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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter – October 2011*

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

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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. We continue to have good rain and with the occasional warmer day, you can tell spring is not far away. With the ground still very wet and a few storms there a few trees down in the Park. There are none down across the main track but otherwise be careful when you are out walking.

Over the month we received the sad news of the passing of Tom Lawless. He is been a long time supporter of the group and his interest in our group was a great demonstration of his interest and support of his local community. Among the correspondence are a few updates from the Friends of Tyers Park. They are a busy and active group. The next activity is the Koala count so bring a crowd and hopefully we will see many Koalas.

### October Activity – Koala Count

**1.30pm Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October  
Foster Gully car park**

We will meet at the Kerry Road entrance to complete the Koala count. Bring family and friends to enjoy a pleasant walk in the park and help to discover some of the animals to be found in the park. This is great activity to bring the kids to, since they are very good at locating the hiding Koalas. You will need clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.



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

**President:** Mike Beamish

**Vice-President:** Ken Harris

**Secretary:** Beryl Nelson

**Treasurer:** John Barker

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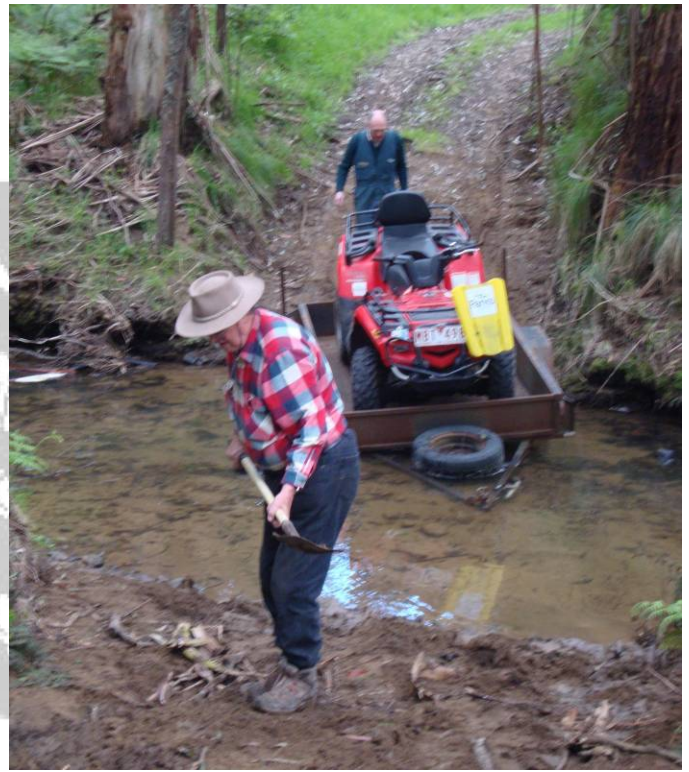
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**Other members:** Mary Austin, Wendy Steenberg, Margaret Barker, Cathy Beamish, Eulalie Brewster, Reg Felmingham, Wendy McDonald, Joan Sikkema, Kate Richardson, Hilmar Batza, Bronwyn Grass, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

## September Activity Report

For this month's activity we had John, Margaret, Ken, Peter and Darren in attendance. Along for the first time was Judith. Hopefully this will be the first of many activities with us. A few of the regulars were away on holidays while others were organizing the APS annual meeting in Gippsland.

Craig had brought a quad bike for transporting the gear to where we would be working. In the car park we were greeted by the cries from a Black Cockatoo. The group divided with Craig and Ken driving in the Ute and rest walking in. At the second creek crossing the Ute got bogged and came away from the trailer. The photos below show the work to recover the trailer.



The Ute was first removed from the slit build up beside the creek. With a creek being a lot higher recently much slit has collected at the creek crossings. The soft spongy surface had provided little traction. The trailer was unloaded of the smaller items by Margaret since she was the only one with gumboots on. The quad bike was then driven off the trailer and used to tow the trailer out of the creek. It was decided to leave the trailer there (there was still another creek crossing to make) and the travel forward was with the Ute and quad bike.

At the bottom of Blue Gum Hill the quad bike was loaded with some of the plants, stakes and tree guards. Ken's small wheelbarrow carried more seedlings. The rest of us carried in the remaining tools, while Craig quad biked the rest up the hill. At some stages he needed travel in reverse because he could not turn at the corners of the zigzags up Blue Gum Hill.

We planted into an area beside the zigzag tracks on Blue Gum Hill. The terrain was steep, making process slow and testing the steadiness of some of our legs. Many slips occurred and while you watched somebody slip you hoped they got traction quickly.

At lunch we got to enjoy the great view and enjoy a breeze which was not available to us on our steep planting slope.

The hillside was rocky and in some places the soil was hard. Hopefully the rain forecast over the coming week will settle these seedlings in well. Over the day nearly 200 seedlings were planted and that gives us 100 remaining to be planted. We will need to put these next month since the seedlings will not last much longer and any later in the year it will be too dry. Next month we will plant out closer to track and possibly onto the vehicle track cut across Blue Gum Hill. This location will require more traveling and carrying of planting gear but it will be a flatter terrain to work upon.

On the way back the trailer was reconnected and care was taken across the remaining creek crossings.



### **October Activity**

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

#### **Part 1:**

The group will meet at 10.00am the Junction Road entrance to continue with the tree planting from last month. Note: This is a change from the calendar. The area to be planted out will be the hillside at the start of Blue Gum Hill. The ranger will need to bring the seedlings and planting gear.

#### **Part 2:**

At 1.30pm will meet at the Kerry Road car park to undertake the Koala count.

You can come along for one or both of these activities.

You will need to bring clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day. If you are coming for both activities, you will need to bring your lunch.