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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – September 2008

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

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G'day everyone and welcome to the latest edition of your newsletter. Spring has sprung it seems, with yesterday (Saturday, 13/9/08) turning out a beautiful, barmy day of 26°C and a nice breeze to go with it. It was 14°C overnight, warmer than the maximum temperature of 12°C four days ago, and from all reports it is going to be back down at that level again next week! Today is just ordinary, still warmish, but too windy for comfort. Cathy and I spent yesterday roaming around the wilds of Moondarra, looking for orchids with APS LV and ANOS. We didn't find too many orchids, being about four weeks early for the main flowering, but we enjoyed the outing nevertheless. As far as FMNP is concerned, there is not very much to report. Cathy had our last activity all to herself, so her report is included below; otherwise, the only other item to report on is the receipt of FriendsNet newsletter No. 64 via email. No doubt the hard copy will have turned up in the postbox in the meantime.

Vale- Les Reinkowsky

Our condolences go out to Dorothy and her family on the passing of Les last month. Les had been an official member of our group for only a couple of years, but was associated with us through Dot for a lot longer than that. We will miss his cheerful input and aptitude for the hard yakka.

September Activity

As a result of the effects of the flooding last year, it seems that our fears over some weeds making a comeback have come to fruition. Reports are that Tutsan has begun to germinate in several spots along Billys Creek, so we need to get our weed removal activities back into full swing, to remove the blighters before they can set another batch of seed. So, on Sunday, September 21, we will meet at the Junction Road gate at 10am, ready to jump into the freezing waters of Billys Creek for the next instalment of Weed Wars. As always, you will need to bring your own lunch and refreshments, and wear clothing and footwear suitable for the working environment and weather conditions on the day.

My Lonely Walk August Activity Report By Cathy Beamish

Our August activity was to be a Friends Day, where we chose to do something other than work in the Park. We had planned on walking the new rail trail between Meeniyan and Koonwarra, but Wendy found out that only the bridge was open and that we were not able to access the rail trail. Our second option was to join the Friends of Tyers but they didn't have an activity planned for this month. We may join them in the future.

As a few people had other commitments and were not able to make it for whatever we decided to do, Mike and I made an executive decision to keep the activity local and to walk around our own park. This was a great idea but I was the only one that turned up! Ken dropped by Kerry Road to say he had injured his leg and didn't want to strain it more by walking and as Mike was on call, again, he had to go into work. This left me!

So, 10.15am saw me walking happily on the track, heading for the Stringybark ridge. I had decided to walk anyway as I was in dire need of some exercise! I saw some orchids as I headed towards the bridge

and was pleasantly surprised to see that there was water running in the creek bed. I haven't seen water there in ages!

The birds in the area sounded as happy as I was and it was very pleasant listening to them. I am not very good at identifying their calls, but I did hear Crimson Rosellas, a grey thrush, a lyrebird and an extremely noisy Sulphur-crested Cockatoo. The next noise I heard made me stop and listen as I wasn't expecting a hooonk (or something like that!). I kept walking as I couldn't find the source of the noise, but soon after I had started up Stringybark Ridge I heard it again. This time I was able to locate two silhouettes high up a tall gum tree. I tried taking a photo but my zoom isn't strong enough for that distance. It turned out that I had found two Mountain Ducks. Not quite what I was expecting! A lady who walked past at that time said that she had seen them in the park before.



I spent the remainder of my walk trying to decide whether to look up in the hope of finding a koala, or look down in the hope of finding orchids. I managed to find both! I spotted a koala high up in the canopy but again, too far away for a good photo. As for the orchids, I found the leaves of helmet orchids, which is what I expected, but I found Maroonhoods (*Pterostylis pedunculata*) not quite out, a small patch of Nodding Greenhoods (*P. nutans*) and a few tall greenhoods (*P. melagramma*) on the uphill and downhill of Stringybark Track.

Other flowers that I could identify was the wattle, which was just starting to bloom and will be magnificent in some places within a couple of weeks. There were some specimens of heath, in a lovely dark pink, scattered all around the track and I also found a couple of interesting fungi, and I have included the photos here. With luck, someone will be able to identify them. Ken, maybe?



Considering I ended up on my own for the outing, I enjoyed myself and had a very good walk. I worked up a sweat and was puffing nicely while walking up the hill. It took me an hour to reach the top of Stringybark, but I lost count of how many times I stopped to take a photo! It only took me three-quarters of an hour to get back to the car, but again I made numerous photographic stops.



Rosette Fungus – *Podoscypha petalodes*

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