

PO Box 19
Churchill
3842



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – February 2016

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaean.net>
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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. If you want to get out into the park there are more Green Walks scheduled over the next few months. Each 60 minute guided walk has a meeting time of 10.00 with the walks departing at 10.10 am. The next Green Walks planned in Morwell National Park are:

Friday 26th February

Billys Creek Weir

Meet at the Baniff's Road car park

Wednesday 23rd March

Foster's Gully Walk

Meet at Kerry Road picnic

Thursday 21st April

Billys Creek Weir

Meet at the Baniff's Road car park

Registration at www.walking.heartfoundation.org.au/events/event or call the Heart Foundation's Health Information Service on 1300 362 787

John's Jottings

This snippet on the formation of the Friends of Morwell National Park was sourced in part from early Minutes files.

"Newsletter June 1986

Dear Friends

The inaugural meeting of the Friends Group of the Morwell National Park was held at the Fosters Gully Picnic area on May 10th at 2.30 pm.

Eight people attended plus representatives of the Latrobe Valley field Naturalists.

Apologies were received from Mrs Ellen Lyndon and the Brewster family (both instrumental in the proclamation of the park initially).

The aims and objectives were put to the meeting by Ian Roche (Ranger), Yvonne Aplin and Gail Roche. After much discussion a decision was made by all in attendance to proceed with the formation of a Group with an attempt to interest more people via detailed publicity.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday June 1st commencing at 11.30 am in the park picnic area. Plans and maps detailing the proposed land purchases will be available for viewing and discussion over lunch. After lunch it is proposed to conduct a walk along some of the park boundaries to gain a perspective of the park and its relationship to its surroundings.

Looking forward to your continued support.



Yours faithfully

Yvonne Aplin"

By 1988 there were 45 registered members, some of who are current members. They are Mary Austin, Eulalie Brewster, Ken Harris and Wendy Steenbergen. There was a lot to do and sort out in the early days, and some of the members joined, not only due to a real interest and concern for the formation of the group but because they had the expertise to get things done. This was particularly relevant to the Park being extended to include Billys Creek valley.

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

President: Matt Campbell

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

Other members: Mary Austin, Margaret Barker, Mike and Cathy Beamish, Eulalie Brewster, Kerry Campbell, Brenda Chetham, Tamara Leitch, Wendy McDonald, Joan Sikkema, Neil Slater, Wendy Steenbergen, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).



January Activity Report

At this activity we had Matt, Peter, John, Mike, Cathy, Beryl, Tamara, Ken and Darren. We had apologies from Margaret and Wendy S. The group met in the car park and caught up on the happenings from over Christmas and New Year.

Matt discussed a recent directive from Parks that when using ladders around trees (like we do in the nesting box maintenance and surveys) where are additional safety measures to be considered. The ladder will need to be strapped to the tree and securely footed before use. The cartage and movement of a ladder between trees will also need to be safely managed.

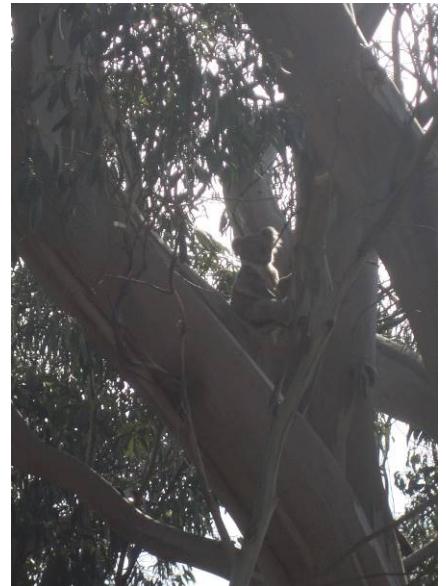
Since the group does not have a ladder and regularly uses the ladders of members (or Parks rangers when they are at an activity), we need to look into getting a ladder with the required safety gear. Parks rangers are unlikely to be available for future activities since their work rosters don't include weekends. We need to have our own resources since rangers will not be available to help us at activities. We are in a similar situation with brush cutters where we need our own brush cutter for track clearing. Matt also spoke about getting magnetic signs to attach to any volunteers' vehicle used in the park. This will inform any of the public using the park that the vehicle is there with the Friends group for park maintenance. Multiple sets of these magnetic signs will be needed. Matt will investigate (and work with Craig) on the purchase of a ladder, brush cutter and magnetic signage.

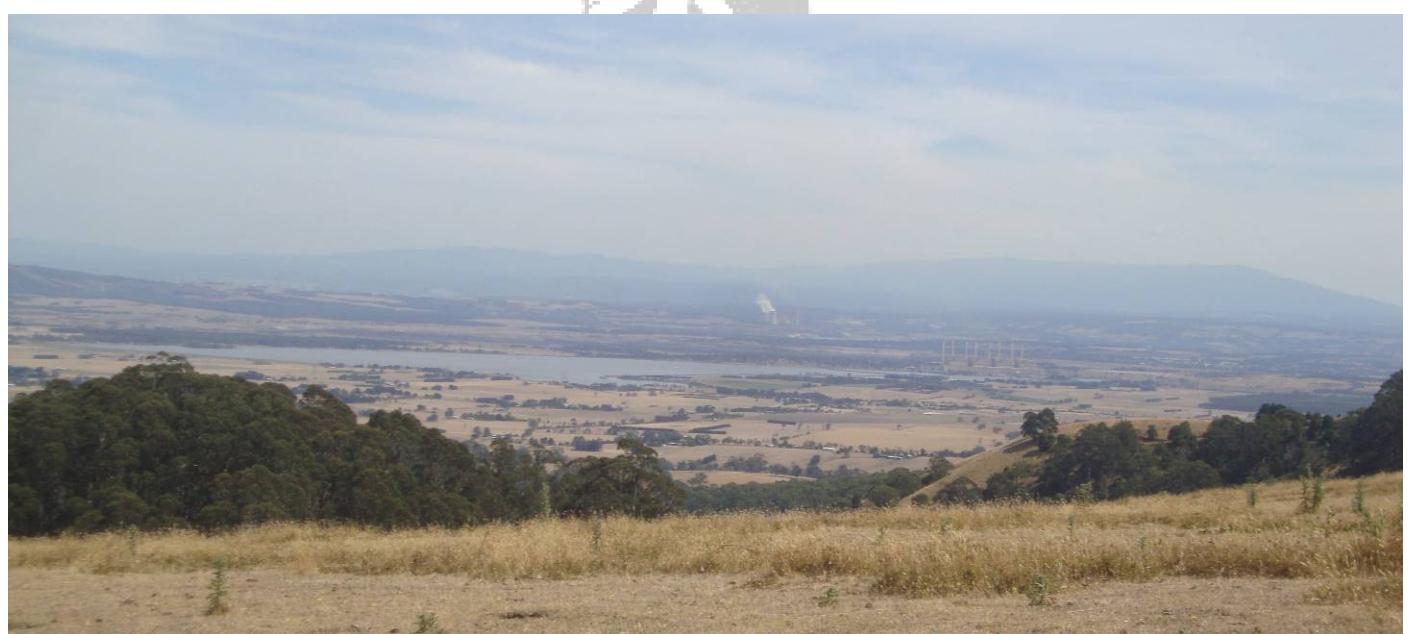
The group travelled to the Reidy's Road entrance in four vehicles. At the entrance the group were greeted by a koala sitting high above us. The day's activity was to clear some trees which had grown in the entrance, restricting access. Upon investigation it was found that these trees had been previously removed.

The plans for the day were changed with the group splitting to clear the Blue Gum Hill and spur tracks. The vehicles were driven to Billy's Weir while the rest of the group walked to the top of Blue Gum Hill. Ken left from Reidy's Road. It was good to get out and have a walk in the Park. With the weather being cool and dry it was perfect walking conditions.

The groups cleared sticks, bark and undergrowth from the two tracks. Two groups worked from the top and bottom of the Blue Gum Hill track clearing the many sticks which had fallen across the track. One branch remains across this track. These groups met in the middle and then worked back to Billy's Weir. A third group of Mike, Matt and Peter worked down the spur track, encountering lots of slippery bark and three sizable trees/branches across the track. Next month we will need to return to remove these. The spur track also had heavy undergrowth near the creek, which Matt slashed.

The bottom of Blue Gum track had been slashed so similar problems were not encountered there. All of the group met at Billy's Weir and had lunch. We left after lunch to see Australia perform well again in the cricket.





February Activity

Sunday 14th February

The group will meet in the Junction Road car park and then travel to Blue Gum Hill to undertake fence removal and track clearing. You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.