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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – June 2017

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A0016319X

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. This year, Morwell National Park will celebrate its 50th anniversary. To mark this great event, we will get together for celebratory dinner on Friday 18th August (6.00pm start) at the Churchill Hotel. There will be more details in the next newsletter.

We are still trying to confirm when the Park was officially proclaimed. It passed through Victorian Parliament late in 1966, and Graeme last month had a photo from a public park opening in 1968. We know that it was during 1967, but are still seeking the exact date.

After dinner we will hold our Annual General Meeting and this is a change from the 2017 calendar of events.

Friends of Morwell National Park celebrate

MORWELL NATIONAL PARK'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**Friday 18th August
6.00pm**

Churchill Hotel

Friends of Morwell National Park Annual General Meeting

**Friday 18th August
7.30pm**

Churchill Hotel

A committee meeting will follow the Annual General Meeting

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

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President: Matt Campbell

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: Margaret Barker, Mike and Cathy Beamish, Eulalie Brewster, Graeme Busch, Kerry Campbell, Tamara Leitch, Wendy McDonald, Rose Mildenhall, Grant Pengelly, Wayne Pengelly, Joan Sikkema, Wendy Steenbergen, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

John's Jottings

This snippet on the activities of the Friends of Morwell National Park was sourced and edited from early Newsletter files.

27th July, 1988

Dear Friends,

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE friends of Morwell National Park Incorporated, that the first Annual General Meeting of the Friends will be held at the SES Headquarters (Latrobe Valley Airfield) on Sunday 21st August, commencing at 1.30pm promptly. Following the AGM there will be a Special General Meeting, which will be followed by afternoon tea.

We are expecting all Friends members to be present, for this our first AGM. Apologies may be sent to the Secretary/Public Officer, Peter Bryant, before the date of the AGM.

Those persons unable to attend and wishing to have their votes noted, must send along a Proxy. Proxy forms are attached to the back of your Constitution. If you do not have a Proxy form and/or Constitution please contact the Secretary immediately.

Yours faithfully,
Peter Bryant
(Secretary/Public Officer)



May Activity Report

At this activity we had Matt, Beryl, Tamara, Ken, Peter, Mike, Cathy, Rose, Hailey, John, Darren and Ranger Kristen. Ranger Kristen is filling in for Craig for a few months while he is on Long Service Leave and was keen to learn about the Park. She has come from another region so this was her first experience in our park.

Matt spoke to the group about the grant applications he has made on behalf of the group. These included an application for spraying for weed removal. Over the last few months there have been regular problems with trail bike riders, riding around the West Boundary extension. They have been riding around the tracks, creating their own tracks and churning up the ground making erosion a problem. They have been entering the park through an open gate which connects the park to the adjacent properties.

For today's activities, Matt, Ken, Kristen and Hailey went to the West Boundary to check the damage done by the bike riders and went to the site where an excavator drive through a fence. They photographed the damage for Ranger Shane and concluded that a lock needs to be placed on the gate to cut the public (trail bike) access. This trip was a great opportunity for Kristen and Hailey to see this part of the park.

The rest of the group travelled in along Billy's Weir track to undertake some weeding in Billy's Creek. With only two sets of waders left in the shed (Parks staff must have borrowed and not returned the others) most needed to work the creek in gumboots and boots. John, Peter (in waders), Beryl and Tamara started at Baniff Road bridge and worked upstream, while Rose, Mike, Cathy and Darren (in waders) started at the weir and worked downstream.

Many large Tutsan plants were found beside the creek and on the banks. Other weeds (besides blackberries) were not so bad. Progress was slow with many weeds to remove.



A large patch of Tutsan was found above the creek near Lodge Track. It was on a steep site and took a few hours to remove all of these plants. The photo above shows Mike surveying that site from the creek.

The groups synced up beautifully for lunch. Matt's group returned for the other part of the park while Peter, Beryl and Tamara walked back to the Weir to find the group nearer the Weir also finishing up. The groups all had lunch together at Billy's Weir. This was the biggest group was had together for an activity this year.



The whole group tackled the creek after lunch. Mike, Rose, Hailey and Matt returned to tackle the large Tutsan patch near the Lodge Track. Beryl, Peter and Tamara returned to where they finished before lunch while Cathy, Kristen and Darren continued working downstream from the Weir. The end of the day's work was when a European Wasp nest was disturbed and it was safer to be somewhere else.

Over the day, many Tutsan plants were removed with most of these plants being fully developed and beginning to shoot. Many garbage bags of Tutsan were taken away. It was an effective day of weed removal. We still have the creek around Potato Flat to complete.

Over the day, we saw many family groups of walkers. While in the creek, many happy families enjoying the lovely day walked past. On the way out we passed at least six different walking groups and found the car park full with no space left for any more cars.

June Activity

Sunday 18th June 10.00am

We will meet in the Junction Road carpark to decide upon the day's activity which is most likely to be weeding in Billy's Creek. If you have gumboots or waders they will come in very useful.

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