

PO Box 19
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3842



President:
5122 3137

Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – December 2010

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.net>
A0016319X

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. The weather over the last month has been a real mixed bag with large variations of hot and cold days within days of each other. This is still better than what we can expect over summer when one hot day will be followed by the next hot day. Rain this month has been good with 110mm in the rain gauge.

Over the month Ken has conducted moth surveys at both Tarra-Bulga National Park and in the Kerry Road car park of our National Park. Ken conducted both moth surveys using a mercury vapor light. The Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists were the group that visited the Park for that moth survey. Much interest has been sparked by Ken's moth surveys but the wet weather has not been good for a high moth count.

Over the last month, Parks Victoria had their annual Christmas BBQ in Traralgon. There were people from the nine different friends groups from around the Latrobe area. It was a great opportunity to catch up with many of the people from the other friends groups and share a lovely barbeque dinner. It was great to spend time catching up with both Bronwyn and Jenny. Both Wendy and Margaret were also able to come and enjoy the celebration. The evening helped to demonstrate that we each might be different in capabilities and interests but share a common bond that we volunteer our time and enjoy the benefits that it provides us and the community at large. We each provide different things to our different groups but as whole we ensure that the parks continue to provide well for the community.

Some good news we received is that during the last month the BBQ at Kerry Road has been repaired. Parks staff looked into the BBQ and after a lot of hard work they were able to repair it. If the repairs could not have been made they were going to remove the BBQ. It is good to know that now the BBQ is ready for our Christmas BBQ on the December 19th.

The calendar of planned activities for 2011 is included on the last page of the newsletter.

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

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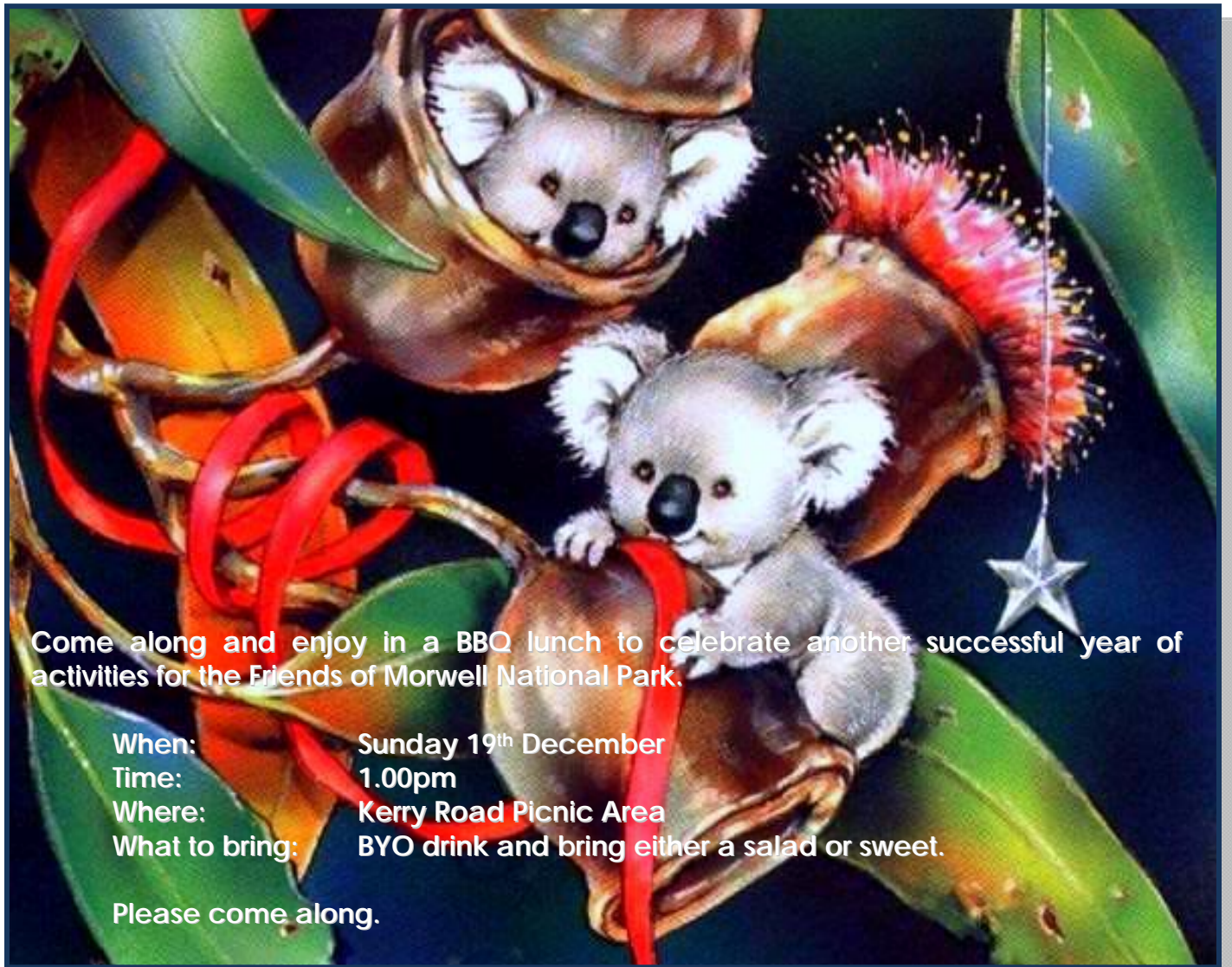
Members: Mary Austin, John & Margaret Barker, Mike & Cathy Beamish, Eulalie Brewster, Reg Felmingham, Tom Lawless, Peter & Wendy McDonald, John Pulis, Joan Sikkema, David Stickney, Laura Webber, Kate Richardson, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

December Activity

10.00am Sunday 19th December

The group will meet at the Junction Road entrance to undertake firstly the nesting box survey and then travel to Kerry Road to enjoy our end of year get together. People can come for one activity or both. The details of the end of year get together are given below. If you have food that needs to be refrigerated during the nesting box survey, bring it along and I can put it into my fridge.

For the nesting box survey you will need to bring clothing and footwear suitable for the terrain and weather conditions on the day.



Come along and enjoy in a BBQ lunch to celebrate another successful year of activities for the Friends of Morwell National Park.

When: Sunday 19th December
Time: 1.00pm
Where: Kerry Road Picnic Area
What to bring: BYO drink and bring either a salad or sweet.

Please come along.

November Activity Report

For this month's activity we had Ken, Beryl, Cathy, Mike, Kate, Peter, Reg, Bronwyn and Darren in attendance. Wendy was with the Lionesses' feeding the masses at Kernot Hall. Margaret was with John who was soon to be released from Latrobe Hospital after an operation. All of our best wishes go to John for a speedy recovery.

We all met in the Junction Road car park and planned the day ahead. We worked through the many jobs that we could do and narrowed the list down to again looking for Tutsan. While undertaking the planning it provided Bronwyn a great opportunity to meet more of the group, since not many of us made it to the Koala count last month.

We got the opportunity to talk to Bronwyn about herself and found out that she has moved from Bendigo and over the last two months with Parks she has been busy visiting the many parks and reserves that she manages. She has visited many locations and has the opportunity to view many orchid sites. Today she would have the opportunity to view the Butterfly Orchids with Ken.

While Bronwyn and Ken headed off to start the Butterfly Orchid survey, Cathy and Mike went to the shed to get the waders for our walk in the creek. When we were all kitted up Beryl, Peter, Kate, Reg started from the car park while Mike, Cathy and myself drove upstream to work downstream. Many advanced Tutsan plants were found along with some Pussy Willows and many other weeds. The groups met up around 12.30 and broke for lunch. Ken and Bronwyn soon returned and we all shared lunch together. After lunch Bronwyn went to Traralgon to prepare for the Parks BBQ and Cathy, Mike, Beryl, Peter, Kate (now an experienced Tutsan spotter) and I continued seeking Tutsan.

The results for the day were that we had searched from the car park to the dog-leg bend in the creek near a small side stream from the farms in Tebbs Terrace. There is still a large patch of Tutsan in the flood beds near the car park which will need to be sprayed because of the vast numbers of Tutsan plants in this area.

Butterfly Orchid update

The butterfly orchid survey was completed by Ken and Bronwyn. They completed surveys on two of the orchid survey sites located off the flatter parts of the Foster's Gully walk. The other sites which were not counted are located in moist valleys and this along with the thicker undergrowth this year, getting into these locations was difficult. It was encouraging that some new butterfly orchid plants have been located. Hopefully they will develop over the next few years.

The survey of these sites provided Ken with the opportunity to tell Bronwyn a little bit of what he knows about the Park. They also discussed the areas of the park that still need revegetation. After surveying these two sites Ken and Bronwyn returned to join us for the lunch break.

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.

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Calendar 2011

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

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Activities are scheduled for the third Sunday of each month, with extra days scheduled as required.

Date:	Activity:	Venue and Time:
January 16	Nesting boxes survey/Seed collection	Junction Rd, 10.00am
February 20	Weir Walk Weed Removal	Junction Rd, 10.00am
March 20	Weir Walk Weed Removal	Junction Rd, 10.00am
April 16	Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
May 21	Anniversary Celebrations	At nighttime - to be confirmed
May 22	Walk in the park	To be confirmed
June 19	Tree Planting	Junction Rd, 10.00am
July 17	Tree Planting	Junction Rd, 10.00am
August 7	AGM	To be advised, 1.30pm
August 21	Walk in the park	To be advised
September 18	Spotlight walk or Weed removal	To be advised
October 16	Koala Count	Kerry Road, 1.30pm
November 20	Orchid Survey/Odd jobs	Junction Rd, 10.00am
December 18	Nesting boxes survey/Christmas Function	Junction Rd, 10.00am

For all activities, it is BYO food, drinks, suitable clothing and footwear, and other personal items, unless otherwise indicated in the newsletter. Up to date details of each forthcoming activity are provided in the monthly newsletter, which is emailed to members and available to the public on the website.