

PO Box
19
Churchill
3842



President:
5122 3137

Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – January 2007

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

A0016319X

G'day everyone, all the best of the season to you and welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. I hope you have all survived the silly season OK, enjoyed all the good bits (family, friends, food and festivities) and avoided the not-so-good bits (fires, flies, hot weather, over-indulgence). We are still praying for rain, having been placed on Stage 4 water restrictions on 20/12/06, so we can no longer water our gardens from the town system. We received 36.5mm in December, making it 711mm for the year, about 8 inches under our average. All those nice wet thunderstorms recently, seemed to make a point of going around us to the north, so we got hardly any rain from them. Catching our grey water in buckets isn't a long term solution, but for the short term at least some plants will get a drink.

January Activity

On the calendar for Sunday, January 21 is a return to a more traditional summer activity, although it is really just a continuation of our weeding program. We've called it The Annual Weir Walk, but it entails jumping into Billy Creek again, probably not starting at the weir, to continue our war against Tutsan and any other feral plant we come across. We will meet at the Junction Road entrance to the Billy Creek section of the Park at 10am. As always you will need clothing and footwear suitable for warding off the pricklies and bites and the conditions on the day and your own lunch and refreshments.

Weed Wars, Episode XIII **December Activity Report**

Appearing at Junction Road at the nominated date and time, we were greeted by Rob and Reg. Wendy and Ken weren't too far away. After the obligatory chat, mainly about the 2007 calendar and the alpine fire situation, it was obvious we were it for the day, so into the vehicles and up the track we went. Reg, Cathy and I belted on ahead, parked ourselves on Potato Flat and began donning our gear in preparation for jumping in the creek, when Rob drove straight past and kept going. Rob had all the weed killing paraphernalia, so we had no choice but to walk up the track after him, all the way to the weir. Unbeknownst to us, they had gone to tackle a patch of Foxgloves. We grabbed what we needed and left them to it. Into the creek where we finished up back in September, we were soon into our normal rhythm of cutting and poisoning the odd Tutsan and ripping out any offending thistles, teasel or foxgloves within reach. We made pretty good progress, but it was still after 1pm before we met Rob, Ken and Wendy working upstream from the first ford. Keen for a feed, we called a halt to the war and made our way back to the gate, where Dorothy was waiting for us. Over at Kerry Road, the place was deserted, so we wasted no time in firing up the BBQ, getting stuck into the munchies and partaking of a good red. The flies were ferocious, particularly once the meat went on, but apart from that it was a most pleasant finale to our activity and another year of work in the Park.

Calendar Changes

Due to the lack of rain and the probability of another poor planting season, we have decided not to grow trees for planting in June and July. These months are now open for suggestions of suitable activities. Also, due to the Friends Conference being held locally in September, changes have been made to the August and September activities to allow for planning and attendance. A revised calendar is presented for comment over page.

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Activities are scheduled for the third Sunday of each month, with extra days scheduled as required.

| <u>Date:</u> | <u>Activity:</u> | <u>Venue and Time:</u> |
|---------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| January 21 | Weir Walk | Braniff's Road, 10.00am |
| February 18 | Odd Jobs/Weed Removal | Kerry Road, 10.00am |
| March 18 | Track Maintenance (Coprosma) | Junction Road, 10.00am |
| April 15 | Track Maintenance (Coprosma) | Junction Road, 10.00am |
| May 12 | 21 st Birthday Celebration | To be advised. |
| May 20 | Tree Guard Removal (Lodge Tk) | Braniff's Road, 10.00am |
| June 17 | To be advised | To be advised, 10.00am |
| July 15 | To be advised | To be advised, 10.00am |
| August 5 | AGM | To be advised, 1.30pm |
| August 19 | Conference Planning (with Friends of Baw Baw NP) | To be advised, 10.00am |
| September 7-9 | Friends Conference | Rawson, as per schedule |
| October 21 | Koala Count | Foster's Gully, 1.30pm |
| November 18 | Butterfly Orchid Survey | Foster's Gully, 10.00am |
| December 16 | Christmas Function | To be advised. |

For all activities, it is BYO food, drinks, suitable clothing and footwear, and other personal items. Up to date details of each forthcoming activity are provided in the monthly newsletter.