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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – October 2010

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeaan.net>
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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. The weather is warming a little (but only a little) as spring now begins. The area is now lush but we know that when the warmer weather really returns the lushness will disappear.

In news from Wendy, we have been successful in two of our grant applications:

- \$800 for Hand tools and Personal Protective Equipment (including first aid).
- \$1,000 for the Brochure from the Bushfire Recovery Grants 2010-2011.

We have until June 2011 to spend the money from both of these grants. So Wendy's advice is start writing a list of equipment needed. We will need to work with the ranger to access the funds.

October Activity – Koala Count

1.30pm Sunday 17th October
Foster Gully car park

We will meet at the Kerry Road entrance to complete the Koala count. Bring family and friends to enjoy a pleasant walk in the park and discover many of the animals to be found in the park. This is great activity to bring the kids to since they are very good at locating the hiding Koalas. You will need clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.



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September Activity Report

This month the Wendy, Ken, John, Margaret, Mike, Beryl, Peter, Darren and Kate came to the activity to explore the southern reaches of the park. We meet in the car park to decide our plan of attack.

Today's walk would work south from the Coprosma Track and follow Billy's Creek towards the south of the park. This trek will be useful to establish the lie of the land and establish where possible tracks currently exist. The planned Strzelecki Track will travel through this section of the park.

We had to begin without a ranger since Jenny has now finished up at Parks and new rangers are being appointed. Perhaps we will be able to have a new ranger for the koala Count in month.

Before we started with our walk John had to take Wendy home to pick up the key to the gate. The key was needed because it would have been a long walk from the car park to beyond Billy's Weir, before we had even started out on our planned walk. (This saved 4 kilometers of walking) While we waited for Wendy and John to return, Ken told us about his wonderful trip to Africa and Madagascar. Ken now has a very large job of organizing his many photos from the trip.

When Wendy returned with the key, Mike and John drove the group to beyond Billy's Weir. Here the group donned wet weather gear and their lunch packs. We started along the Coprosma Track and after the two river crossings (which will be a lot better when the concrete posts are put into as stepping stones) worked through the bush along the creek. This path was very difficult and it was a battle getting through the nettles and blackberries. This would not be the best route for the Strzelecki Track to take. We then worked our way up the hill to where the constructed part of the Coprosma Track currently finishes.

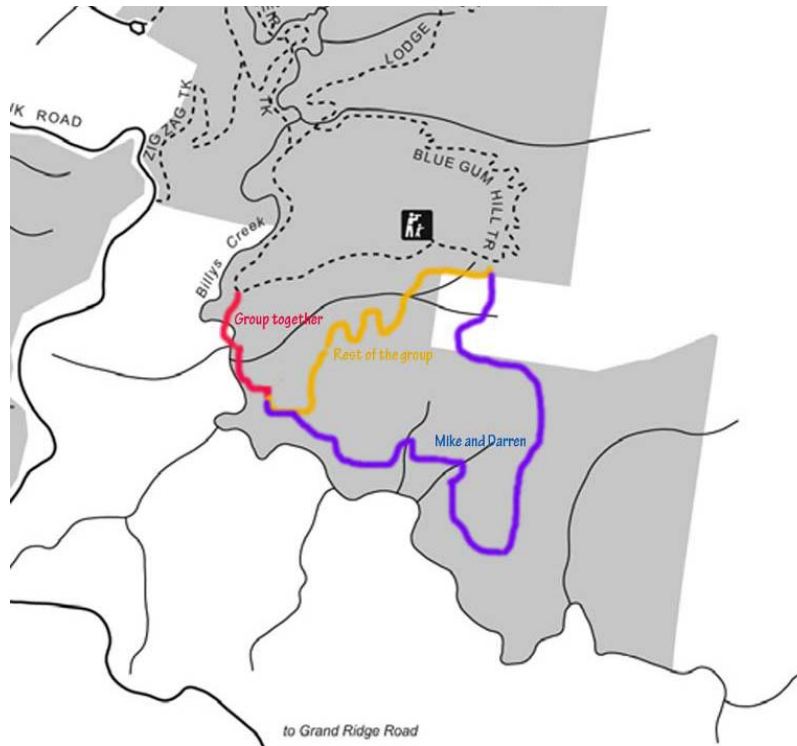
We continued up the hill from the grassy knoll since there was no path over the crest down towards the creek, so up was the only way to go. A short way up Mike found animal tracks through the bush, but the track was small. So Mike and I followed these tracks across the hills while rest of the group went further up the hill to find a more defined track across the hill.

Mike lead the way following the animal trails while I followed. When the track looked like it had run out a few steps back another trail would be found. Mike had a sense of where to find the next trail and we kept working southwards. At no stage did we hear or see the other group. We twice went up the hill to cross two gullies that run down into Billy's Creek. We finished on a grassy crest overlooking the last gully in the south of the park. We choose to stop here since we had not seen the others for a few hours and if we had crossed that last deeper gully we would have needed to return to the same spot to travel back to the cars.

We then returned to top of hill where the friends' group that previously done some tree planting (off the end of Reidys' Road). The trees are surviving (barely) but most of the trees guards have blown away and all of the trees have been eaten by the wildlife. A job for the group at another time will be to either collect the tree guards or replace them. At the top of the hill we met a local farmer replacing the fence between his property and the park.

On the way down the hill we spotted the other group in the distance. They had continued to travel up

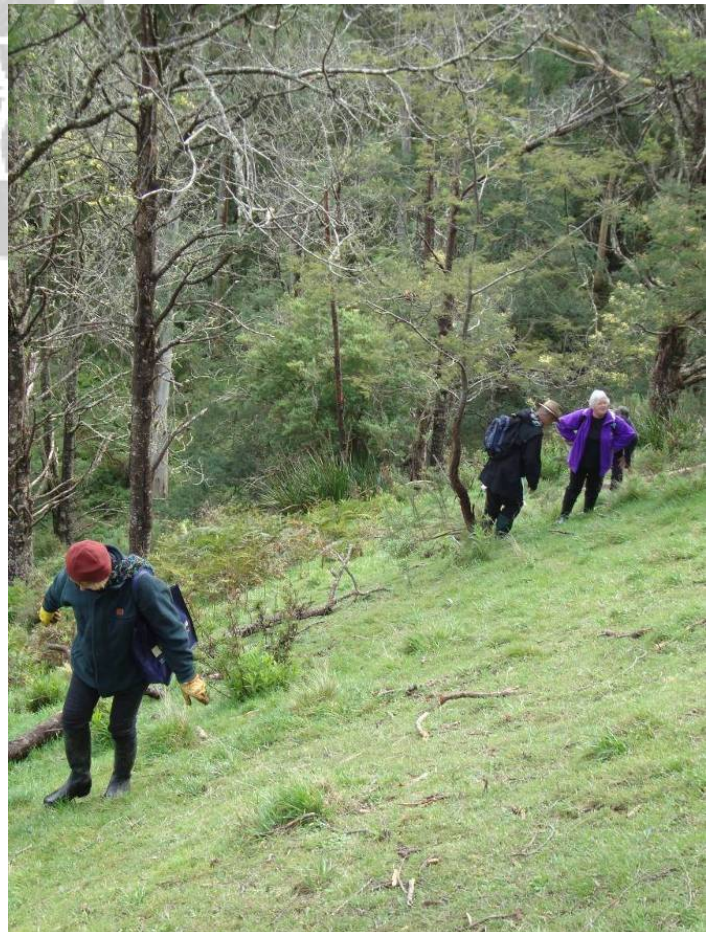
the hill (they could not locate a track across the hill towards the south) basically following the Coprosma Track as it zig-zagged its way up the hill towards Blue Gum Hill. The paths of the two groups can be seen on the following maps.



On these treks we spotted many weeds along with many star pickets. A tool to remove star pickets would have a lot of use with many star pickets around the park. On the good side the leaf clusters of many orchids were spotted.

The weather held out well with the only rain coming while we were in the car park.

Following are some photos from our trek.







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.