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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – June 2011

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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. It continues to be wet and it shows in the National Park with Billy's creek running strongly and the ground being very wet under foot. More works have been done to improve the park and I have described these in the May activity report.

The big news for this month is the 25th Anniversary for Morwell National Park which is being celebrated on Saturday 4th June.

There will be two celebrations:

1. At **1.30pm** on **Saturday 4th June** at the **Junction Road Car Park**

Enjoy a walk along Billy's creek track to Billy's Weir. This leisurely walk will give us the opportunity to observe the regrown forest. You will get the chance to observe the changes that have happened in the last 25 years. While walking keep an eye out for kangaroos, koalas and the many bird species to be found in this area. The track is little muddy at the moment so solid walking shoes or boots would be an advantage. At Billy's Weir we will share an afternoon tea with Billy tea and some other treats. All are very welcome to come for the walk.

If walking the distance is a problem please still come along and you can enjoy these sites from one of the 4 wheel drive vehicles which will also travel to Billy's Weir.

2. Starting at **6.00pm** on **Saturday 4th June** at **Dal Mondo Restaurant (7 Post Office Place) Traralgon** Dinner starts at 6.30pm.

Join in the celebration of the people involved in this National park. Much has been done within the park over the last 25 years. You will need to RSVP if you are coming for the dinner and this needs to be completed by Friday 27th May to either Bronwyn Grass (bgrass@parks.vic.gov.au) or Wendy Steenburgen (wendy.st@bigpond.com).

Wendy has so far received at least 20 confirmations for the dinner so there should be quite a crowd.



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

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Saturday 4th June 2011



Friends of Morwell National Park 25th Anniversary celebration

1.30pm

Walk in the Park

Meet at Junction Road Car Park to walk along Billy's Creek Track to Billy's Weir. Observe the changes that have happened in the last 25 years. At Billy's Weir we will share an afternoon tea with Billy tea.



6.00pm

25th Anniversary dinner
Dal Mondo Restaurant Traralgon
7 Post Office Place, Traralgon
Mediterranean and Italian Cuisine
Drinks at bar prices
Dinner starts at 6.30pm



RSVP (immediately): to either Bronwyn Grass (bgrass@parks.vic.gov.au) or Wendy Steenburgen (wendy.st@bigpond.com) and please tell them if you have any special food requirements.

May Activity Report

For this month's activity we had Margaret, John, Beryl, Wendy, Kate, Peter, Bronwyn and Darren in attendance. We also had Ranger Wayne for the morning. Ken came later as part of the second work group. It was very good to have Bronwyn there with us since she had had her wisdom teeth removed during the week. That shows true dedication.

We all met at the earlier time of 9am for the activity. Ken came later at 10am. We noticed on arrival that work had been done in the car park and the muddy puddles and the general mess of the car park was gone. Over the last month, with much rain, the car park had become a quagmire. The car park is now a good solid surface which leads to a new gate. The previous gate was hanging on a rotting post and was getting more and more difficult to open. The new metal gate on a metal post will be a lot better. Machinery has also been in to redo and replace the drains and road culverts on the main Billy's creek track. These works have resulted in the track being muddier now but in the long term the track will wash out less and last us better into the future. In one section where the creek was undercutting the road, the road and creek have been realigned. A great improvement.



The Friends of Morwell National Park brochure is nearly completed. Bronwyn brought a mock up of what it is to look like and beside some minor revisions it is ready to go to the printers. One revision is for the words over the image of the butterfly orchid needs to be reorganized so that images are slightly smaller and that the words can be over a blue background, instead of the image. Bronwyn will follow up with these revisions and then send the brochure to the printers. With the budget we had we should hopefully get 1,500-2,000 brochures. We need to make sure that we get an electronic copy of the brochure so that if in the future we need to print more that can be easily done.

In other news the old toilet block at Kerry Road will be removed this week. A costing for a new toilet block has been made and it is expected that \$25,000 will be needed to replace the toilets. Hopefully Parks will be able to find this money soon so that we can again have toilets in the Park.

For today's activity John had made 14 new nesting boxes and 8 bat boxes. The boxes were all excellent, being solidly constructed with vertical and horizontal strapping to attach them to the trees. The bat boxes even had internal groves cut into the box to help the bat climb around inside the box

and to give them something to hang from. It is amazing to think that bats can get into the box through such a small opening. Hopefully we will see that they do, over time. A great addition was a hinged lid which will allow for easy inspection of the boxes without having to unscrew the lid.

So when we started work, the group split up with one half putting up the nesting boxes while the others collected the wire for removal. In a previous activity we had collected much wire and some metal posts. The wire was collected and put into the trailer over the day. (At the start of the day Wayne went to Traralgon to retrieve the trailer.) The wire is currently sitting in the trailer and some is beside the trailer adjacent to the Billy's Creek track. This wire will need to be collected in the near future. The wire from the Zig Zag track was not collected since at least two large trees have come down across the track making it impassible for vehicles. One tree was removed with the chainsaw but the second was too difficult to remove.

The bird and bat box group started putting some into the area where the last of the boxes are located, and when joined by Ken we then put boxes further along Billy's Creek track. We spend much time carrying ladders up and down the track to next location Ken had selected. It was a day was spent carrying ladders around. At different times it rained and lunch was spent under the little roof at the information booth where a little protection from the rain could be found.



Ken had over the last month, also collected from GippsTAFE a number of nesting boxes they had constructed as part of an activity in one of their courses. John will add strapping to these boxes so that they can be put onto trees at a later activity. Big thanks to GippsTAFE for constructing these boxes and giving them to us for the birds and other animals to use in the park.

Over the next month the group will apply for funding to purchase a GPS and for training. The training will be in the areas of chainsaw use, 4 wheel drive use and first aid.

June Activity

10.00am Sunday 19th June

The group will meet at the Junction Road entrance to firstly organize the group for a day of tree planting. The area to be planted out will be the region adjacent to Jumbuk Road, where the pine trees were removed. Ken and Bronwyn will complete the research into how wide the fire break along the road needs to be, so we know where to locate the new plantings. Bronwyn will also needs to bring the seedlings and planting gear.

You will need to bring your lunch, clothing and footwear suitable for the rough terrain and weather conditions on the day.

Don't forget the 25th Anniversary celebration on Saturday 4th June.

