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Friends of
Morwell National Park Inc.
Newsletter – November 2005

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

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Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. Another successful Koala Count has come and gone, this year the weather was kind and our small group enjoyed a mild, humid afternoon strolling around the Park. Once again Stringybark Ridge proved the prime location for sightings, topping the charts with 6 sightings and 2 hearings. Fosters Gully could only claim 2 sightings, one of which was found by the Stringybark Ridge group before the tracks diverged. No sightings were registered for the Jumbuk Firebreak group, who no doubt spent more time looking for orchids than koalas. Did you all see the Letter to the Editor in the LV Express on Monday, 24/10/05? For those who missed it, here it is, reprinted in full:

Koala spotting a treat for the whole family

First of all my six-year-old daughter and myself would like to say a big thank you to the Friends of the Morwell National Park group for the public invitation to participate in the annual koala counting day at the Morwell National Park on Sunday 16 October.

We have recently moved to the Latrobe Valley from interstate and thus took up the offer to help on the day as koalas in their natural habitat are something that we have never had the opportunity to experience.

We were lucky enough to be in the group with the local ranger (Rob) and had the benefit of his local knowledge and passion of the flora, fauna and history of the National Park, which was appreciated with great interest by the other volunteers in our small group and we were lucky enough to spot some koalas and even hear their calls.

I would like to say that I was amazed and disappointed at the lack of interest and response to the day from the general community of the Valley – I personally felt it was a small turnout for such an activity, but must admit I have no idea if the Friends of the Morwell National Park were happy with the small turnout or if it's similar numbers from previous years. My daughter was the only child there on the day, I believe we may have been the only people there who weren't members of the Friends of the Morwell National Park.

A lot of families missed out on a great activity and a wonderful way to spend a few hours with the children walking along the tracks, finding out about your local surroundings, being involved with your community, community spirit, getting exercise and an inexpensive family activity. Once again we would like to express our appreciation to those who made the day possible and encourage families to get involved when the opportunity presents itself next year.

Greg Smith, Morwell.

Nice letter, eh? Hopefully a few of the locals read it and we can gain some promotion from it in future. Along the same lines was a report in the LV Express on Thursday, 27/10/05 on the Save Our Strzeleckis Coalition recent tour of the Strzelecki Ranges to highlight problems with current logging practices and the breaking of agreements between community and conservation groups, and Hancocks Timber Industries. Just 'another brick in the wall' to quote a Pink Floyd song, but it serves to highlight how precious our remnant Strzelecki Ranges habitat is, in small parks like Morwell NP, Tarra-Bulga NP and Mt Worth SP. The rest is just about gone!

November Activity

November is Butterfly Orchid survey month and no doubt Ken will be requiring the assistance of one of our numbers to carry out his annual checks. What is in store for the rest of our group remains a mystery! It could be some weed eradication, possibly some track maintenance, perhaps a spot of spring cleaning. The pressure is on Rob to decide whatever odd jobs require immediate attention. In the meantime, we will meet at the Kerry Road carpark (or if the gate is open, drive up to the propagation shed) at 10am on Sunday, November 20, 2005. Be prepared for anything!

Also on Sunday, November 20, at 5pm, is the event detailed below. I apologise at the lateness of my newsletter production with regard to the RSVP date, but I'm sure if you are keen to attend, a prompt phone call to the number listed below will get you a positive response.

Latrobe Parks District Combined Friends Groups Get-Together 2005

Friends of Baw Baw NP
Friends of Morwell NP
Friends of Tarra Bulga NP
Friends of Mt Worth SP
Mt St Gwinear Ski Patrol
Friends of Lyrebird Forest Walk
Friends of Crossover RP
Friends of Glen Nayook
Toongabbie Mechanics Institute

The annual Friends Groups get together for the Latrobe Parks District will again be held at the **Bert Thompson Reserve** (Behind the Pizza Hut in Argyle Street, Traralgon) on **Sunday the 20th of November 2005** starting at 5pm.

You are cordially invited to come along and enjoy a BBQ meal, catch up with Friends from other Groups and celebrate yet another year of achievements. Soft drinks and food will be provided, BYO drinks and chairs as required.

RSVP: to Peter Kershaw at Parks Victoria, 71 Hotham St Traralgon, or on 5172 2186 or Email pkershaw@parks.vic.gov.au by Friday 11th November 2005.