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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – May 2009

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

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G'day everyone and welcome to the latest edition of your newsletter. A nice drop of rain along with a distinct nip in the air has let us all know that summer is over and it is time to prepare for the coming cold season. Hopefully there will be regular wet spells and not too much of the frozen white stuff in the mornings. It is not high on my list of enjoyable activities, clearing frost off the windscreen before the sun has come up so I can see on my way to work.

There is not much to report this month, you all should know by now that the pines are gone from the Jumbuk Road area. There is a possibility that Hancocks Victorian Plantations may be able to grow some trees for us to plant onto the site, but this is yet to be confirmed. Greenfleet, though, do have some seed of ours that they will propagate for another crack at Blue Gum Hill, on the eastern side of Billys Creek.

May Activity

Now that the pines are removed from the Jumbuk Rd area of the Park and we have a gap in our calendar, it seems an opportune time to go and have a look at the area and see what needs to be done with regard to clean-up, weed removal and tree planting. I'm not sure how much room is available for parking up there, so I suggest we meet at Kerry Road in the main car park at 10am on Sunday, May 17, to have a chat about our plan of attack, leave some cars there and travel to the site in the minimum number of vehicles. As always, bring along your own lunch and refreshments, your own favourite tools if you wish and dress yourselves appropriately for the location, the work to be undertaken and the weather conditions on the day.

Weed Wars, Episode XXII

April Activity Report
By Cathy Beamish

The April activity saw all regulars back on deck for another session of weed removal. Just as we think we are finally getting on top of the Tutsan we find big patches of regrowth. I think we all managed to find old, cut and poisoned plants starting to re-shoot quite happily. They just don't seem to know when to take the hint!

We all met in the car park at 10am and waited patiently for Rob to turn up, as he was unusually late. When he eventually arrived, he advised he had forgotten some of the gear we needed (the waders!) so he had to turn around and go back to Kerry Road to collect it. It must have been a morning for senior moments, as Wendy spent ages

searching through her gear looking for her car keys, suspecting that she had locked them in the car (they weren't in the ignition!), only to be end up rather embarrassed when they were found hanging in the tailgate lock, exactly where she had left them when she opened the tailgate!

We all piled into two vehicles and drove to the first bridge where Reg, Darren, Mike and I were to start our patrol of the creek. Rob, Ken, Wendy and Beryl drove to the weir to start walking back towards us. It was an uneventful morning as we slowly moved along the creek, removing all the tiny new plants as well as those that didn't know they were supposed to be dead! Mike stayed up on the bank rather than wading the creek like the rest of us, as he was only staying a short while before heading off to perform some taxi service for the kids.

We stopped for lunch on the bend of Potato Flat near the old picnic table and were happily eating away when the other crew drove up to join us. It only took us another hour after lunch to meet up with the others again and then it was a unanimous decision to call it quits for the day.



Laura up to some monkey business during track maintenance work along Muttonwood Creek- March 15, 2009
Photos by Ken Harris

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