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Friends of
Morwell National Park Inc.
Newsletter – November 2008

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

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Hi Everyone,

It has been a busy few weeks for us and life just got more complicated with Mike unexpectedly having to work afternoon shift on Monday, following another weekend away. Consequently, he hasn't had time to put the newsletter together so I am going to give it another go after how many years??

Last weekend saw us at another Australian Plants quarterly meeting, this time at Riddell's Creek, in the foothills of Mt Macedon. The weekend before that we participated in an open garden fundraiser organised by the Boolarra Community Development Group for the local fire brigade, wildlife shelter and kindergarten. We had just over 200 people look at the garden on the Sunday. The weekend before that, Mike and I went to Talbotville, up above Dargo, camping. We were hoping to find a white spider orchid that Mike had seen years ago, but we didn't find one. We did find donkey orchids, rusty hoods and a leek orchid instead.

November Activity

For the November activity of more weed removal and odd jobs, we will meet at the Billy's creek (Junction Road) entrance to the park at the usual time of 10am. Please come prepared for the day with lunch, drinks, hats, sunscreen and footwear and clothing suitable for walking the creek and the weather conditions on the day.

Koala Count **October Activity Report** **By Cathy Beamish**

Mike and I have missed the last two years of the Koala count and were looking forward to this one. We went prepared for a BBQ lunch and conversation with those that intended to participate. Rob the ranger also came prepared for a BBQ and conversation for all of us, so there were plenty of sausages to go round!

I am very pleased to report that we had a wonderful turn out of participants. We had two young families, with enthusiastic boys who became instant friends. We had a mother and her two teenage daughters and another mother with her two slightly younger children, as well as a couple of other people. All in all we had over twenty people, including Mike and I, Darren, Beryl, Ken, Joan and Peter and his family.

As there were so many of us, Rob was able to take Peter and his family up to Jumbuk Road and then walk back to the park along the fire break. Ken took people along Stringybark Ridge and Mike and I lead a group along the Foster's Gully walk. There were eleven koalas found for the day. Rob's group found three along the fire break, we found five along Foster's Gully and Ken's group found three and half (one had a baby on board) along Stringybark Ridge. Of course, it was hard work keeping eyes on the trees, as we were also keen to spot those elusive ground orchids. A bud that Cathy and Ken had seen during the APS Keilor Plains excursion through the Park 3 weeks previously, was nowhere to be found. A few orchids were still out, the occasional Mountain Greenhood nearing the end of their season, patches of Common Bird Orchids along the Gully and scattered Waxlips and Musky Caladenias on the drier, higher sections of track.

A very enjoyable day was had by all and we would like to thank everyone that came along to help us out and we really hope that we will see you all again at other monthly activities.



Another success at the Koala Count



APS Keilor Plains Group- 28/9/08

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<http://morwellnp.pangaean.net>

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