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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – February 2011

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaean.net>
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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. I hope that the New Year has started off well for you all.

The grass within the park has been cut making it far easier to move around the park. The appearance and safety around the tracks has been also greatly improved. The mowers have done a great job to slash into some of those thicker overgrown sections near the tracks. This helps to make it safer for walkers and other park users.

Bronwyn has picked up the small tools from our equipment grant and these are now in the shed. Included are a star picket remover, sharpening stone, secateurs, 2 prong hand hoes, wire cutters, loppers and gloves. There are still some monies remaining from that grant so some more equipment that that Bronwyn may be able to get for us includes some spraying equipment and smaller gloves.

At the January activity we discussed our 25th anniversary celebration. We decided to have the celebration on Saturday 4th June. On the day we will have a BBQ lunch, followed by a walk in the park and an evening meal in a local restaurant. The choice of the restaurant is to be investigated by a few of us including Cathy and Wendy. On the day people can opt to undertake on one, two or all three of the activities. Invitations and more detailed plans are still to be made. A list of people to invite is also to be drawn up. We will need write a special application for the event and decide what those monies should go towards. The current ideas include a building a shelter for the Kerry Road picnic area or more picnic bench seating for Potato Flat and Billys' Creek Weir. These plans will be further discussed at the February activity.

Discussion also occurred about making the new brochure for the park. Ken will follow up somebody to put the brochure together and start looking through his collection of photos for images to be included, while Mike and Cathy will look at the words to be included. We will discuss it again at the February activity.

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

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January Activity Report

For this month's activity we had Ken, Beryl, Cathy, Mike, Peter, Wendy, Wendy, Reg, Bronwyn and Darren in attendance. It was good to see Ken back with us very fit and active after a recent hip operation.

First up was the remainder of the nesting box survey. We again used a camera on an extendable pole with a viewing screen which let us to look into the nesting boxes with larger holes and took away the need to open half of the nesting boxes. Still the ladder was needed for the remaining boxes and Reg was again stuck carrying this around.

In this survey we saw 3 more sugar gliders in one box and at least 1 sugar glider in another. This sugar glider spent the whole time watching us out of the hole in the box and remained there for a long period of time (at least half an hour). It was not in the least worried about us and the noise we were making. We also spotted a large copperhead snake and 2 different mobs of kangaroos (these were not in the nesting boxes). Most nesting boxes have shown evidence of use (nests of collected leaves and grass) and are being used by a variety of animals.

After a discussion it was concluded that we should look into making more nesting boxes, since these have seen so much activity after only being in place for two years. One way to do this is to get John to construct them since he did such a good job when we modified the hole sizes last year. If John can do this the Friends group will pay for all materials. The boxes will need a variety of hole sizes including 3 inches, 2 inches and 1 inch and we could vary the size of the boxes, making some wider and others shorter. Some bat boxes (long slim boxes with entry holes in the base) would also be of use. These boxes can then be located into more sections of the park.

At the conclusion of the nesting box survey we travelled to Billys' Weir for lunch. On the way we showed Bronwyn where the piles of wire and other materials (that need to be removed) are located from a previous activity. They are quickly disappearing under the grass.

After lunch we travelled along the Coprosma Track up until the second creek crossing. The track has very quickly become overgrown and it amazing how quickly the bush and undergrowth wants to reclaim the track. Tutsan is also there to claim these spaces and some large plants were located which were heavily in fruit. This included one at the edge of the Billy' Weir picnic area.

After this, Peter, Wendy, Ken and Bronwyn did some seed collection on the steep section of the Lodge Track. The silver wattle has not seeded well this year with it being wetter, but there is always other seed that can be collected, and Ken was determined. The rest of us collected some tree guards and removed some more large Tutsans from the side creek beside the Bluegum Hill track.

The last job of the day was to pack up and check the seed stores to see whether we had enough for the planned planting activities in June and July. While Peter and Wendy sieved seeds and remaining seed and tools were sorted. The seed will be given to Guests to grow for us to plant into the area where the pines were removed (Jumbuk Road track). The plan is for them to grow 500 Blue Gums, 200 Silver Wattle, 200 Vanish Wattle and 200 Blackwood for us.

February Activity

10.00am Sunday 20th February

The group will meet at the Junction Road entrance to start weed removal along Billys' Creek. We will again go for a stroll along in the creek, looking for Tutsan and other weeds, so if you have waders bring them along.

You will need to bring clothing and footwear 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.



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.