

PROPOSED ANNUAL PROGRAM

March 19 - Ironbark Gorge Walk
April 16 – Waterfalls - Little Aire and Triplet Falls
May 21 - Coastal Walk - Marengo to Shelly Beach
June 18 - Koala Count – Grey River
July 16 - Fungi Walk - TBA
August 20 – Walk in National Park - TBA
September 17-18 - Angair Show - Anglesea
October 23 (Sunday) - Wildflower walk
November 19 – Mammal survey and walk
December 10 – End of year BBQ – Moggs Creek

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Environmental Weeding

Tuesday, March 8

Tuesday, April 12

Tuesday, May 10

9.30-11.00 am

Contact: Margaret 0412 652 419

Meet at water tank on corner of Old Coach Road, Moggs Creek.

In January and February we have been helped by the Green Army to remove Coast Tea-tree from the hillside at Moggs Creek. We will be continuing on this site for the next few months as our efforts are making a real difference. Views over the ocean make this a very pleasant working area. Coffee at Skinny Legs Café Aireys Inlet after the activity.

Mammal Surveys

Contact: Patrick Flanagan 0437 561 702

Mammal surveys using our remote cameras are usually carried out following committee meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. We are always pleased to welcome any people interested in our indigenous fauna to participate in these activities. Naturally we are keen to photograph rare and threatened species and a minimum of feral animals, but whatever animals we do locate are adding to the overall picture of the fauna population in the Park. Please make contact to find meeting place and approximate meeting time.

Walk in the Park – Ironbark Gorge

Easy to medium 4.5km circuit

Saturday, March 19 9.30 am – 1.30 pm

Meet at Aireys Inlet Community Centre at 9.30 am (Bring morning tea and lunch)

Contact: Ross Murray 0408 875 535

This popular walk takes you into a gorge with a small creek running through it. As the name implies, the tall Ironbark trees are a feature. An interesting walk at any time of the year, it is particularly beautiful in spring when the variety of wattles and heathland plants provide a colorful understory to the tall eucalypts. Bird calls are usually abundant as it is a perfect habitat for many indigenous species.



Waterfall Walk – Little Aire & Triplet Falls

Easy to medium 6.5 km return.

Large number of steps

Saturday, April 16 9.30 am – 3.30 pm

Meet at Aireys Inlet Community Centre at 9.30 am (Bring morning tea and lunch)

Contact: Patrick Flanagan 0437 561 702

As well as visiting two of the best waterfalls in the Otways, this walk features the area's logging history. Walkers follow a winch line, pass a steam boiler and visit a recreated logging train at an old mill site. Tall forests and fern-filled gullies are another feature of this walk.

Coastal Walk – Marengo to Elliott River

Medium 8km return

Saturday, May 21 9.30 am – 3.30 pm

Meet at Aireys Inlet Community Centre at 9.30 am (Bring morning tea and lunch)

Contact: Alison & Phil Watson 0400 570 229

This walk is along the most easterly section of the Great Ocean Walk and features coastal beaches, rock platforms and coastal bushland. Cars will be left at Elliott River before we commence the walk.



FRIENDS' ACTIVITIES SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER

Environmental Weeding

Our last environmental weeding activity for 2015 was a combined activity with the Green Army on Powerline Track near Coalmine Road, Anglesea where, helped by the Green Army, we removed a large amount of Boneseed.

Our first effort for 2016 concentrated on the heathland hillside at Moggs Creek removing invasive Coast Tea-tree. The Friends of Moggs Creek and the Green Army worked cooperatively together. The Surf Coast Shire came to our aid with the removal of the cut vegetation, and we thank them for this service. We also thank the members of the Green Army who worked tirelessly during the day. Thanks are due all around!

We visited the same venue for our February activity and as a result the hillside now looks great. We thank the Green Army for their involvement with the Friends Group and wish them all the best for their future employment.

Walk and Mammal Survey – Reedy Creek and Kelsall's Rock - Saturday November 21

With a feeling of anticipation we set off for our mammal survey at the top of Reedy Creek Track as this is the area where we have had positive results regarding Spot-tailed Quoll analysis from hair tubes and possibly Smoky Mouse.

The 14 people who took part in the survey on November 21 drove to Benwerrin and then along Big Hill Track to Reedy Creek Track. We were pleased to have Alan, Patrick's friend from Ireland, Harvey from the Green Army, and also Paddy Day, a young student from St Joseph's College, who was keen to do some conservation work with the Friends' Group. Paddy's father, Greg, and his younger brother, James, also joined in the activity.

Unfortunately our results did not indicate any Quoll presence, and Paddy had to be content with kangaroos, wallabies and an inquisitive fox.

Mammal Surveys

We have had remote cameras in two areas since our last newsletter with some success stories. Our first venture was in the burnt area on Portreath Rd in early November where we had observed what we thought to be bandicoot diggings. We were rewarded by a photo of one Southern Brown Bandicoot which we have said before is listed on the National Threatened Species Listing (Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act).

The photograph was not very good but certainly the bandicoot was identifiable. Unfortunately the most common shots were a pair of inquisitive fox cubs who even tried to pull the bait station off the pole. There were many shots of kangaroos, one with a joey almost climbing out of the pouch to look around. A large black feral cat was also captured on camera.

Our second effort was at Reedy Creek as part of our November walk and mammal survey.



The Walk to Kelsall's Rock

Having driven back east along Big Hill Track we parked the cars where Lachie had marked the overgrown walking track leading to Kelsall's Rock Lookout. We had lunch about halfway up the track overlooking the gully – a pleasant spot. The steep climb up to the rock lookout was certainly worth the effort – the view across Grassy Creek valley was magnificent and we were entertained by two Peregrine Falcons soaring through the valley – a great experience. Thanks to Lachie for planning and leading the walks.