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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – May 2013

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeaan.net>
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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter.

DSE planned to conduct a controlled burn in the Park in the area between Fosters' Gully track and Jumbuk Rd. The size of the burn would have been about 56 hectares in size. On the date DSE set aside to complete the burn, it was decided it was too dry. The controlled burn may still yet happen.

We have received no update on the sick wombat located around Potato Flat. Over the last month Ken has completed another moth survey near the But But Track. He located 12 different moths with two interesting moths to be looked into.

John called in briefly at the beginning of the April activity to update the group upon our progress with recent grant applications. We did not receive any money for the Blue Gum Hill tree planting submission. There were more submissions put in than there was funding available, so Mike will look into putting another submission into a different funding stream. The other submissions we are still waiting to hear upon. John also had a flyer about motion detection cameras and a discussion was had about the merits of have some of these cameras in the park.

Over the last six months we have been collecting and analyzing Butterfly Orchid photos for inclusion in the newsletter. The group's thinking was that a photo of a Butterfly Orchid would be better than the drawn image that has appeared for the last twenty years. We have forgotten about it over the last few months and never got around to deciding upon the best photo. Now would be a good time to include at least one of these photos taken last year at the Butterfly Orchid survey. The new photo is above. We will retain the black and white orchid image as our watermark on each page. Feedback will be happily taken.

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

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Other members: Mary Austin, Wendy Steenberg, Margaret Barker, Cathy Beamish, Eulalie Brewster, Reg Felmingham, Wendy McDonald, Joan Sikkema, Matt Campbell and Kerry Proud, Emma Pallett and Rod Haggith, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

April Activity Report

Sunday 21st April

At this month's activity we had Ken, Mike, Cathy, Peter, Darren, and Craig. Apologies were put in by John, Margaret and Wendy. The group met in the car park to catch up on the news from the last month and plan the day ahead.

We organized ourselves into two vehicles and drove to the Grand Strzelecki Track. We drove to the first creek crossing on the Grand Strzelecki Track. Here we divided up, with Ken walking to the park boundary to complete his plant survey along the Grand Strzelecki Track. Most of us then donned waders and entered the creek at the first creek crossing on the Grand Strzelecki Track. The creek level was still low and only in a few locations was the creek level high enough to require the rubber suits. Mike was able to navigate up the creek in gumboots without getting too wet.

I had brought my camera and when I went to take my first photo, found the battery to be flat. Craig was able to capture some photos for me, so for a change I was in a photo instead of Wendy or Margaret. We will need to get their photos next month.



Although the previous day had been wet, the day was pleasantly overcast with some periods of sunshine. For a period of time it was quiet warm in the sunshine while we worked on a stretch with many advance Tutsan plants.

We completed three creek crossings up to lunch removing many weeds, both small seedlings and advanced plants. This completed the section between what we have completed last year and what we completed two months ago.

This made a logical time to break for lunch. So we ate lunch on one of the many stony banks beside the creek. It was very peaceful eating with sounds of creek in the background and two Black Cockatoos overhead. Ken did not join us for lunch so the group again donned the waders and walked to where we finished last month. We walked about 800m to our new starting point. On the walk in, we passed Ken and some items of his clothing left beside the track. Ken updated us about his progress related to completing the plant survey.

We completed a few more sections of the creek, to have now completed between the first creek crossing and the twelfth on the Grand Strzelecki Track. There are only another 9 crossings to the park boundary! The number of weeds, especially Tutsan we are locating is consistent, the only hope is that when we return in the future there will be less. We wonder whether this is a battle we will not win or even have a large inference.

One positive we observed on the walk back is that the cattle had stopped coming into the park. Craig had previously erected some fencing where appeared the cattle were entering the park. This fencing has been effective and stopped the cattle entering the park.



May Activity

Sunday 19th May

The group will meet at 10.00am at the Junction Road car park to continue work upon the Grand Strzelecki Track to remove weeds from the creek. Note that is a change from the calendar since we don't need two months to complete the track maintenance in the Kerry Rd part of the park. There are still many more weeds to remove from Billy's Creek, before the creek level rises. You will need to bring your lunch and suitable clothing for the weather conditions on the day.