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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter – March 2017*

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.net>  
Official Address of FMNP - [contactfmnp@gmail.com](mailto:contactfmnp@gmail.com)  
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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter.

### John's Jottings

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

April 1988

"The Roche family, with Margaret, drove down into the Park from Jumbuk Road reporting the fact that they had seen 3 koalas along the road down into the creek. The rest of us walked into the Park, with Ken giving occasional comment about several points of noteworthy interest. Ken had recently entered the Park and had noted 2 Rails flying in the undergrowth, but is not sure what particular kind they were. All the same, Ken had some other finds for the day. Three more first-recordings for Billy's Creek area, and probably for Morwell National Park:

- *Calystegia marginata* (Forest Bindweed, a native),
- *Callitriche stagnalis* (Water Starwort) and
- *Picris echioides* (Ox-tongue), both weeds.

On arriving at the proposed (inner) picnic area, we held our first ever "Special General Meeting" in a tent set up to protect us from the rain. The report of this is given below. Later, Ian, Neil and I removed an old cable that spanned the Creek.

Afternoon tea followed, with most of the group returning by foot. Neil and I had the privilege of riding up the road to Jumbuk Rd on the back of Ian's truck. It was a magnificent ride despite the poor road and the steepness of the road - especially the hairpin bends! The views down into Billy's Creek and across to the other ridges opposite (with the old Camp) are worth seeing. I would recommend a walk up the road sometime, but be prepared for a steep track and allow for a casual walk of up to an hour. The views are worth it, despite the steep track.

We must pass our congratulations on to Frank Carter who has just gained a position with the Dept. C,F&L working in a Pine Forest at a place near Tallangatta in NE Victoria. Frank should be starting this new position by the end of April. Persistence has paid off!

Ken Harris was nominated to replace Frank Carter as Vice President/Activities Organizer until the AGM.

Our next Project Day will be Frank's last to organize, with a 10am start on April 10th. The main activities for the day are collecting any rubbish, removing and repairing bridges along the Billy's Creek area."

Minutes signed by Peter Bryant.



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Vice-President: Ken Harris

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

## February Activity Report

At this activity we had Matt, Peter, Wendy, Grant, Wayne, Beryl, Rose, Tamara, John and Darren. We had apologies from Mike, Cathy and Ranger Shane. Ken also joined the group for the meeting before the activity started.

We have been told by Parks, that there could be some possible funding available, so we will apply for more tools. Matt is following up with Parks about the provision of hats and badges for those people without them. Over the last month Matt has emailed the Environment Minister about our difficult situation of maintaining the Park, while having little access to Rangers at our activities. We are great value to Parks, managing and improving the natural space.

The seed fridge in the shed has been there for many years and needs to be electrically tested to ensure that it is safe. We will need to follow up with Parks for it to be checked. A new blade was needed for the brush cutter with the existing one not quite fitting. John followed this up and got a new blade fitted straight after the activity.

The Junior Ranger program has been running in the Park with five activities over the month. The Flora Explorers activity run around Foster's Gully while the Mini-beasts program has investigated Billy's Creek. Some details of the Junior Rangers program are given below.

In the day's activity the group split into two. Matt, Tamara, Peter, Wendy, Grant and Wayne travelled to the base of Blue Gum Hill to slash the track. They used the brusher cutters and hedge trimmer to clear the nettles and other weeds from the track, so that now walkers can safety travel to the top of Blue Gum Hill.

The other group of John, Rose, Beryl and Darren travelled to first bridge across Billy's Creek and entered the creek to remove weeds. Working downstream, many large Tutsan were found and removed. A large quality of berries were also removed. Also found in the creek was a yabby trap and a kangaroo skeleton.

Although this was our February activity, we had rain though-out. At different times during the morning, it drizzled and occasionally it rained more heavily. The groups met after the Blue Gum Hill track was cleared and whole group retired to car park for lunch. After a wet lunch the group left for home.

## March Activity

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March

### **Activity 1 – 10.00am - Junction Road Carpark**

We will meet in the Junction Road carpark to decide upon the track maintenance and/or weeding we will undertake.

For this activity you will need to bring clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

### **Activity 2 – 5.30pm - Kerry Road Picnic Area**

The group will meet in the Kerry Road picnic area for a BBQ, spot light walk and moth survey. You will need to bring clothing and footwear suitable for the evening outdoors and the weather conditions. For the BBQ; a seat, torch, cutlery, plates, drink, etc. would be very useful.

You can come for one or both activities.



## About Junior Rangers

The Junior Ranger program encourages kids to explore Victoria's amazing parks with a real park ranger. Junior Rangers can take part in cool activities like rock pool rambles, historic tours and spotlight night walks. They also have the ability to get out and about anytime they like with a range of cool Junior Ranger activities that they can download right here from the website and complete with their family and friends anytime they like.

### About Ranger Guided activities

Have you ever wanted to discover the secrets of Victoria's national parks and reserves? Junior Rangers can find out all about what's going on, direct from a real park ranger!

Junior Rangers is not a club; no membership is required to take part. Take part in fun, ranger guided activities during school holidays and on some weekends.

Junior Rangers can experience a range of different ranger-guided activities. Activities vary from park to park. Junior Rangers can choose from:

- Rock pool discovery
- Cave exploration
- Spotlight night walks
- Walks and talks to discover different animals and their environments including koalas, birds and sea creatures
- Wetland walks
- Fire recovery
- Environmental craft sessions
- Environmental games
- Cultural walks and talks

Some of the themes explored in ranger-led activities include:

- Caring for the environment
- Exploring ecosystems
- Habitats
- Park management
- Plants and animal facts
- Fire
- Tracks and traces
- Connections between humans and the environment

More details can be found at: [www.juniorrangers.com.au](http://www.juniorrangers.com.au)

