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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – June 2016

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaean.net>
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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. As winter approaches there is starting to be a nip in the air. It continues to be relatively dry, with little rain.

John's Jottings

This snippet on the activities of the Friends of Morwell National Park was sourced from early Newsletter files.

"October 20th, 1986

Dear Friends,

Our October meeting was again blessed with perfect weather, we have been very lucky this year.

The numbers of Koala's sighted was well down from last month although we had less eyes looking so this may account for the lower total. Perhaps luck plays a large part in our sightings; or perhaps we should have known it was a Koala holiday when even the picnic area resident was not to be seen.

After Ian's close encounter of a tiger of the snake kind we should all be very conscious that it is that time of year when our native animals are becoming more active, snakes included. The Aplin household have been observing our resident Goanna sunning itself high up his trees on warm days, and the echidna who wandered about the garden collecting lunch. Sure signs that spring is here even if at times the weather will try to disguise the fact. Our group found 6 different orchids in flower and hopefully more will be discovered next month.

Over afternoon tea a discussion was held to discuss the letter received from Mrs Kirner re land purchases. An attempt to formulate our ideas and priorities in relation to the expansion of the park. Anybody with any suggestions are welcome to put them forward. Letters have been sent to the R.C.A. and the Shire requesting directional signs indicating the National Park off the Midland Highway. Replies have been received and these signs have been ordered - something to look out for.

The project for November will be the planning for interpretive Signs to create a self-guided walk on the Stringybark trail. The aim will be to locate points of interest and formulate a basis for a text to accompany a photo or sketch. These will be erected at a later date on a project day. The installation of these signs will benefit the public by providing added interest, information and foster better understanding of our environment.

Looking forward to seeing you all, 1pm at the carpark on November 9th, 1986.

Regards, Yvonne Aplin."

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, 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).

May Activity Report

At this month's activity we had Matt, Tamara, Ken, Peter, Rose and Darren. We had apologies from Mike, Cathy, Beryl, John and Margaret. The group met in the car park to share news from the last month.

Matt reported that we have yet to buy the brush cutter. He has been in communication with Craig and found that whether we buy the brush cutter or they buy it for us, it will either way belong to Parks especially for maintenance and insurance. So hopefully over the next month, Parks will purchase the brush cutter. Matt spoke about a recent walk he had in the Park with Craig, Darren Hill and 20 employees from Parks Victoria. During the brief walk along the Billy's Creek track these Melbourne based staff quickly saw one of our local parks.

After the discussion, the planned activity was changed to track clearing and rubbish collection around Stringybark and West Boundary tracks. The recent winds and storms had blown down some branches and with the rarity of Parks staff, it is now up to us to clear tracks. The group assembled into two cars and drove to the Kerry Road car park.

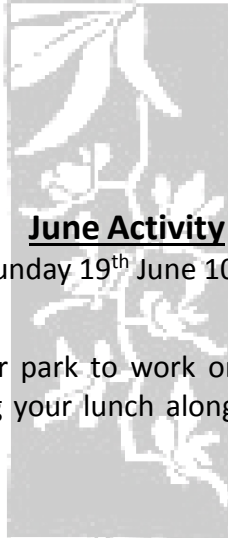
When approaching the on Kerry Road we came upon a car parked on the road. A tree branch had come down across the road. Matt collected the chainsaw from the shed while the group cleared the smaller branches. Finding the main entrance to the park blocked confirmed the need to work upon track clearing. While the clearing the road another car approached and was able to get into the car park.



After clearing the road we went through the car park and into the park. Matt's vehicle collected more work gear while Ken drove onto the West Boundary. The groups found a few branches down with some removable by hand and others requiring the use of the chainsaw.

While travelling up the West Boundary, the group broke into smaller groups with Matt stopping in two gullies to locate the motion detection cameras. At one of the cross tracks the chainsaw was again used to clear a large fallen trunk. At the end of the West Boundary the vehicles met up, but Rose and Tamara had continued on. This provided an opportunity to drive the tracks to find Tamara and Rose and look for more branches or trees down. Ken enjoyed the opportunity to go bush bashing. He travelled towards Jumbuk Road and when returning met Matt, Tamara and Rose coming down the track. After some difficult reversing and groups travelled the remaining tracks finding one more branch across the track. Peter and Darren pulled the hanging branching down while Ken drove off to get Matt with the chainsaw. The branch had gone from partially blocking the track to fully blocking the track. No vehicle could get through now with the track totally obstructed. The chainsaw cleared it away and the groups returned to picnic area for lunch.

After lunch the groups returned to Junction Road and checked the Billy's Creek track to find another tree down across the track. After clearing this the group drove to the Weir finding no other track obstructions. On the return leg, a partly fallen tree across the track was removed to avoid future problems. Over the day we had seen a mob of kangaroos, wedge tail eagle soaring over the picnic area and a male lyre bird.



June Activity

Sunday 19th June 10am

The group will meet in the Kerry Road car park to work on track maintenance upon the Silvertop and Muttonwood tracks. You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.