

PO Box 19  
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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter – February 2014*

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaean.net>  
A0016319X

Hello everyone and welcome to the New Year and this month's newsletter. The New Year has started cooler than normal except for four very hot days which changed the park (and some of the plants in my garden) from green to brown.

Over the next two months the Healthy Together team (from the Latrobe Council) and the Heart Council will run a number of walks in Morwell and Tarra-Bulga National Parks.

The Green Walks in the Park Program aims to get more people walking, more often, in more local parks, state parks and bushland reserves. It is a Heart Foundation initiative, supported by funding from Parks Victoria to facilitate the promotion of Green Walks available across Victoria. Further information about the range of Green Walks is available at <http://www.heartfoundation.org.au/active-living/Pages/green-walks.aspx>

The overall aim is to get a range of guided walks across the two parks which will attract different sections of the community (for example families, older people etc).

Guides are needed for the walks and the current list of volunteers is below. If you would like to be a guide you can contact Mike. The planned walks in Morwell National Park are:

Wednesday, February 5:	Matt, John. Tina?
Thursday, February 27:	Matt.
Saturday, March 8:	Mike.
Sunday, March 9:	Mike.
Tuesday, March 18:	Matt, John.
Sunday, March 30:	Matt?
Monday, March 31:	Matt?

There are two tracks where the walks will probably focus: the Foster's Gully Nature Walk and the Billys Creek Track to the weir and return. Both of these can be completed in around an hour.

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

**President:** Mike Beamish

**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](mailto:hodgson.darren.d@edumail.vic.gov.au)

**Other members:** Mary Austin, Margaret Barker, Cathy Beamish, Eulalie Brewster, Matt and Kerry Campbell, Wendy McDonald, Joan Sikkema, Wendy Steenbergen, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

The new bridge at the first crossing of Billy Creek has been completed. The new bridge was needed when the footings to the old bridge were washed out when the creek flooded. One end of the bridge had dropped and in the long term it was not safe. The new bridge looks great and looks like it will be there for the long term.



### **January Activity report Nesting box survey (continued)**

At this activity we had Mike, Cathy, John, Margaret, Matt, Brenda, Wendy, Darren and ranger Tina. After meeting in the Junction Road car park and discussing the news from over the New Year, the group divided into two groups. Matt, John and Darren went to repair and replace broken nesting boxes while Mike, Cathy, Brenda, Margaret, Tina and Wendy undertook the remainder of the nesting box survey.

John had put together a list of boxes to repair or replaced from the last activity and that is where this group started work. Rob made a visit to the group and took John off to find the location of the old rifle range. John is researching the history of the park and the area and is seeking information from many sources. This group repaired a number boxes (one which was upside down) and replaced one. The groups later joined in time to locate a difficult box which had come off the tree. This was replaced.

The survey group was finding the new camera excellent to check the boxes without interfering with any animals within the boxes. The image quality is good and better when viewed on a laptop or PC.

The groups had lunch together and surveyed the few remaining boxes after lunch. Over the day 12 sugar gliders, 2 Agile Antechinus and 2 eggs were located. This result is an improvement on the count from last year. Soon some of the footage from the survey will added to the Friends of Morwell National Park website.

During the day, along with animals found in the nesting boxes, we saw a few mobs of kangaroos, wallabies, koalas, an echidna and many birds.



The group returned to the car park to view the footage from the camera and from the last month. The umbrella was used to improve visibility rather than avoiding rain.

The total survey results are shown below:

	Sugar Gliders	Agile Antechinus	Other
December 2013	35	2	0
January 2014	12	2	0
<b>Total 2013/14</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
Total 2012/13	36	6	2
Total 2011/12	16	2	1

### **February Activity**

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January

The group will meet at 10.00am the Junction Road car park to complete weed removal along Billy Weir track and from Billy's Creek. You will need to bring clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.