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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – July 2010

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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. Winter has arrived and it has been noticeable over the last few days. A few cold days make you appreciate the warmth we take for granted at other times of the year.

It has rained regularly and the water gauge is showing around 70 mm for the month. It has been good to have regular light rain rather than the occasional downpour.

The park is greening up and the summer dieback has gone. It is now damp under foot when you walk around on the tracks.

This month I received an email from Laura saying that she is still interested in the group but is unable (with a small child) to get to the activities.

June Activity Report – Clematis Track

This month the regulars were back to clean up the Clematis and Lodge tracks. Jenny, John, Mike, Cathy, Wendy, Ken and Darren arrived to the site of Kate awaiting us in the car park. This was Kate's first activity after meaning to come for years. Kate is a local who lives adjacent to the park. Cathy and Mike know Kate from the Australian Plant Society and Kate is a neighbor of Darren. Kate wanted to see what these people were doing "in her backyard".

First task of business was to discuss the Parks' round of grants which needed to be in by the 25th June. Some things the group needs is more equipment to work with, since most the equipment we are using is borrowed. We have a little equipment but most of what we use, Jenny needs to borrow. The brochures also need updating, so it was decided to make a request for these two items. Ken, Beryl and Jenny will follow up on this for us.

Friends of Morwell National Park Inc: PO Box 19, Churchill, 3842, <http://morwellnp.pangaeaan.net>.

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We drove to the start of Clematis track and parked the vehicles safely off the track. The day looked wet but the weather generally held together with the activity starting in light drizzle. The drizzle was enough to make everybody wear water proof jackets, but they were not needed after the first hour.

It is good to complete a walk in the park and also clean up the track as we went. We were able to remove many sticks and logs from the track and removed a number of weeds along the way. One large tree still remains across the track in two places and a chainsaw will be needed to clean this up and remove it from the track.

The environment of the track changes many times, as it traverses the hill. In one section the hill becomes wet and tree ferns are to be found high up above creek level. In this section a number of wombat holes were full of water making them a series of little wombat swimming pools. Ken was greatly fascinated by many of the fungi he saw (both near the ground and high in the trees), taking many photos.

The track provides many great views of the park and each new corner opens up to a new vista. Kate who lives not far from here was surprised at the great views. She had not walked the track before and this was a great way to experience it.

On the way up Wendy managed to find a tree guard. (I think she finds them in her sleep) At the top she sent me off (scrambling across the bush) to collect another but it ended up being only the size of a match box. Her eyes are highly trained to locate tree guards.

Many animals were sighted on the walk including wallabies, a koala, falcons and a small group of deer. The deer quite surprised Cathy, since she was not expecting to see them and happily others also saw them depart, so Cathy was not left with a story others would not believe.

Slowly we descended Lodge track to return to Billys Weir. While waiting to the vehicles to get to us we got to watch a few trout trying to jump up the Weir wall. They were very determined but did not make it up while we were watching. Over lunch we discussed what to do in the coming months.

Next month we will finalize these activities, but at the moment they could be in August completing a spotlight walk in Foster's Gully and in September a walk from the end of the Coprosma track to the beginning of Billys Creek (this will involve some bush bashing).

Ken also discussed the Strzelecki Track which will go from Tarra Bulga to our national park and end at Billys Weir. The group organizing this, plan to visit the park soon and they plan to map the track south from the Coprosma track along Billys Creek.

Next month is the Annual General meeting (1st August) so keep the date free and next month we will give you details about where the meeting will be held. Jenny and Ken are now putting their reports together for the meeting!

July Activity

10.00am Sunday 18th July

This month the activity will be dependent upon equipment and the determination of the day's workers. One task could be the removal of concrete posts located beside the Billys Creek track before the information board. These posts are securely in the ground and will require earth moving equipment or a lot of determination to remove them. Moving them will also be a challenge since they are very heavy. The plan is to use these posts as large stepping stones for the creek crossings in the Coprosma track. Our other attempts have washed away with the many changes in the creeks currents.

There are at least 17 of these concrete posts in this section of the park. They were left over from when old farming fences were removed. 5 are located on the creek side of the track and will be easier to remove since the ground will be softer here beside the creek. At least 12 more are located to the right of the track in the tree line beside Butt-Butt track. Some of these are part of an old fence line (all in the park) which still contains a lot of barbed wire and a number of star pickets. If the concrete posts are too hard to remove, collecting all the barbed wire and star pickets for removal would also be beneficial.

Another job to be done is to look at the information boards at Kerry Road and plan for improvements and updates to the information contained in them. Jenny has located the key to the information boards and now Wendy has it safely stored. (She knows exactly where it is and has not lost the key, yet!)

A great bonus for this month's activity is that Cathy and Wendy plan to make lunch for the group. They are organizing to get a BBQ, so a warm lunch after some hard work will be rewarding. You will need to bring our own drink, plate and eating utensils. A **big thanks** to Wendy and Cathy.

The group will meet at the Junction Road entrance to make decisions about the day's plan of action.

You will need clothing suitable for the terrain and weather conditions on the day.

Where in the park is this?

Your task is to identify where in the park the following photo has been taken. The park has many wonderful views to see and here is an opportunity to share your prize pictures with others.

Where in the park has the following photo been taken? To take part in the discussion of possible answers you can come along to this month's activity. For those who are really keen, you can even go on a search for the spot the photograph was taken from.

So if you have a photo of a special corner or an unusual event that has occurred in the park, please send in your photos. They could be of one of the wonderful vistas or a rarely seen part of the park.

Please send them to Darren via email to dhodgson@wideband.net.au.

