

PO Box 19
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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – September 2013

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

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. This month we have a bit for you. Included is the report from the last activity, minutes from the recent Annual General Meeting and Committee Meetings and 2012/13 President's Report. The President's Report makes very interesting reading and it makes you reflect that we have done a bit over the last year.

At the Annual General Meeting the office bearers for the coming year were decided and this year the leadership team will be the same as for last year, as long as Peter is happy to continue as the Publicity Officer.



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).

August Activity Report

For this month's activity we had John, Margaret, Wendy, Ken, Darren and Craig in attendance. Mike, Cathy and Beryl were away.

It was a cloudy day which promised rain so Darren walked in while the rest of the team rode in with Craig to the second creek crossing. The group collected the hedge trimmer and chainsaw and then walked to the beginning of the Lodge track. At the beginning of the track (just before the creek crossing), an old cable can be found which has been in the undergrowth for many years. It is believed that these cables date back to a time when the lodge was being used and the plans included a flying fox which these cables were to be part of. There are little pockets of history scattered around the Park. The group worked up the Lodge track clearing the path of any obstructions. The track was not in a bad condition and the hardest task was working up the steep slope.

Before lunch the group followed Lodge track up to its end at Moran Road. Again the condition of the track was found to be good with few impediments. Ken made the observation that the end of Lodge track is probably at a higher elevation than the top of Blue Gum Hill. From the top of Lodge track you seemed to be looking down towards the top of Blue Gum. The advantage is that the views from the top of these two hills (although not very far apart) are very different. The group returned to the end of Clematis track and had lunch trying to shelter out of the wind and enjoying some of the brief periods of sunshine.

The day had promised rain and we had a little on the way down Clematis track. This track required the most work and had a few obstructions to remove. Some areas of stinging nettles and blackberries needed to be removed from the track. With these problems removed the track will now be easier to traverse for Park users. It was great that on a day that promised much rain we came out relatively dry.



Friends of Morwell National Park

Annual General Meeting Sunday 28th July 2013

Annual General Meeting declared open at 1.40pm

Attendance: - Beryl Nelson, Wendy Steenbergen, Darren Hodgson, Ken Harris,
John & Margaret Barker, Kathy & Mike Beamish, Craig Campbell (Ranger)

Apologies: - Peter McDonald

Previous AGM minutes held on 7th August 2012 were read and accepted as a true account.

Moved by Ken Harris, **Seconded** by Mike Beamish.

The President's Report was read and accepted **Moved** by Kathy Beamish, **Seconded** by Wendy Steenbergen.

Ranger's Report was read & accepted **Moved** by Ken Harris, **Seconded** by Beryl Nelson.

Treasurer's Report was read and accepted - **Moved** by Darren Hodgson, **Seconded** by Kathy Beamish.

The Treasurer reported that we have 15 financial members for 2012-2013.

Term Deposit was re-invested & expires 8th October 2013

Motion was **Moved** by John Barker that Incorporation fees (\$51.40) be paid for this financial year,
Seconded by Ken Harris.

Election of Office Bearers:-

President – Mike Beamish (**Moved** – Ken Harris, **Seconded** – Margaret Barker).

Vice President – Ken Harris (**Moved** – Margaret Barker, **Seconded** – John Barker).

Secretary/Public Officer - Beryl Nelson (**Moved** – Margaret Barker, **Seconded** - Wendy Steenbergen).

Treasurer - John Barker (**Moved** - Wendy Steenbergen, **Seconded** – Kathy Beamish).

Newsletter - Darren Hodgson (**Moved** – Beryl Nelson, **Seconded** - Wendy Steenbergen).

Publicity – Peter McDonald (**Moved** – Kathy Beamish, **Seconded** – Beryl Nelson).

General Business : -

It was decided that membership fees will remain the same - **\$10.00 per person, \$15.00 per family or group**
(**Moved** by John Barker, **Seconded** by Ken Harris passed unanimously.

Discussion regarding our Constitution and the need for the Committee to examine and present findings for
the next AGM.

Annual General Meeting declared closed at 2.05pm

Friends of Morwell National Park
President's Annual Report for 2012 to 2013
July 28, 2013

Another year has passed, oh so quickly! All my concerns from last year never came to pass: Parks Victoria industrial action ceased, our monthly support resumed and staff attained a wage raise, though not to the level requested or deserved; a toilet was installed at Kerry Road, partially funded by our 25th Anniversary grant, but there is still not a toilet at Junction Road and no sign that the GST Committee will fund one; grant applications were successful for chainsaw equipment, but not for feral deer control or revegetation of Blue Gum Hill, though we still have an application pending assessment for the latter. Following is a synopsis of our year in the Park:

August- Our AGM resulted in no change to the committee. Our activity a fortnight later completed the weed removal, mainly Tutsan with a few prunus, along Billys Creek from Junction Road to the Weir. Upstream of the Weir will be a job for the summer/autumn period.

September- A small crew wielded the chainsaws and cleared fallen trees along the Billys Creek Track, the Fosters Gully Track and the Muttonwood Creek/Stringybark Ridge loop.

October- The early starters walked the Fosters Gully Track looking for orchids before the Koala Count located 10 Koalas on 3 tracks, with 26 people attending. Some good newspaper and TV coverage before and after the event raised our profile.

November- Some odd jobs like chain-sawing some logs off the Billys Creek Track and cleaning gutters at the Park Office, while others counted Butterfly Orchids or took some photos for our new logo. After our activity, a few of us also attended the Parks Victoria BBQ dinner in Traralgon. Applications for 2 grants were submitted; chainsaw equipment and feral deer control.

December- Nest box surveys were carried out along Billys Creek. It's pleasing to note that the boxes are gaining increased usage, with at least 29 Sugar Gliders, 2 Ringtails and 2 Agile Antechinus counted. The Xmas BBQ was well-attended and thoroughly enjoyable.

January- Cathy & I went camping along the Timbarra River, near Buchan, while the rest of the crew finished off the nest box survey, did some repairs to damaged boxes and some tree-clearing from the Clematis Track. 7 more Sugar Gliders and 4 more Antechinus were added to the list.

February- A hot day pulling willows and other weeds out of Billys Creek along the Grand Strzelecki Track, just above the Coprosma Track intersection. It was nice to get wet feet and the occasional feed of ripe blackberries.

March- More weed pulling, working upstream from last month's position. Lots of Tutsan and a few Pussy Willow seedlings in the silt jetties. Cattle have been coming down from adjacent farmland, causing a bit of a mess of the track in places. John commenced training to take over from Rob and Ken in how to fall into the creek at every opportunity.

April- Craig fixed the cattle problem by some artistic use of fencing wire. We are still pulling weeds along Billys Creek, having now reached the 12th crossing, only 9 more to the Park boundary.

May- More weed pulling in Billys Creek, this time on a wet day which made the drive in very slippery and not good for the track. It also brought out the leeches! Darren participated in an overnight walk along the GST with a group of students, a bit of an accomplishment given the weather conditions.

June- A break from weeding, track maintenance instead up on Stringybark Ridge, mainly the cross tracks between the two legs of the ridge track and down to the west boundary fence. A nice, plump Striped Grass Frog (*Limnodynastes peronii*) was found hopping across the track as we wandered back to the car park.

July- Cathy and I were living it up at the Cape Schank Resort while the rest of the crew continued with track maintenance around the Blue Gum Hill area. We did spare a few moments to think of you all slaving away, yes, I'm lying!

Thank you to all members and visitors, each of you has contributed in your own way to the success of our Group and the betterment of Morwell NP. The committee members: Ken as VP, Beryl as Secretary, John as Treasurer, Peter as Publicity Officer and Darren as Newsletter Editor; thanks for all the time and energy you put into your roles, as well as the extras that you contribute. To the active members, thanks for fronting up to activities each month and volunteering your time to the cause. And to the not-so-active members, thanks for your continuing support and interest in the wellbeing of the Group and the Park, and remember that you are always welcome to become more active any time circumstances permit. Last, but not least, thank you to the Parks Victoria staff, Andy, Craig and Rob, for your efforts and conscientiousness.

Mike Beamish
President, Friends of Morwell National Park Inc. 2012/2013.

Friends of Morwell National Park

Committee Meeting held Sunday 28th July 2013

Committee Meeting declared open 2.10pm.

Attendance: - Kathy & Mike Beamish, Beryl Nelson, Darren Hodgson, Ken Harris
Wendy Steenbergen, John & Margaret Barker, Craig Campbell (Ranger)

Apologies: - Peter McDonald

Minutes of previous meeting held on 7th August 2012 were read and accepted as true account.

Moved by Kathy Beamish, **Seconded** by Ken Harris.

Business arising from Previous Meeting:-

- A new colour orchid photo for the MNP Newsletter has been found – our thanks to Craig Campbell for his photo contribution. Darren pointed out that the orchid watermark has been retained.
- After receiving a grant (\$2,100) MNP purchased a chainsaw and associated equipment for tree clearing etc.
- Craig informed the meeting that he would work up a chainsaw protocol for us to work with. Parks Victoria staff need not be in attendance when the “Friends group”, are using the equipment – will have to inform Parks Victoria – the date of the work.
- Motion and extension cameras were discussed – types, cost, energy sources, infra-red/white flash.
- It was decided to withdraw \$1,200 from the Term Deposit to purchase the two cameras, only after some consultation with the relevant experts
- Also discussed were the use of concrete posts – decided that their utilization on Blue Gum Hill will be too difficult.

Inwards Correspondence:-

FriendNet No 80 August 2012.

FriendsNet No 81 December 2012.

FriendsNet No 82 March 2013.

Department of Sustainability & Environment letter dated March 2013.

Email from Matt Campbell regarding cattle entering the Park dated 5th April 2013.

Parks Victoria letter dated 7th May 2013.

Parks Victoria letter dated 7th May 2013.

Letter from Churchill P/O regarding post box status.

Outwards Correspondence:-

Consumer Affairs Victoria – Incorporation documents 20th August 2012.

General Business:-

- Kathy Beamish suggested an end of the year get together instead of the annual barbecue – a dinner during the year will be considered.
- Pipeline Track slip was discussed, needs some sort of bridge, the possibility the old Billys Creek Bridge that is going to be replaced because the foundations have been washed away – could be used on the Pipeline Track.

Calendar of Activities :-

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

Date:	Activity:	Venue and Time:
January 19	Nesting boxes survey	Junction Rd, 10.00am
February 16	Weed Removal	Junction Rd, 10.00am
March 16	Weed Removal	Junction Rd, 10.00am
April 20	Weed Removal	Junction Rd, 10.00am
May 18	Track Maintenance	Kerry Road, 10.00am
June 15	Track Maintenance	Kerry Road, 10.00am
July 20	Tree Planting	Junction Rd, 10.00am
August 3	AGM	To be advised, 1.30pm
August 17	Tree Planting	Junction Rd, 10.00am
September 21	Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
October 19	Orchid Survey Koala Count	Kerry Road, 10.00am & Kerry Road, 1.30pm
November 16	Butterfly Orchid Survey/Odd jobs	Junction Rd, 10.00am
December 21	Nesting boxes survey/ Christmas Function	Junction Rd, 10.00am & Kerry Road 1.00pm

Meeting declared closed at 3.20pm

September Activity

Sunday 15th August

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