

President: Bill Whitbourn 5968 3110
Vice Pres: Leo Stauber 5968 6656
Secretary: Lee Ferris 5968 6656
Treasurer: Heather Whitbourn 5968 3110

Correspondence to:
C/O P.O. Box 91,
Emerald Vic. 3782
www.vicnet.net.au/felp

NEWS



LETTER

ISSUE 25 July to Nov 04.

If you have any stories of historical interest or any items relevant to our park, please give me a call or send them to me - Bill Whitbourn.

EDITORIAL.

The Winter season was characterized by the usual tree falls and dropped branches. etc. some minor infrastructure additions and continuing help by the many Friends of the Park both official registered volunteers and unofficial regular local participants. Help such as disposing of cuttings, clearing the gutters and drains, (our dirt roads would be impassible by now if it weren't for this effort,) picking up of rubbish on their daily walks all goes towards keeping our park spic and span. Silver Wattles continue to topple, but Messmates, Silver birch and other species have fallen. Fortunately most of these are not in the main lake area but some fall across our tracks and creeks, necessitating removal.

In spite of the weather we have continued with our regular working bees and a highlight was the organization of a weed buster working bee during the recent weed buster campaign. Shiela Hampson did a great job organizing this, putting up posters and planning the day, with prizes for the kids etc. Of course all the old faces turned up and we had a good morning removing *Cestrum Elegans* from an infested area.

Good work Shiela! and the Group. We are hoping for some new faces in the new year, and currently are preparing a drive for new members. If you know of any keen helpers please invite them to join the Friends or let us know.



The first sign of Spring is the Prunus Blossom.

KIND LAWYER

One afternoon a wealthy lawyer was riding in his limousine when he saw two men along the roadside eating grass. Disturbed, he ordered his driver to stop and he got out to investigate. He asked one man, "Why are you eating grass?" "We don't have any money for food," the poor man replied. "We have to eat grass." "Well, then, you can come with me to my house and I'll feed you" the lawyer said. "But sir, I have a wife and two children with me. They are over there, under that tree" "Bring them along," the lawyer replied. Turning to the other poor man he stated, "You come with

us also." The second man, in a pitiful voice then said, "But sir, I also have a wife and SIX children with me." "Bring them all, as well," the lawyer answered. They all entered the car, which was no easy task, even for a car as large as the limousine was. Once underway, one of the poor fellows turned to the lawyer and said, "Sir, you are too kind. Thank you for taking all of us with you." The lawyer replied, "Glad to do it. You'll really love my place - the grass is almost a foot high!"

NEW ARRIVALS

Early in the breeding season, few new arrivals occurred. Some Black Duck and Wood Duck with small numbers of young. However late in the season, November a couple of large families of Wood Duck and some Dusky moore hen appeared. The larger families survived better and so numbers are good. Also the return of three Little Griebs just recently. Keep your eye out for these on either Lake Nobelius or Treganowan.



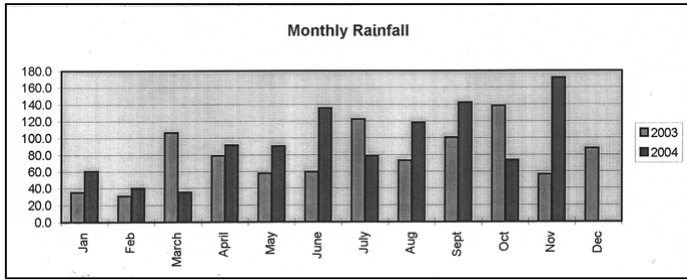
Morning Mist 23/07/04.

Multi use Trail

Work on the M.U.Trail has been intermittent and of poor quality. The bridges at Wright road and Cockatoo slowly took shape and although they remained barricaded for weeks, were opened by the kids anxious to try them out. Recent work includes putting up signs along the route. The section through the park is a great disappointment there is much to be done here. The 19th September opening date was yet again postponed and no new date for the opening of this yet.

RAIN FALL

We continue to get good rain, although a dry spell at the end of September to mid October with little rain for 17 days, threatened to continue the drought. We had record falls in November up to the middle of the month then nothing for the remainder. Total for the last 6 months to the end November is 719.4mm. See the chart below.



Rainfall ELP 2003/2004

NEW INFRASTRUCTURE

Our suggestion of a path to the Kiosk Barbeque area was taken up by Management and a path made from the bottom to the top road. All nicely tamped down the path survived the rains and is a great improvement to the area. Good work guys! Also the path from Wattle Creek car park along the lake edge has been resurfaced, with an improvement here.



Path to the Kiosk Barbeque area.

THE ARMY VISITS THE PARK

A surprise invasion by some of our troupes training as heavy vehicle drivers occurred late on 20th August. It was quite a shock to see these monster vehicles fill the bus loop. They stayed late and enjoyed a barbecue tea before continuing in the dark. I guess there were a few surprises when they passed through our township also. Come again anytime boys! In the past the Australian Armed forces have been instrumental in building some of our infrastructure and trails. Unfortunately the signs acknowledging theirs and others contributions (Police Force etc.) have been demolished by vandals.



The Army visits Emerald Lake Park, 20/08/04"



RAY BLAKE REVISITS

Another visitor in October, Ray, said he was in the area and dropped by to see how the park was faring. Ray was Caretaker of the park from 2001 - 2002 and a great public relations man. He was responsible for our best returns on Shelter revenue ever. Patrons were thrilled with the personal touch, and service he provided. Ray a dedicated family man and loved children, he had 8 of his own. A cuppa and a good chat was Rays favorite pastime at the park.



END OF YEAR BEE with LUNCH.

Sunday 12th December is the last Working Bee for the year, we will have a light lunch following this so don't miss it.

VOLUNTEER STATUS

We have had some confusion for some time over insurance for the group but thanks to FELP Secretary Lee Ferris this has finally been resolved. In fact we have always been covered as Volunteer workers in the Park, mangled by Cardinia Shire. So members and any new volunteers only need to fill out a Volunteer registration form to ensure cover. Many thanks to Lee for her hard work in getting the facts together and the true status of this situation clarified.

THIS YEARS BEE EFFORT

We have worked total of 185 hours for the year so far. Many thanks to all the keen weeders and gardeners for their great effort! While this is a great effort we hope to improve on this next year. We would welcome any new members to help. You may be busy raising your family but remember children are welcome and enjoy the outing. Attending regular working bees is not a prerogative. If you think you could spend a couple of hours lending a hand, or wish to help in any other way please join us!

NEW YEAR WORKING BEE DATES 2005 - 2hours only.

<p>January 2005. Saturday 1st. Cancelled Sunday 9th. 9.00am Thursday 20th. 9.00am</p>	<p>April 2005. Saturday 2nd. 9.00am Sunday 10th. 9.00am Thursday 21th. 9.00am</p>
<p>February. Saturday 5th. 9.00am Sunday 13th. 9.00am Thursday 17th. 9.00am</p>	<p>May. Saturday 7th. 9.00am Sunday 15th. 9.00am Thursday 19th. 9.00am</p>
<p>March. Saturday 5th. 9.00am Sunday 13th. 9.00am Thursday 17th. 9.00am</p>	<p>June. Saturday 4th. 9.00am. Sunday 12th. 9.00am. Thursday 16th. 9.00am.</p>

THE NEXT FELP MEETING.

The next FELP meeting, will be in the new year 9th January at 11.30pm in the Enviro.Cntr.! A very Merry Christmass to you all!