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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – March 2015

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

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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter.

The plans for the new bridge across Billy's Creek near the Baniff Road entrance, continue with us awaiting the contractor to be available to begin work. The plans include making repairs to the culvert on Billy's Weir Track close to the site of the new bridge.

Green Walks aim to get more people walking, more often, in local parks, state parks and bushland reserves. The next Green Walk planned in Morwell National Park is on Thursday 19th March at 10am. If you want to take part in the walk meet at Kerry Rd car park to complete the Foster's Gully Walk.

John's Jottings

John has continued with his historical collecting and this month his snippet is from an article: *BILLYS CREEK (A brief history of Billys Creek compiled by Hilmar Batza – September 2003)*

This Lodge Track continued from last month.....

"Because of his job, McGlashen travelled to various work sites around the State and was able to get hold of tools, engines, motor bikes, building materials and old cars at a cheap price or even have some of the items donated.

The timber for the Lodge came from an old house in Yarram. Many trailer loads of timber were hauled up the Lodge Track by tractors to build the Lodge. A workshop area together with generators was set up near the bridge across Side Creek.

Some 200 yards of one-inch square railway line was laid from opposite the workshop and ran parallel to Side Creek on its southern side. Around 1977 McGlashen had to give up his involvement with the scouts because he had turned 55. However, he was soon persuaded to take on the 1st Preston Boys who became known as the 'Boys Club'.

Some of his former Reservoir Rovers who were now married came on weekends with their wives to help him run the Boys Club. Many a night was spent sitting around a large campfire. In 1982, McGlashen sold the land to Rodney Walsh because he had become fed up with the constant vandalism and theft of property whilst no-one was there to look after the property during the week. The last straw had been when the Lodge was burnt to the ground.

Rodney Walsh set up a Flying Fox over the weir.

Once the land became part of the Morwell National Park, much of the remaining rubbish from human habitation was taken to the tip or bulldozed into the ground."



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

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February Activity Report

At this month's activity we had Beryl, Peter, John, Wendy, Mike, Cathy, Chinese exchange student Jeffrey, Darren, and Ranger Craig. Apologies were put in by Matt and Margaret. The group meet in the car park and determined that Mike and Cathy would only be with us briefly and not help in the activity, since Mike was on-call and the Park is not good for phone reception. Mike had brought some 3 ½" floppy disks with old newsletters and other files. We decided we did not need these files since all newsletters are available online and nobody has a drive to read the files.

The group split into two workgroups. Craig, John and Peter took the vehicle to the beginning of Lodge Track. They worked along Side Creek and the beginning of the Blue Gum Hill Track with the brush cutters and hedge trimmer. The track had become overgrown and difficult to walk. Later they moved to the Clematis Track where a tree had come down across the track. The chainsaw was used to remove the tree from the track. The group also investigated a side track off Clematis Track and went exploring to find where this track went.

Beryl, Wendy, Jeffrey and Darren each put on waders and started work from the car park along Billy's Creek. Many weeds were located in the flats beside the creek and along the creek itself. All the normal found weeds were located and removed along with a few willows. Another weed which is now covering a large area on the far side of the creek is honeysuckle, which is smothering many plants. The weeds came out easily since we had much rain (around 70mm) the previous day, but fortunately no rain fell on the day of the activity.

A number of animals were seen over the day including kangaroos, crayfish, eels, trout, sugar gliders, a yellow belly black snake and a variety of birds. On spotting the snake lying on the ledge beside the creek we decided it was a good time for the weeding group to stop for lunch.



The two groups meet over lunch. After lunch we all went and investigated an old well beside Billy's Creek. The timbers around it are rotting away and is a little dangerous for an inquisitive traveler.



March Activity Sunday 15th March

The group will meet at 10.00am in the Junction Road car park. The group will work on weed removal along Billy Weir track and from Billy's Creek. We will be working in and beside the creek, so gumboots or waders may be useful.

You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

