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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – March 2019

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A0016319X

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 from early Newsletter files.

"December 17, 1989

Hello,

The seed collection in the Billy's Creek area was a nice idea at the time, but we were a bit early. We managed to get a decent crop of seeds from the following plants: Messmate, Mountain Grey Gum, Blue Gum, Manna Gum, Varnish Wattle, Prickly Mo and Hemp Bush. However, there were plenty of seeds still green, or just about dry, so we're holding another collection day. Please come along and meet at Foster's Gully car park at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday 30th Dec.

As tree planting in the Billy's Creek area is a priority activity for next year, we are hoping to maximise the number of seeds collected. So make this your last good deed for the year; goodness knows you may need it to counter-balance the bad deeds you're planning for the following night.

As we are still preparing the activities for next year, as well as trying to determine what to do with the grant money for the Billy's Creek information shelter (i.e. buy the materials now and keep them in storage, or re-invest it and let DCF&L know that we're waiting for the release of the management plan), we'll be holding an Executive Meeting at Yvonne's on Thursday January 4, 1990, at 8:00 p.m. Please come along if you want to help out with these points.

Well, that's about all. Have a good Christmas, y'all,

Steve"



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President: Matt Campbell

Vice-President: Ken Harris

Secretary: Beryl Nelson

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Other members: Margaret Barker, Mike and Cathy Beamish, Eulalie Brewster, Graeme Busch, Kerry Campbell, Joelle Champert, Chris Lange, Peter & Wendy McDonald, Rose Mildenhall, Denis Nagle, Grant Pengelly, Wayne Pengelly, Joan Sikkema, Wendy Steenbergen, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

February Activity Report

This month we had Ken, Tamara, Beryl, Jay, Joelle, Graeme, James (new), Rose, Rose's niece and John in for the activity. We had apologies from Matt and Darren.

Tamara has been generous and has collected some notes and photos from the day's activity.

- It was overcast when we arrived at the carpark on Junction Rd, but it soon warmed up and was quite humid.
- Matt was away this month, and we realised we had no key to access the tools in our shed, and no 4WD vehicles to access the park. Luckily we knew of some weeds close to the carpark, and many of us had brought our own tools such as secateurs, loppers, a pruning saw and weed collection bags, so we got straight to work.
- While Jay and Joelle wandered up Clematis Track collecting Muttonwood seed, John and Beryl tackled some tutsan near the creek, and the rest of us wrestled with ivy, which was cunningly weaving its way under a thicket of nettles and blackberry to evade us. It was challenging to pull out all of the thin runners, ensuring that we didn't break them and leave any roots behind.
- While working, Tamara spotted a female Feather-horned Beetle (*Rhipicera femorata*) resting in the grass, and a more active male with spectacular antennae was later grasped from the air and briefly photographed by Ken before it took flight again. We have very few records of this species from the park, and had never recorded a female before.



Feather-horned Beetle (female) - *Rhipicera femorata* -
Tamara Leitch



Feather-horned Beetle (male) - *Rhipicera femorata* -
Ken Harris



- As we had only made it a short distance from the carpark, we retreated to the picnic table there when lunch called.
- On the way back to the carpark, we spotted a number of larger ivy plants climbing up trees on the south side of the track, including a couple that had developed the adult leaf shape and flower buds. Some of us returned for an hour or so after lunch to deal with these large plants.



- It was an enjoyable day out, with nicer weather than we'd experienced for a while, and plenty of opportunity for everyone to get their hands dirty stopping garden escapees marching their way through our bushland.

March Activity

Sunday 17th March

Activity 1 – 10.00am - Junction Road Carpark

We will meet in the Junction Road carpark undertake track maintenance and weeding.

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.

