

PO Box 19  
Churchill  
3842



Friends of  
Morwell National Park Inc.  
*Newsletter – January 2012*

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

A0016319X

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. This newsletter is coming to you a little early. No it's not January yet and no you have not missed Christmas. Missing Christmas might not a bad thing! Sometimes you are over it before it happens with it being celebrated in shops for a few months! You are getting this newsletter early so that I can sneak off to the US for a five week holiday. So hopefully I will be having a white Christmas in New York.

The Park has been in the local newspaper a little recently. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of December there was an article about the Grand Strzelecki Track (article included) and during the last week there was an article about the recent grants we have received.

Included this month you will find:

- Report from the Parks Victoria Christmas BBQ
- December activity reminder
- Christmas BBQ reminder
- January activity details
- Article from the Latrobe Valley Express December 1<sup>st</sup> 2011
- 2012 Calendar of activities

In further newsletters we hope to have Butterfly Orchid photos from the Butterfly Orchid survey.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a joyful Christmas and happy new year. Hope you all have a great 2012.

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

**President:** Mike Beamish

**Vice-President:** Ken Harris

**Secretary:** Beryl Nelson

**Treasurer:** John Barker

**Publicity:** Peter McDonald

**Public Officer:** Beryl Nelson

**Newsletter Editor:** Darren Hodgson, 51222108, [hodgson.darren.d@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:hodgson.darren.d@edumail.vic.gov.au)

**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).

## **Parks Victoria (Latrobe Friends and Volunteers) BBQ**

The Parks BBQ to celebrate the contribution that Friends groups and volunteers make towards Park management was held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November at Bert Thompson Reserve in Traralgon. The purpose of the evening was to celebrate the significant contributions made in the Parks reserves and to celebrate achievements over the last year.

The Friends of Baw Baw National Park were recognized for their achievement of winning a Kookaburra Award. Also recognized was the Australian Alps National Park which was celebrating 25 years of collective management. Andy was keenly handing out brochures and beautiful postcards related to this achievement.

The evening was surprising cool especially in the shade. A great range of food was available and the white dessert that looked like Pavlova (but isn't) returned. It was a good way to finish up the weekend after working in the Park earlier in the day. The following photos show our group at the Friends' BBQ.



**December Activity**  
10.00am Sunday 18th December

The group will meet at 10.00am the Junction Road car park to conduct the nesting box survey before the BBQ celebration at 1.00pm. We will need Craig to bring the camera mounted on the long pole and the extension ladders. Ken will need to bring the GPS unit. You will need to bring clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

As part of this activity we will update the Kerry Road noticeboard with new photos and the Kookaburra Awards nominations and Ken individual Kookaburra award from 2009.



**Friends of Morwell National Park Christmas BBQ**

**Come along and enjoy in a BBQ lunch to celebrate another successful year of activities for the Friends of Morwell National Park.**

**When: Sunday 18th December**  
**Time: 1.00pm**  
**Where: 10 Walker Parade, Churchill**  
**What to bring: BYO drink and bring either a salad or sweet.**

**Please come along.**

## January Activity

10.00am Sunday 15th January

The group will meet at 10.00am at the Junction Road car park to continue the nesting box survey. We will need Craig to bring the camera mounted on the long pole and the extension ladders. Ken will need to bring the GPS unit. You will need to bring your lunch and clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

Another activity to be completed will be erection of some more bat boxes, John has made. So at one stage the group may need to divide to complete both tasks.



**Iconic:** Works on the Grand Strzelecki Walking Track 'officially begins' with Grand Strzelecki Walking Track president Andrew Booth, Regional and Rural Development Minister Peter Ryan, Member for Morwell Russell Northe and Grand Strzelecki Walking Track project manager Alan Lewis witnessing the commencement.

photograph laura ferguson

LIE LATRO

## Track potential for major tourist attraction

By MELODY SONG

THE Grand Strzelecki Track in Balook could potentially be a major tourist attraction to the region once it is officially completed by January 2012.

Speaking at the official start of construction of the track last Friday, Regional and Rural Development Minister Peter Ryan said it was a "magnificent venture" which would span 85 kilometres when fully completed.

"It will be a realisation of years of aspirations of the local people," Mr Ryan said.

"The track will have the capacity to attract people, and give them access to the most beautiful parks in Victoria.

"It is a great idea and I am thrilled for the local people."

The track, which will run from the Tarra Bulga Park in the east to the Morwell National Park in the west, has been touted as a tourist drawcard to the area.

Project manager Alan Lewis said the track had the potential to draw tourist dollars of up to \$12 million annually.

"It is estimated that 250,000 people regularly go for walks or hikes in Victoria a year; with a five-day trek such as this, there is the

potential for new business opportunities such as bed and breakfasts, guided tours and other facilities," Mr Lewis said.

"We hope it can become iconic."

Mr Lewis said the idea for the project had been mooted in July 2009 but had suffered significant delays, due to permit applications and agreements.

He said the project was funded through a \$500,000 grant from the Latrobe and Wellington shires.

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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Calendar 2012*

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

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Activities are scheduled for the third Sunday of each month, with extra days scheduled as required.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Activity:</b>	<b>Venue and Time:</b>
January 15	Nesting boxes survey/Erecting bat boxes	Junction Rd, 10.00am
February 19	Weir Walk Weed Removal	Junction Rd, 10.00am
March 18	Weir Walk Weed Removal	Junction Rd, 10.00am
April 15	Grand Strzelecki Walk Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
May 20	Track Maintenance	Kerry Road, 10.00am
June 17	Tree Planting	Junction Rd, 10.00am
July 15	Tree Planting	Junction Rd, 10.00am
August 5	AGM	To be advised, 1.30pm
August 19	Tree Planting	Junction Rd, 10.00am
September 15	Weed removal	Junction Rd, 10.00am
October 21	Koala Count	Kerry Road, 1.30pm
November 18	Orchid Survey/Odd jobs	Junction Rd, 10.00am
December 16	Nesting boxes survey/Christmas Function	Junction Rd, 10.00am

For all activities, it is BYO food, drinks, suitable clothing and footwear, and other personal items, unless otherwise indicated in the newsletter. Up to date details of each forthcoming activity are provided in the monthly newsletter, which is emailed to members and available to the public on the website.