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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter –April 2009

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

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G'day everyone and welcome to the latest issue of your newsletter. Events have settled down considerably since last month: the wildlife rescue calls have virtually stopped and although there are still some animals out there that should have been brought in for vet checks, a lack of resources to catch them and an attitude that they have survived ok on their own so far has meant that they have been left to their own fate. Most should be ok, with the bit of rain we've had lately, so long as they can find a bit of tucker.

There are a couple of items related to Morwell NP to report. Firstly, the pines in the top of the Park off Jumbuk Road are gone! Thanks to Pentarch Forest Products Pty Ltd, our bank balance has been inflated by \$3708.95 from the sale of the timber removed from the Park, less the costs of cutting and cartage. We can now use these funds for assisting in the revegetation of the affected area. Secondly, FriendsNet Newsletter No.66 (February 2009) and Parks Victoria Volunteering Bulletin No.10 (January 2009) have appeared in the email box, and probably in the postbox as well, although they haven't been passed on to me yet. Thanks also to Darren for providing the activity report for last month.

April Activity

Weed removal is back on the agenda. On Sunday, April 19, we will meet at the Junction Road gate at 10am for our next session of Tutsan removal from Billys Creek. Don't forget to bring along your own lunch and refreshments, and wear clothing and footwear suitable for hard yakka along the creek banks. Some waders should be available to ward off cold water and the prickly bities.

Report on the Friends of Morwell NP activity from Sunday 15/3/09

By Darren Hodgson

After a break of two months, it was good to see most of the group back again safe and well. Cathy and Mike were involved in wildlife rescue from bushfire areas. The last session was cancelled due to the nearby bushfires and restricted access to the area. The bushfire came within a few kilometres of the Park but the Park has fortunately gone untouched by the bushfires.

Present to undertake track clearing were Rob, Ken, Wendy, Beryl, Peter, Laura and Darren. Great to see Laura back for the second time. The group assembled at the Kerry Road car park and were greeted by a wallaby in the nearby clearing. From there we drove to the southern end of the National Park via Brewster's Road.

The group separated with Rob and Peter working up the hill with the chain saw and the rest working down part of the Silvertop Hill Track and Muttonwood Creek Track. The days' work saw us clear these tracks from the beginning of Stringybark Ridge Track to half way up the eastern side of Silvertop Hill Track. A number of branches and some trees had fallen to cover the tracks and make them impassable in some sections. In one section we needed to divert the track around a few large trees which had fallen. I previously had walked this track and had to cut across country since the original track was blocked. We have made a great improvement for everybody who wants to use this track.

These activities give a great opportunity to explore some of the distant corners of the park and see some hidden treasures. The weather was forecast for showers but fortunately we did not get too wet. Only the occasional light shower interrupted our work.

At one stage Laura climbed up a tree with a handsaw to remove a broken branch. While carefully balancing on a tiny branch she sawed through the broken branch above her. One line of thinking is that she was really sent up by Wendy, looking for tree guards. No tree guards were located during the day and this was a disappointment to Wendy who always manages to locate tree guards even in parts of Park where none were placed. Her perfect record is starting to slip. Don't worry Wendy, you might find one next time.

Rob and Ken located another different treasure. On the way in, Rob and Ken stopped to look around the back of large gum, spent a minute looking then drove on. On the way back they stopped again to search around the back of same big gum. After a thorough search they located a small piece of ivy growing at the back of the gum. Ken must be able to sense these environmental weeds and he was not going to let that ivy get away from him the second time. In further news, many of pine trees at top of park near Jumbuk Road have been removed. More have been cut and are awaiting pickup to take them out of the Park. See you next month when we again battle against weeds.

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