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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter – July 2017*

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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter.

This year, Morwell National Park will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To mark this great event, we will get together for celebratory dinner on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August (6.00pm start) at the Churchill Hotel.

**Friends of Morwell National Park celebrate**

**MORWELL NATIONAL PARK'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August  
6.00pm**

Churchill Hotel

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

Over the last month, Ken recorded five radio interviews with ABC Latrobe Valley about the local wildlife. The five short interviews discussed the local animals found within the park and local area. The interviews played in the week of 19-23<sup>rd</sup> June.

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**President:** Matt Campbell

**Vice-President:** Ken Harris

**Secretary:** Beryl Nelson

**Treasurer:** John Barker

**Publicity:** Peter McDonald

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**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.

"4th September, 1988

Dear Friends,

Whew! You'll be receiving this, rather late, but then I wanted you all to have the most up-to-date news possible. But to start at the beginning...

August 14th saw a small but enthusiastic group of Morwell Friends being hosted by the Friends of Warrandyte State Park at the Friends Exchange we had had organized for some time. It was a bit strange being lectured by Ian Roche about a different Park, but then he has spent quite some time there. Following an introductory talk, we ambled along the banks of the Yarra River observing some of the results of different projects - willow clearing, Koala releases, disabled walking track and interpretation signs. Most informative. The Tunnel was certainly something to see!

After a pleasant BBQ lunch, we then drove in convoy over to another section of the Park, near where the first gold was found. Ecologically different, but the historical influence of people through the area was quite noticeable with old shafts, tunnels, dwellings etc. A real eye-opener even for a local boy!!" .....

"The following Sunday saw 16 people gathered at the SES Office for our first-ever Annual General Meeting. Presidential and Treasury Reports were given We especially welcomed Robyn Calnin, who is seconded from Buchan Caves in place of Ian Roche, and presented her with her first formal task - receiving officer at the elections for Office-bearers. The 1988/1989 committee is as follows:

President - Yvonne Aplin  
VP/Activities Organiser - Neil Grigg  
Secretary - Peter Bryant  
Treasurer - Johanna Aziz  
Non-portfolio - Geoff Galvin & Ken Harris

Special thanks to Judy Lambert and Margaret Loughborough for their help, wisdom & support on the Inaugural Committee. Tribute was especially given to Margaret who is leaving in 2 weeks' time to "retire" in Tasmania with her husband. Safe moving and we will miss your support."

Signed by Peter Bryant



## June Activity Report

At this activity we had Matt, Beryl, Ken, Graeme, Wayne and Darren. We had apologies from Rose, Hayley, Mike, Cathy, Peter, Wendy Mc, Tamara and Grant. So today we only had a small work crew. We started off by catching up on the news from the last month and looked over the JSA for the day.

Over the month Matt quizzed the group to determine the interest in being involved in a ClimateWatch project. The response was positive, so the group has put in an application to be part of this project.

### A Brief Outline of the ClimateWatch Program

Earthwatch ([www.earthwatch.org](http://www.earthwatch.org)) is partnering with Parks Victoria to develop a community activation program around six ClimateWatch Trails in a selection of our parks and reserves, and are seeking funds from a charitable trust to roll the program out over two years.

Climate Resilient Communities, a partnership with Parks Victoria, is a citizen science project that builds capacity in regional communities to understand, monitor, and act against climate change impacts on Victoria's biodiversity. Using app-based technology Victorians will collect images and record behavioural and geographical data on climate sensitive plants and animals. The increased scientific knowledge will inform Park Victoria's management and intervention strategies for species threatened by climate change.

The program aims are to:

- Empower communities to protect biodiversity by becoming citizen scientists.
- Create an ongoing community driven model for scientific monitoring of climate change in Victoria's parks estate that can be replicated across the state and Australia.
- Utilise data collected to develop mitigation and adaptation strategies within parks

Matt has been thinking about how to create interest in the park among the public. He proposed creating a Facebook page for the park. Last year, Wayne had been to a Facebook page for the park. A Facebook page for the park has merit, so Matt will look into creating a page or working with the existing page.

Over the month, Matt has supported DLEP and students from Traralgon College to place a number of motion detection cameras in the Billy's Creek part of the park.

After the meeting Matt went to get the waders and other gear while Ken drove Graeme, Beryl and Darren into Potato Flat. Wayne left after the meeting and Matt left after delivering the work gear.

Looking around Potato Flat it was determined that we need in a future activity to remove some fallen trees and branches and slash the overgrowth that is blocking the track around Potato Flat. With the low winter rainfall, the creek remains low, so work in the creek was possible when normally it would be possible in winter. The days' work was weed removal (especially tutsan) along Billy's Creek.

We suited up into waders and collected the other gear we needed. We returned to the point we finished last month. Today it was wasp free. Ken stayed on land searching for moths and lichens. Ken ended the day with a small branch with seven different varieties of lichens.

We again found many large tutsan bushes. Many berries were collected and most plants had begun shooting ready for spring. Progress was slow since many tutsan (and other weeds) were found and removed. Before lunch light drizzle started, but did not affect us greatly since the creek has a good tree cover.

Later the drizzle had stopped so we stopped and had lunch at Potato Flat. After lunch we returned to the creek. After a few more hours we still had not made it to the second creek crossing, so a section remains from the second creek crossing to the fallen trees further upstream on the straight stretch that still need to be cleared of weeds.



## **July Activity**

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July 10.00am

The group will meet in the Junction Road car park to complete our mid-year nesting box survey. You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

