

PO Box  
19  
Churchill  
3842



President:  
5122 3137

# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter – June 2007*

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

A0016319X

G'day everyone, welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. Do you all feel older than last month? That's probably because we are, the group having turned 21 during May. For those that were able to attend the tour of Billys Creek and/or the dinner at Yinnar Pub, I hope you enjoyed the occasion as much as we did and for those that couldn't make it, maybe next time, enjoy the report below.

There are a couple of news items worthy of printing this month. Everybody has probably already heard of the 'win' by local Jumbuk and Junction Road residents, with Latrobe City Council voting to prevent Grand Ridge Plantations from travelling on these roads with log trucks. Instead, a longer and currently unsuitable route was proposed along Vaggs Creek Track and Middle Creek Road, which of course was subsequently criticised by residents in that area. The consequences to Morwell NP are that we are still waiting for the pines in the top Jumbuk Road entrance to be removed, with no prospect of achieving this goal in the near future. At the risk of upsetting all and sundry, I'll comment that it seems 'common sense' is again not very common and a vocal minority once again disrupt and cause undue expense to the majority.

On a more positive note, it is grant time once again, although with some pretty restrictive time limitations imposed. So Rob fronted up at the May activity armed with application forms awaiting approval and signatures. The plan this time is to secure enough money to pay for a contractor and side-cutting excavator to cut the Coprosma Track through from the site of our labours in March and April to as close to the top of Blue Gum Hill as we can. Fingers crossed, as once again it seems money for the small, non-iconic parks will be hard to come by.

### **June Activity**

On Sunday, June 17, the calendar shows a big blank! A quick powwow at the last gathering settled on some more tree guard removal. No, we are not aiming for the heights of the Lodge Track, it is too damp, so we will head west to Peel's Block and see how our plantings of a couple of years ago have fared. Time permitting, we may also wander up along Muttonwood Creek and check out the condition of the track up Silvertop Hill. We will meet at the Kerry Road (Foster's Gully) carpark at 10am, to await further direction. As always, wear clothing and footwear suitable for the environment and weather conditions on the day and bring your own lunch and refreshments.

## Friends of Morwell NP 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday- May 12, 2007



Celebrations commenced with a walk and talk through the Billys Creek section of the Park on Saturday afternoon. A good turnout of past and present members made the trip, Rob leading the way with the vehicle carrying the supplies, the main group wandering to the weir at their own pace and Cathy and I bringing up the rear with the support vehicle after waiting for any late attendees to appear. Passing a cow and a dog on our way towards the back of the walking group didn't seem to be a good introduction to the natural features of the

Park, but apparently nobody but ourselves saw them! We caught up to the stragglers attempting to wade across Billys Creek at the Potato Flat ford. After pointing out the walking track with perfectly functional bridge installed, they admitted the bridges weren't there last time they were in the Park: the bridges were installed in 1995! Rob had the billy boiling by the time we arrived and the afternoon tea was soon laid out and shown appreciation by the group. The obligatory photo session ensued. One example above features some of our earliest members, from left to right, John Pulis, Hilma Batza, Alf Cook, Ed Steenbergen, Joan Sikkema, Ian Roche, Wendy Steenbergen, Ken Harris, Wendy Nickson, Tom Lawless, Paul and Judy Lambert, Yvonne Aplin, Gail Roche and Brian Aplin.

Festivities continued into the evening at the Yinnar Pub, which turned out a very busy affair with the Pub full of locals. Luckily we had booked the back room for our party, so were able to keep clear of the crush except when ordering our meals. The roast pork looked terrific and from all reports from those lucky enough to order it before it ran out, it lived up to expectations. Those at the end of the queue, although disappointed, enjoyed their alternatives never-the-less. With the meal over, formalities commenced with some brief words from current President, Ken Harris, Ranger Rob Howell and founding member Yvonne Aplin. Rob presented the group with a Certificate of Appreciation from Parks Victoria, which will probably be displayed at the noticeboard in the Kerry Road picnic area. The cutting of the birthday cake made by Cathy Beamish and featuring hand-made State floral emblems in icing was the final formal act for the evening.



## I'm Sure They're Breeding May Activity Report



Tree guards, that is! The wetter weather (13.5mm in the couple of days up to 20/5/07) put paid to our plan to head up the Lodge Track, so we thought we would have another look through the Billys Creek flats for any guards missed in previous years. We must have done it with our eyes closed in the past: we found heaps of the old mesh guards in and around the power line easement, not far from the Junction Road gate, enough to keep us going 'til lunchtime. The amount of grass cover must have decreased in the intervening years, exposing

guards overlooked at the time. Either that or they're breeding!

Once we had settled the worms, the crew (Rob, Wendy, Reg, Darren, Cathy and I) headed further up the fire break to where the old dairy used to be, where we had heard reports some old, tall, pink, plastic guards were still to be removed. We soon found a few to dispatch, but had to be wary of the local residents, such as the beastie at right, found living comfortably under a fallen tree guard. A lot of the guards had to be cut free, having pulled the trees over when young and subsequently growing at an angle over the top of the guards. The load in the trailer at the end of the day provided enough satisfaction for the effort involved.

