

PO Box 19  
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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter – May 2016*

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

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter.

### John's Jottings

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

"Newsletter October 1986

Dear Friends

The September meeting was a great success with 20 Adults plus 12 Children attending, an excellent turn out. We were pleased to see a number of new faces amongst the group.

Chris Porter covered the difficult task of male, female and tree identification with practiced ease. Her preparation obviously paid off. Thanks Chris for all your assistance.

The survey was divided into 5 groups covering most of the park. It seemed that those who walked through areas of Grey Gum saw the most Koalas. One group was particularly excited by sighting a cub on it's mother's back. At least this indicated not all of the females are infected with the dreaded Chlymidia.

Rumour has it that one group thought their leader was navigating by the stars, trouble was, it was raining at the time!! There was a total of 18 Adult Koalas, plus one cub seen on the day. The foundation is now laid for future surveys. This monitoring is the basis for a continuing program in years to come and will provide invaluable information for their future conservation.

There will be a second survey on October 12th, starting at 1pm from the park picnic area. Hopefully this may enable us to form conclusions-based on the combined knowledge of the surveys. Naturally surveys will now be continued on an annual basis.

Looking forward to seeing everyone next meeting.

Yours truly, Gail Roche."

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

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

## April Activity Report

At this month's activity we had Matt, Tamara, Ken, Beryl, John, Rose, Peter, Yuto and Darren. We had an apology from Margaret. The group met in the car to discuss the plans for the day.

Over the last month the ladder had been purchased and John had brought it along to use at this activity. The brush cutter and hedge trimmer are still to be purchased. Discussion was had about the best way to acquire them. One option was to write a letter requesting that Parks purchase the devices on our behalf and when approved Parks would purchase for us, GST free, with the devices then being owned by Parks and available for us to use. The other option was to purchase it ourselves, pay the extra GST and the equipment is stored in our shed and available for us to use at any activity. After discussion it was decided to purchase it ourselves and look at adding a log turner to the tools. Matt will follow up and get these tools.

Matt discussed with the group that we need to look at the long term benefits of Tutsan removal. A few activities each year have been dedicated to removing Tutsan and little long term benefit has been gained. A few people enjoy working in the creek and removing the weeds, while some others are unable to work in the creek. Matt suggested that at next AGM we need to discuss the merits of Tutsan removal and perhaps look at split activities.

After Matt had collected the fuel needed for the chainsaw and group broke up into three groups. One group with Matt, Peter and Rose went to Stringybark Track to work upon removing a number of trees and branches that come down across the track. Over the last month many trees and branches had come down including one which fell across the beginning of Foster Gully track, which came down at our last activity. Parks had come through and cleared the tracks a few weeks ago but more branches and trees had come down since.

Ken drove Beryl, Tamara and Yuto to Billy's Weir where they donned the waders and entered the creek at the Weir and found many Tutsan to remove. Around the weir there were many to remove since we did not cover this area last year.

John and Darren drove in to complete the repairs to the nesting boxes which John could not complete last month because of trees across the track. New strapping was attached and boxes refitted to trees. Ken came back and joined the pair as they finished up the last boxes. This group then went to Billy's Weir to find that the weeding crew had travelled only 50 metres since the many Tutsan needed to be removed. Many large plants (in fruit) were found and removed.

John and Darren helped the group move downstream with the group getting down to the Blue Gum Hill side creek. Meanwhile Ken with a net searched the wattles for lacewings. He located and photographed the rare Dusty Wing Lacewing. A new sighting and species for the Park.

The group broke for lunch at Billy's Weir. During lunch Matt, Peter and Rose returned and updated us on their progress. Many obstructions include one large tree have been removed from Stringybark Track. The group broke after lunch.





## **May Activity**

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 10am

The group will meet in the Junction Road to work on weed removal along Billy Weir track and from Billy's Creek. We will be working in and beside the creek, so gumboots or waders may be useful.

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

