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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – March 2011

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaean.net>
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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. Again this month has been wet and that is very unusual for this summer month. Again the water gauge has had over 100mm like the previous two summer months have had.

The grass in the Park is still very green and lush, which is very unusual towards the end of summer. The grass at this time of the year would normally be seen in brown tones but it is great still to have green vistas. It is also great to see the mowing and work that has been done around the park to maintain the grass areas.

Wendy has discussed with John the making of more nesting boxes and he has agreed to make more nesting boxes to be located beside Billy's Creek. We will provide all materials and Bronwyn will send John some plans for the boxes. A variety of box sizes will be made, including some bat boxes. Big thanks to John for doing this for us.

In other news Bronwyn has given seed for propagation to Guest and they will grow on around 800 trees for us. It is planned to plant these seedlings during our June and July activities.

Related to the nesting boxes and the seed propagation, it was discussed to transfer some money from the term deposit to the at-call account so that money is available to pay for activities. This was agreed to.

Work continues on the new brochure for the park. Ken will need to 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 next activity. This work needs to be organized by the end of June.

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

President: Ken Harris, 51223137

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

Here we will include a reminder that the Park's 25th Anniversary celebration will be on Saturday 4th June. Keep the day free for some activities in the Park and/or a celebratory dinner.

During the last month Wendy was announced as Churchill Citizen of the Year as part of their Australia Day celebration. The article celebrating Wendy achievement from the Churchill and District News is included on the last page.

February Activity Report

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

This month we suited up and searched the creek and creek banks for Tutsan and other weeds. We entered the 4 wheel drives and travelled to end of the Weir Track at the base of Blue Gum Hill. The group split here with Peter, Wendy, Beryl and Bronwyn working upstream while Mike, Cathy and Darren worked downstream from the second creek crossing on the Coprosma Track. Tutsan were still found and many advanced plants were removed. With the wet ground it was possible to pull out most of the Tutsan plants and the other weeds that we found.

While we all search the creek and the banks for weeds, Ken searched for lichens and other specimens for photographing. After more than an hour in the creek it started to rain and the rain got heavier. In a creek with no easy way out you just need to continue on. The two groups in the creek meet up about 12 noon. We then struck out from the creek and searched for the track. We eventually reached the track and navigated back to the end of the Weir Track.

We stopped for lunch and Ken got excited when he spotted a leach, the first he has located in the Park. Cathy found more inside her car and then I found some attached to me. Thanks to Peter for removing one fat one from my arm. During lunch it rained again.

After lunch we reentered the creek and completed the search down to Billy's Weir. This section is more difficult to traverse with more trees down over the creek and in some sections you need to duck down low or climb up high to continue the journey. Wendy, Cathy and Beryl collected tree guards from around the Billy's Weir picnic area. Bronwyn was amazed that we continued on in the rain and we keep coming back each month.

March Activity

10.00am Sunday 20th March

The group will meet at the Junction Road entrance to continue weed removal along Billys' Creek downstream from Billy's Weir. 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.

Pocket Rocket Wendy Steenbergen Churchill & District Lions Citizen of the Year

The Churchill Lions Citizen of the Year 2010) was awarded to Wendy Steenbergen at the Australia Day Ceremony. Wendy affectionately known as the Pocket Rocket has spent many decades, volunteering and helping others in her community.

Wendy is the younger of two daughters, to Marie and Charles Fawcett. She attended University High in Parkville, Melbourne before commencing work on counting machines in the banking sector.

In her late teens and early 20's she saved *very* hard for a number of years to pay for a working holiday to the UK and Europe, where she worked and travelled for over three years.

Following her return to Australia in her late 20's she married and raised two children, Karen and Edward. She has two grandchildren, Ireland and Cedar.

Wendy was involved in the establishment of the Lymphedema Association of Victoria, was one of the key advocates for its creation and was a founding member. She was asked to cut the celebratory cake, being one of the original members, at a special ceremony in Melbourne in 2010 marking 20 years since the association was established.

She also established a local Lymphedema Support group based in Morwell, securing state government

funding for the group. She was one of the founding members, has been one of the main organizers and the treasurer for many many years, and continues to regularly coordinate activities with the Lymphedema support group in San Remo.

She has been the treasurer of the Friends of Morwell National Park and member for many years. She will rarely miss a Koala count or monthly activity and will regularly pick up other members if they couldn't get there by themselves.

She has been involved in the Wattle club and Planned Activity Groups, being a Lead Volunteer in Churchill. She has been volunteering every Wednesday's and Fridays for decades, driving the bus to pick up participants and helping out in the kitchen and with the activities.

Wendy was a Charter Member of the Churchill Lioness when it was formed in 1991 and has been their treasurer every



Wendy Steenbergen - Churchill & District Lions Citizen of the Year

year bar one but was Assistant Treasurer that year.

She often takes on unofficial leadership and key organizing role in many of the groups and in the work she does, but prefers to stay out of the spotlight.

She loves her garden and anything outdoors and loves working in the garden at Hazelwood House.

She has continued to travel and has been back to the UK, Europe and New Zealand a number of times and has travelled all around Victoria and Australia.

She has a strong social network and can be relied upon to get friends to medical appointments, the train or just be a sounding board.

She knows how to organize statewide trips on the smell of an oily rag and how to use her free travel vouchers to greatest benefit for all.

She is rarely idle and even in front of the television is always knitting or sewing squares for rugs or such like. She then organizes for the rugs and other donations to go to various charities in Melbourne, including Open Family and travels down to Melbourne on the train with bags of rugs under her arm.

Congratulations to Wendy, a most valued member of the Churchill community.

From the Churchill & District News 17th February 2011.



Cr Ed Vermeulen (left) and Russell Northe MP (back right) with Churchill & District Lions Citizens of the Year