predator and scavenger, preying particularly on small mammals and birds. Foxes, along with dogs and cats, can have detrimental effects on native fauna, particularly lyrebird populations.

Stock such as goats and sheep entering the Park are an increasing concern, creating problems in erosion control and rehabilitation. They inhabit the steeper and more inaccessible areas of the Park, making control difficult. Over the past two years the number of European wasp nests has increased within the Park."

To be continued next month.....



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

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Other members: Mary Austin, Margaret Barker, Mike and Cathy Beamish, Eulalie Brewster, Kerry Campbell, Brenda Chatham, Tamara Leitch, Wendy McDonald, Joan Sikkema, Neil Slater, Wendy Steenberg, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

September Activity Report

At this activity we had Matt, Peter, Grant, Darren, Ken (briefly) and Craig. We had apologies from Tamara and Beryl. Matt discussed the recent Green Walk where no new walkers came for the walk led by Matt and Mike. Craig told us about the September Green Walk at Tarra Bulga NP, where two walkers came for the walk. To continue taking the walks the Heart Foundation requires the walk leaders to complete an online induction and complete a range of registration paperwork. Management and promotion of the walks has passed onto us. Matt has suggested that after this year's program we should not participate in 2016.

Matt told us about the results from the motion cameras that he set up last month near diggings at Potato Flats. The digger was not found on the camera, but the normal range of wombats, echidnas, kangaroos, wallabies and even a cat were captured on the cameras.

Craig told the group that the Grand Strzelecki Track Committee is applying for a grant for tree planting and some of these trees are planned for the Park. Hopefully they will be able to plant out the sections along the track which were badly blackberry infested. The Yinnar, Yinnar South Landcare Group have been tree planting, constructing a koala corridor between Boolarra South Reserve and Morwell National Park.

The group split to do track maintenance around Foster's Gully. A large branch had fallen across the track, so Craig and Matt drove in with the chainsaw to clear the track. The picture beside shows the size of the fallen limb and the difficulty it would have posed for any walkers who encountered it. The chainsaw after this use needs maintenance, so Craig will get this done.



Peter, Grant and Darren took the slasher and hedge trimmer to clear foliage from the track. The groups met up at Lyndon's Landing and worked together to clear the rest of the track.



The group reformed back in the Kerry Road picnic area to have lunch. There were no other important jobs that needed completing so we finished after lunch.

October Activity

Sunday 18th 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 Kerry Road 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'. 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 Morwell National Park.

Bring your family and friends 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.

