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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – June 2006

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

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G'day everyone and welcome to the June newsletter. My contribution this month is mainly to put it all together, rather than write it, as Cathy and I only popped in to the last activity long enough to collect the news. Thank you to all who put in the time and effort for the contributions following.....

Track Construction: Silvertop Hill to Muttonwood Creek Track.

May Activity Report

By Denis Sultana

On an overcast and drizzly Sunday morning, I headed off towards the Kerry Road picnic area. I arrived at just after 10am to find Rob, Reg, Wendy, Mike and Cathy already in attendance. Arriving next was Sheina, shortly followed by Ken. We had our customary chinwag in the car park and closer scrutiny revealed that three of the attendees would not be partaking in the day's activity: Mike and Cathy had a prior engagement and Wendy sported a sore knee.

With the pre-activity formalities complete Mike, Cathy and Wendy went off on their way and the remainder piled into Rob's ute and headed up to the top of Silvertop Hill. While passing through the most recent area of fuel reduction burn Ken noticed a large yellow gilled fungus which he photographed and catalogued it for his park records.

We arrived at the top of Silvertop Hill to begin our toil. Rob, armed with his chainsaw, forged ahead clearing large overhanging and fallen branches. Ken followed with loppers, clearing smaller branches, then Sheina, undertaking general path clearing, and lastly Reg and myself with slashers clearing bracken and whatever else lay in our path. To our surprise our progress was brisk and we reached Muttonwood Creek Track in time to return back up the hill for lunch.

After lunch we headed by vehicle down to Muttonwood Creek Track and walked to the junction of our new track to dig out some sedges that lay in the pathway. A pleasant surprise was the condition of Muttonwood Creek Track, still looking good since our maintenance last year. With our day's work completed we called it a day with the satisfaction of knowing our task was complete.

June Activity

On the calendar for Sunday, June 18, is another Track Maintenance exercise. The plan is to tackle the overgrown lower end of the future Coprosma Track, which extends upstream along Billys Creek from the base of the Blue Gum Hill vehicle track. We plan to meet at the Junction Road gate at 10am. Rob will be away on leave, but will no doubt organise a comrade to provide entry and equipment for the day's work. As always, you will need to bring your own lunch and refreshments, and wear suitable clothing and footwear for the weather conditions and work requirements of the day.

In The Mailbox

Here are the items that appeared in our post this month:

- An invitation to attend the launch of the 2006 Regional Achievement and Community Awards, held in Traralgon on May 24.
- An invitation to attend a workshop on the development of the Churchill Intergenerational Community Hub, held in Churchill on May 22.
- The March 2006 issue number 33 of Under Control- Pest Plant and Animal Management News. This contains a couple of interesting articles on fox management, willow control and possession and sale of exotic reptiles, which are relevant to this area.
- An invitation to participate in the Destination Gippsland tourism campaign. Included was a contact details update form with a de-registration option, so I have taken it upon myself to fill this in and send it back. I've presumed that there will be no objection to this action due to the number of comments made at the last activity about the amount of mail we receive to participate in activities not particularly relevant to our group.
- Application forms for the 2006-2007 Community Group Grants. Rob was ahead of the game and already had copies filled out awaiting the appropriate signatures. Unless other suggestions are received, we intend to apply for grants to continue our efforts in weed control.

Calendar Revision

Rob has received some information from the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, inviting our participation in their Fungi Foray to Mt Worth State Park on Sunday, July 16. As this coincides with our normal activity day, we have decided to make some changes to our calendar to enable our attendance. We propose to change our excursion from September to July, move tree guard removal to August and resume our war against Tutsan in September. The following table highlights these changes:

June 18	Track Maintenance (Coprosma)	Junction Road, 10.00am
July 16	Mt Worth Fungi Foray	Mt Worth SP, 10.30am
August 6	AGM	To be advised, 1.30pm
August 20	Tree Guard Removal	Junction Road, 10.00am
September 17	Weed Removal	Junction Road, 10.00am
October 15	Koala Count	Foster's Gully, 1.30pm
November 19	Butterfly Orchid Survey Odd jobs	Foster's Gully, 10.00am
December 17	Odd Jobs, Christmas Function	To be advised

Please let us know if you have any concerns about these changes, or any suggestions about future activities.