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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – February 2015

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

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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. The plans for the new bridge across Billy's Creek near the Baniff's Road entrance, continue with all of the required permits organized. Now it is in the hands of the contractor to start when he is ready. The bridge will be paid from the received \$5,000 grant and some money from our account.

Over the last month, the extra planned activity to collect Blue Gum seed was cancelled because the Blue Gums have little seed this year and the program that we planned to apply to, has finished.

Green Walks aim to get more people walking, more often, in local parks, state parks and bushland reserves. The next Green Walks planned in Morwell National Park are:

Thursday 26th February 10am

Billy's Weir Walk (starting from Baniff's Rd)

Thursday 19th March 10am

Foster's Gully Walk (meet at Kerry Rd)

The exact dates can change so check the Latrobe Valley Express closer to each walk for exact times.

John's Jottings

John has continued with his historical collecting and this month his snippet is from an article: *BILLYS CREEK (A brief history of Billys Creek compiled by Hilmar Batza – September 2003)*

"Lodge Track

This track was named after a hall that had been built for Scouts and Rovers to use during the seventies.

In 1969, Morrie McGlashen, a civil engineer with the SEC purchased 256 acres for less than \$2000 from a Mr Cameron who owned 400 acres (2 titles) that included the area of the current Lodge Track, Clematis Track and the Zigzag Walk. The other title of land was bought by Harry Surman. Prior to Cameron, the previous land owners included Koon, Colonial Mutual Life and Bryant.

Mc Glashen was heavily involved in the scouting movement in Melbourne and wanted to build a 'Lodge' for the Reservoir 1st Scouts and Rovers to stay in when they came to the area. The whole area was over-run with blackberries. It took some 3-4 years to clear the land with tractors. Things sped up when McGlashen was able to buy a bulldozer. Access to the land was initially from Bill Roberts' place off Jumbuk Road.

The Reservoir Troop, who camped in tents of a weekend, dug a track down the hillside. Eventually a bulldozer was hired to finish the track. A bridge was built across 'Side Creek' and a track carved into the hillside to get to where the Lodge was going to be built. Later the army widened the track and took it through to Morans Road."

To be continued next month.....



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

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January Activity Report

At this month's activity we had Beryl, Matt, Ken, Peter, John, Darren, Helen, Gareth and Ranger Craig. The group meet in the car park and caught up on the news from the New Year. Gareth was along for his first activity along with his wife, Helen who was back again. It is great to have some of the regular users of the Park along to help with the activities, and to learn more about the Park. If others are regular users, you are also very welcome to come along and help out in the activities.

The group split into two work groups, with Matt and John making repairs to some boxes, while the rest travelled along Billy's Creek to survey the remaining nesting boxes. Matt and John made repairs to four boxes with three needing to be remounted onto their trees while the other needed a plate fixed to the front. Matt and John checked over the display board near the first Billy's Creek crossing and conceded that a little maintenance and painting will improve the display.

The survey group, surveyed the boxes not surveyed last month. There was again a healthy number of animals found in the boxes. In one of the boxes the sugar gliders were very active coming out of the box as we approached. The two sugar gliders watched us from further up the dead tree. The photo below is of one of these sugar glider watching from the box. So when you're next walking through the Park look at the nesting boxes and see who could be watching you. The other photo below is a koala spotted beside the track.

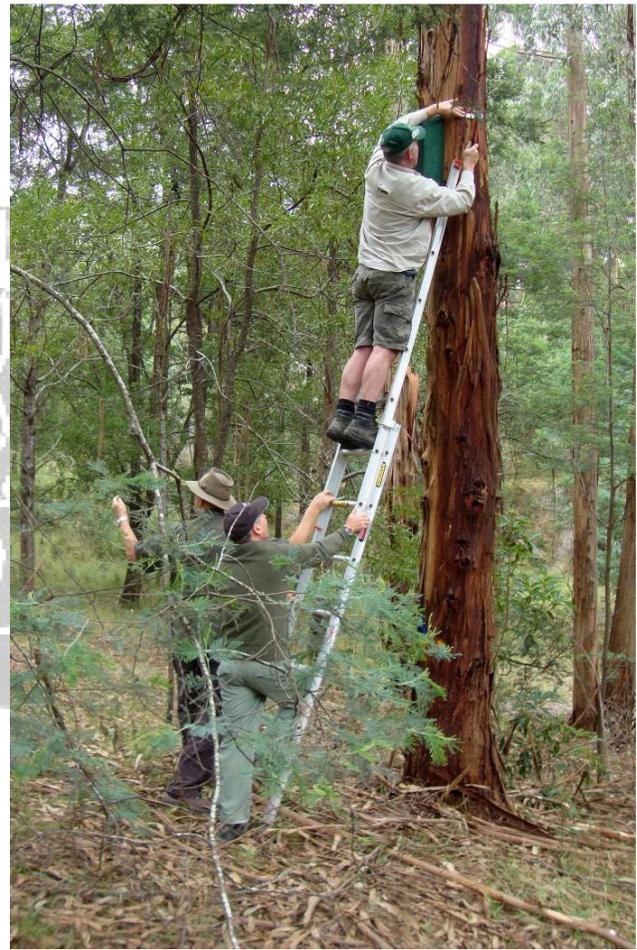


One box had moving leaf litter inside. No animal could be seen, so we estimated that at least one Agile Antechinus was under the leaf litter.

The surveyed number of animals is slightly higher than in the last few surveys. The totals from the last two surveys were:

	Dec 2014	Jan 2015	Totals
Sugar Glider	37	14	51
Agile Antechinus	6	1	7

The group regrouped and located the trees (previously located, GPS's and marked by Ken and Matt) where six new boxes were to be positioned. John had done a magnificent job in making six new nesting boxes over the last month. These six new boxes were located in trees around the base of Butt Butt Track. After the lunch break the group returned to make repairs to another box and to check again on the Agile Antechinus (which had moved elsewhere).



February Activity
Sunday 16th February

The group will meet at 10.00am in the Junction Road car park. The group will work on two tasks – one group will enter Billy's Creek at remove weeds from and around the waterway, while the one group will undertake some slashing along the Clematis and Blue Gum Hill tracks. These tracks have become very overgrown and removal of the grasses and nettles will make these tracks easier to walk.

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