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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – December 2005

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

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Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter.

In The Mailbox

Appearing on the desk this month, we have:

- Coolart Wetlands & Homestead Friends Newsletter 3/05 – Some interesting articles and a calendar of events leading up to Christmas and into early 2006, including woodturning demo's, jazz, film festivals and art shows. Let me know if you would like more details.
- Friends of Tarra Bulga National Park Newsletter Spring 2005 – Short reports on recent events and advertising for Carols in the Park to be held at the Visitor's Centre at 8.30pm on Thursday, December 15.
- Under Control Newsletter No. 31 for September 2005 – Extensive articles on pest plant and animal management which are sometimes quite relevant to us.
- An invitation from Latrobe City to submit nominations for their Australia Day Awards 2006 – past it's RSVP date.
- A survey from the Gippsland Vocational Training Unit, via GippsTAFE and Latrobe City, on the opportunities for people with a disability to participate in voluntary work and community groups – again, well past it's use-by date.

In other breaking news, we hear through the grapevine that we are in line for some substantial grants from the Regional Catchment Improvement Program and Greenfleet that will enable us to put in place our plans for the revegetation of Blue Gum Hill. The word is that we will receive enough to fence off 6 to 7 hectares of hillside, put in place weed and rabbit controls, then grow and plant several thousand trees, all by contractor. Fingers crossed it all happens!

Along the same lines in the negative, there is still no progress on the Jumbuk Road log truck stalemate and therefore no progress in removing the pines that are holding up our plans for that area. The proposed Coprosma Track is unlikely to proceed in the near future due to ongoing maintenance funding concerns and the proposed land swap (the bare block off Reidy's Rd for a vegetated block up Side Creek and below Moran's Rd) is still awaiting approval and actioning.

December Activity

On our calendar for Sunday, December 18, is our last activity for the year. Again, we will finish off all those odd jobs that Rob has lined up for us, such as seed sorting and possibly sowing, a spot of weeding or some general cleaning and tidying. Despite what the calendar says, we will meet at the Propagation Shed at **10am**. Following the activity, Rob has volunteered to host our end-of-year BBQ at his residence, 5 Bond Court, off Walker Parade, in Churchill, commencing at 2.30pm. Meats will be provided, but all attendees are asked to bring along a salad or a sweet to share. Note also that Rob has a pool, so if the weather is suitable (or not, if you are an obsessive swimmer) you may like to bring along swimming gear. I hope to see you all there, regardless of whether you attend the morning session.

Slaving over Seeds **November Activity Report**

A small but keen group appeared at the Propagation Shed on Sunday, November 20. Ken brought along his tray of Muttonwood (*Rapanea howittiana*) seedlings that he had accidentally germinated by leaving them in a plastic bag and forgetting about them for a few months. He left us to pot them up, as he and Sheina soon departed to commence his Butterfly Orchid survey. Rob, Wendy, Reg, Cathy and I organised ourselves to sort out all the bags of seed capsules left to dry out after our last seed collection expedition back in January, and some wattle seeds from years ago. The Blue Gum didn't take long to process, with the seeds easily extracted and sieved from the capsules. The Varnish Wattle was good, too, with the seed falling cleanly from the pods. The Silver Wattle was a little bit more reluctant, with the seed falling easily from open capsules, but not all the capsules had split open, thus requiring manual encouragement. The Blackwood Wattle was a nightmare, with the seed clinging on for dear life, requiring personal removal from the pods. With more than a couple of bags to process, we were in for the long haul!

Just before lunch, Kath walked up to introduce herself, inquiring whether we were the Friends doing the orchid survey, as per the advertising in the paper. Ken had mentioned a possible new member, Kay, coming along for the orchids, so thinking this was the lady, I walked her down to Foster's Gully to seek out Ken and some orchids. As it turned out, Kath wasn't Kay, but we found some terrific orchids to show her and photograph, told her all about the survey and the group, and even saw a rufous fantail and a lyrebird on our travels. I hope I managed to impress her enough to come back!

Lunch was on the table when I returned, along with plenty of seeds left to process. We plodded along for another couple of hours, until Rob had to call stumps and dash off to help set up the evenings events in Traralgon. Cathy and I brought the last bag of Blackwood capsules home with us, to sort them out so we don't have to deal with them next time. I'm sure though, that Rob will have plenty to keep us occupied next month.

Combined Latrobe District Friends Groups BBQ

Friends of Baw Baw NP, Morwell NP, Tarra Bulga NP, Mt Worth SP, Lyrebird Forest Walk, Glen Nayook, Crossover Regional Park and The Mt St Gwinear Ski Patrol gathered in Traralgon on Sunday 20th November to celebrate another year of outstanding achievements by all the volunteer groups operation in the Latrobe Parks District.

The weather was excellent, the venue ideal and a delicious barbeque meal was enjoyed by all who attended. Morwell Friends were well represented by Ken, Fay, Wendy and John who all joined in the process of networking with members of other groups and gaining insight into the many and diverse tasks performed by volunteers throughout the district.

Ranger In Charge, Peter Kershaw, made a speech highlighting the achievements of each group and congratulated some long-serving groups and individuals eg: Friends of Baw Baw 25 years and Ken and Wendy close to 20 years on the committee of FOMNP. He also spoke of the great work being done on environmental projects by groups with the help of Volunteer Grants and announced the funding of some major revegetation projects for Mt Worth and Morwell NP.

A great time was had by all and I thoroughly recommend next year's get-together to anyone who was unable to attend this one.

Rob Howell
Ranger

Parks Victoria has much pleasure in inviting

The Friends of Morwell National Park

to a

**Parks Victoria Friends Excursion to the
Mornington Peninsula National Park**

This excursion provides an opportunity for members of Friends Groups to meet with each other and to discuss and celebrate the contributions they have made to the Victorian parks system,

on Wednesday 14th December 2005.

from 3.00pm to 9.00pm

Meeting at Point Nepean Orientation Centre
Point Nepean Road
Portsea
(Melway Ref: Map 156 C2)

RSVP: Telephone 13 19 63

By Monday 6th December 2005

BBQ dinner will be provided

Discovering Point Nepean, *please book for one of the following discovery trips.*

Trip 1, Hooded Plover Survey Portsea to Pt Nepean (max 10) meet at 3.00 pm

Trip 2, Gunners Car Park to Pt Nepean starting between 3 pm to 5 pm

Trip 3, Transporter to Fort Nepean meet at 5:30 pm

All trips return from Fort Nepean to car parks by 9.00 pm

For more information on Point Nepean please visit www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

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Hooded Plover Survey Portsea to Pt Nepean (max 10 people)

The Hooded Plover survey walk from Portsea Ocean Beach to Point Nepean. Those who undertake this walk will be rewarded with spectacular coastal scenery and sightings of the Hooded Plover. This is a physically demanding walk of 7 kms and involves climbing over rocks and walking over rock platforms. The walkers will join the group at Fort Nepean for a BBQ dinner at 6:30 pm and return to the car park in the Point Nepean transporter at 8:30 pm.

Meeting at Point Nepean Orientation Centre car park (Melways map 156 C2)

Time 3:00 pm

Gunners Car Park to Pt Nepean. start between 3 pm to 5 pm. This 5 km walk looks at the historical features of Point Nepean. A guided walk will leave the Gunners car park at 3:00 pm or people may walk independently from the guided group, leaving the Gunners car park any time between 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm.

The walkers will meet at Fort Nepean for a BBQ dinner at 6:30 pm and return to their cars by the Point Nepean transporter at 8:30 pm.

Meeting at Point Nepean Orientation Centre (Melways map 156 C2)

Departure time 3:00 pm

Transporter to Fort Nepean. For those short on time the Point Nepean transporter will depart from the Point Nepean Orientation Centre to take people directly to Fort Nepean for a BBQ dinner at 6:30 the group will return to their cars on the transporter at 8:30 pm.

Meeting at Point Nepean Orientation Centre (Melways map 156 C2)

Departure time 5:15 pm

All groups will return from Fort Nepean to the car parks by 9.00 pm.

Please book your preferred trip on 13 19 63 by Monday 6th December 2005.

Looking forward to seeing you at Point Nepean.