

PO Box 19
Churchill
3842



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – August 2013

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.net>
A0016319X

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. This month's newsletter is coming to you early, in time to remind you about the Annual General Meeting this weekend. Over the year we have had some new people join the group to help with activities and it would be great to have some of them along at the meeting. Thanks to Margaret and John for hosting the meeting for us. Craig is likely to be an apology for the AGM since he is rostered to work on that day.

Friends of Morwell National Park Annual General Meeting

Sunday 28th July
1.30pm

10 Walker Parade, Churchill

A committee meeting will follow the Annual General Meeting

At the conclusion of both meetings we will have Afternoon Tea – Bring a plate

It is also time to either renew or sign up as a member. Membership is very cheap and you can either: renew at the General Meeting, send in the following form or pay at the next activity.

To: Treasurer, Friends of Morwell National Park, PO Box 19, Churchill, 3842

Please find enclosed the amount of \$ _____ (\$10 per person, \$15 per family/group) being for membership 2013/2014.

Name: Telephone:

Address:

Email:

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

Publicity: Peter McDonald

Public Officer: Beryl Nelson

Newsletter Editor: Darren Hodgson, 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, Matt Campbell and Kerry Proud, Emma Pallett and Rod Haggith, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

Over the last month there have been a number of deer sighted in and around the Park by one of the locals. We also saw at the last activity, the evidence of many cattle that have been in around the river flats and at the weir along Billy's Creek. We think they are travelling down the Grand Strzelecki track from a farm further up the track.

Over the last month John and Craig have picked up our new chainsaw, chaps and the related safety equipment. Craig will need to follow up with the procedures of use for this equipment in the park.

July Activity report Blue Gum Hill track maintenance

At this month's activity we had Ken, Beryl, John, Margaret, Wendy, Darren, and Craig. We had apologies from Peter, Mike and Cathy. The group met in the Junction Road car park with Beryl, Wendy and Ken riding in the Ute with Craig while John, Margaret and Darren walked in. After the first creek crossing, Craig needed to cut a tree which had fallen and was blocking the track. The vehicle did not make any more crossings since the creek crossings were difficult to get through with the silt build up from the changing creek levels.

The group collected all of the required gear and walked in to the beginning of the Blue Gum Hill Spur Track. We started at the beginning of the Blue Gum Hill spur track where it meets the Grand Strzelecki Track. The track was overgrown with many trees down across it. The going was all uphill and steep. As a result our progress was slow as Craig used the trimmer or chainsaw and the rest of us cleared the debris. Only two larger trees remain across this track. These were too large to remove with the chainsaw we had. These photos only give you an indication of how steep it was.




As we approached the top it got windier. On the walk up we located an old fence line, and the found the test plots put in many years ago. These areas still have the best tree growth on the hill. Near the top there is large group of fallen trees, but we were able to make the track go around this obstruction.

We stopped at the top of Blue Gum for lunch. Over lunch we enjoyed the wonderful view. Definitely the best place around to have lunch. It was windy but dry. The forecast had promised rain, but we received none over the day.

After lunch we worked our way down the main Blue Gum Hill track clearing as we went down. John has put forward some suggestions for new equipment for consideration at the AGM:

- A pole mounted camera for the nesting box survey
- Some motion detention cameras for location around the park.



August Activity

Sunday 18th August

The group will meet at 10.00am at the Junction Road car park to undertake track maintenance upon the Lodge and Clematis tracks. You will need to bring your lunch and suitable clothing for the weather conditions on the day.