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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter – April 2011*

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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. March has continued to be wet like the summer that has just past. Unlike previous years there have been very few hot days over the last month. Global warming – is it over?

The schedule of events for our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary have changed from the original calendar and below is the list of the events as they stand at the moment. More details will be confirmed at the next activity so we will give you all of the details in next month's newsletter. If you want to be involved in the organisation of the anniversary come along to the next activity.

The upcoming events for the Park are:

Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	10am	April activity (Park walk)
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	10am	May activity (track maintenance)
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> June		<b>25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration</b>
	1.30pm	Walk in the park followed by an afternoon tea
	Evening	Dinner at a Traralgon restaurant

### April Activity

10.00am Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April

The group will meet at the Junction Road entrance to undertake a walk along the track which will become the Grand Strzelecki track. We will walk along the Coprosma track and then the Grand Strzelecki track to the park boundary. This walk will be an opportunity to investigate the new track at some depth. This track has many river crossings so bring sturdy waterproof boots, and clothes suitable for a rugged walk. Pack a transportable lunch since we plan to have lunch while on the walk.

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

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## March Activity Report

For this month's activity we had Ken, Beryl, Cathy, and Darren in attendance. The group was reduced since a number of regulars were involved in other activities and Bronwyn was on the other side of the state helping with a Parks controlled burn.

First item to be investigated for the day was to look at the work completed so far on the brochure. Cathy and Mike had worked on revising the text from the current brochure and some minor revisions were suggested. Now for the brochure we need to source a range of quality photos of the park to show the best of its plants, animals and vistas. We will need to look into this next month.

Next we loaded the car with the waders and other gear (Ken had collected these from the shed for us) and we drove to a very large Tutsan on the northern side of the creek near the Pipeline track. It was a very well developed plant with a lot of fruit. The plant had been there for many years. The fruit filled a very large bag and the rest of the plant took a while to remove and poison.

After that we drove to the end of the Billy's Creek track. We travelled by foot along the Coprosma track to the beginning of the Grand Strzelecki track. Over the last month work crews have been starting to form the track which will become the Grand Strzelecki track. Tractors have slashed a track along Billy's creek.

We walked for an hour along the track and in this time we crossed the creek 13 times. The track is been put through very close to the creek and this part of the park has been greatly unexplored in the past because of large groves of blackberries. The track has pushed through these blackberries and they will need to be sprayed many times to remove them. The bulldozed track already has blackberries regrowing. In the future there will need to be a lot of work done to remove the blackberries from this section of the park. The track will be attractive when finished since it travels through the creek gullies and contains many fern varieties.

Ken during the walk was busy taking plant notes, since that part of the park has been hard to traverse and he has few plant records of it. On the next page are photos of our progress along the track. The last photo is of is taken at the last creek crossing we reached before turning back. If you wish to experience the track come along to this month's activity where we will travel further along this track. The goal will be to hopefully reach the park boundary. It is great to explore parts of the park that people have generally not had access to before.

After the walk we returned back to Billy's Weir to have lunch. After lunch we (Beryl, Cathy and Darren) entered the creek at the Weir and worked downstream. We found many advanced plants and most of these were a few meters from the creek itself. It is a worry that many advanced Tutsan plants are growing well, away from the creek, hiding in the undergrowth. This makes it harder to remove all of these plants.

Ken stayed on solid ground photographing lichens, and occasionally come to check on our progress. He occasionally would be found sitting near the bank and near him there would always be a large Tutsan plant. He did not have his radar set for Tutsan, so we found them for him. I found a large clump of many Tutsan mixed in grove of stinking nettles and blackberries. The fruit from these plants

filled another large bag. These plants (around 50 in total) took a while to remove and transfer to the other side of the creek. We left Ken to remove these fruit and bag them while we continued downstream. We finished at a fallen tree across the creek near the tree planting at the bottom of the Zig Zag Track. It is good to see that these seedlings are growing well.

It was also good over the day to see three different groups of walkers enjoying the park.



