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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – July 2005

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

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Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter.

In the Mailbox

Finding the way onto the editorial desk this month is:

- ❖ Latrobe 2021: The Vision for Latrobe Valley. A document from Latrobe City Council to which we were invited to have input last year.
- ❖ Copy of letter from Mark Stone (CEO, Parks Vic) to Hon. John Thwaites MP proposing a presentation to mark the 25th Anniversaries of various Friends Groups. We don't make the list yet, but our close neighbours Friends of Baw Baw NP make the grade.
- ❖ Ken and Rob have forwarded to me some copies of the registration form for the Friends Conference in the Grampians in September. Hurry up and grab one if you want to go, cut off date is July 15.

What's Happening?

- ❖ Some track blockages have been reported on the top end of the Clematis Track and on the Blue Gum Hill Track, due to fallen timber. No doubt Rob will have sorted it out by now.
- ❖ No news yet on the status of log trucks on Jumbuk Road, but accidents involving log trucks on Whitelaw's Track and another reported in the LV Express a couple of weeks ago will not help matters.
- ❖ Also no news yet on possible funding for tree planting in steep country. Fingers are still crossed.
- ❖ In May, some reports of a de-sensitised kangaroo approaching people in the Billy Creek area were received. There have been no further reports to date, but if anybody is approached by a kangaroo, please do nothing to encourage the behaviour.
- ❖ It is that time of year again, when subscriptions are due for renewal. Please use the form provided below or pay your subs directly to Wendy. We will be thoroughly spring cleaning our accounts at the August AGM, so if you wish to continue receiving the newsletter, be sure to renew your membership.

Subscriptions!!!

If you haven't already taken care of business, please take advantage of the cut-off slip below, otherwise you may be deleted from our member list.

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 2005/2006.

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

Address:.....

July Activity

July 17 is the date. Ten o'clock in the morning (10am) is the time. The Junction Road car park is the location. The job is a continuation of our Tutsan removal program. This will entail brave participants donning warm and waterproof clothing in an attempt to stave off the chill of Billy Creek in mid-winter as we walk the riparian realms seeking escapees from the spraying and cutting sessions held earlier in the year, in much warmer conditions. There will be a half-dozen pairs of waders available, but bring your own if you have them, as well as any loppers or secateurs you may prefer to use. As always, bring your own lunch and refreshments for the day.

Can we Clear a Track, or what? June Activity Report

We were extremely dubious of our chances as we made our way to Kerry Road. It had rained all the way from home and didn't look like clearing. Reg and Rob greeted us from their huddled position under the noticeboard and Wendy, Ken and Denis all squeezed into the dry area behind us. We umm'd and ahh'd for a while, discussed anything we could think, chatted to the resident Lewin Honeyeater and generally managed to waste enough time until it stopped raining! No more excuses were possible, so into the vehicles we climbed for the drive around to Brewster's Road, in the gate and down the hill to Muttonwood Creek.

Efficient as we are, we soon organised ourselves into crews, Rob led the way with the chainsaw, Ken, Wendy and Cathy followed with the loppers and secateurs, cutting back the overhanging vegetation and Reg, Denis and I brought up the rear with the heavy machinery (fernhooks, spades and mattocks), taking out the shrubbery growing on the track and performing the earthworks to clear and level the easement. In no time we were up to the footbridge and it was lunchtime, a cuppa and a sanga going down well. After lunch, back into it, grunting and sweating our way up the fenceline to the firebreak. To be honest, it was probably just me doing the grunting and sweating. Several beasties came to light during our toil, see below for Ken's note on identification:

The frog we found yesterday did prove to be the common Brown Treefrog (*Litoria ewingii*), despite my doubts on the subject. The other frog as you know was the Striped Marsh Frog (*Limnodynastes peronii*) and the lizard was McCoy's Skink (*Nannoscincus maccoyi*). The Scorpion is the Wood Scorpion (*Cercophonius squama*) and I attach the photo I took in case you want to alarm your audience. The picture is larger than life. The individual I photographed was about 4 cm long (with its tail extended). The



cockroaches which I found were the Bark Cockroach (*Laxta granicollis*), which is one of the most commonly found invertebrates in the Park. I have now recorded it in 53 out of the 154 walk sections that I use for recording. Only some of the butterflies are commoner, with the Common Brown (*Heteronympha merope*) – 122, Klug's Xenica (*Geitoneura klugii*) – 83 and the introduced Small White (*Pieris rapae*) – 60. I have found the scorpion now in 15 different sections. **From Ken Harris.**