

PO Box 19
Churchill
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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – August 2016

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.net>
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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter.

First up is a message from Craig:

Please be advised that Shane Atkins is taking over from me as the contact Ranger for Morwell National Park and the Friends group. It has been a pleasure working with you for several years now and you are to be commended for all the great work you do in the Park and for your on-going commitment to helping us manage that lovely Park. I trust that you will be able to form a worthwhile and beneficial relationship with Shane and that all the great work will continue. I hope that I will still be able to catch up with you all at times and may be able to come along on some weekend working bees.

At the beginning of August we will have our Annual General Meeting. This hoped that all members can attend. Included is the membership form to complete if you are unable to come to the Annual General Meeting. Thanks goes to Margaret and John who will kindly host the meeting for us.

Friends of Morwell National Park Annual General Meeting

**Sunday 7nd August
1.30pm**

10 Walker Parade, Churchill

A committee meeting will follow the Annual General Meeting

At the conclusion of both meetings we will have Afternoon Tea – Bring a plate

Friends of Morwell National Park Inc: PO Box 19, Churchill, 3842, <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.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 Steenberg, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

To: Treasurer, Friends of Morwell National Park, PO Box 19, Churchill, 3842

Please find enclosed the amount of \$ _____ (\$10 per person, \$15 per family/group) being for membership 2016/2017.

Name: Telephone:

Address:

Email:

John's Jottings

This snippet on the activities of the Friends of Morwell National Park was sourced from early Newsletter files.

"10th January, 1987.

Dear Friends,

Our last meeting for 1986 was a boomer with at least forty people (including children) attending our end of year B.B.Q. and Spotlight walk. Both were a great success."

"Now down to some serious business. We have sent a letter to Yarram Region concerning the lack of a Concept Plan for the proposed addition of Billy's Creek which, as I see it, is the stumbling block holding back the Minister from making her decision regarding the purchase of the land. It is essential we keep the pressure on the Region and the Minister so they can't just brush the matter aside and forget about it. We will keep you posted when we receive a reply to our letter.

The other point of business is that we have received a letter addressed to Ms. Val Callister M.P. from the Minister Ms Joan Kirner stating that "The Government has carefully considered the recommendations made by the Land Conservation Council, and has decided not to accept Recommendation G14. This means that the Government does not accept the proposed change in status of Morwell National Park." The Minister also stated "I cannot envisage there being any change in the need to have a Ranger resident at the Park. A sufficient work load exists in and near the park to require a full-time officer, and it would be difficult to provide security to the values within the park without a resident Ranger." This means that the question of the downgrading of the park can now be laid to rest.

I must say a few thank you's before finishing this Newsletter. First of all to Margaret Loughborough and her husband George for their assistance and distribution of our Newsletters. Without their efforts the workload would fall to a meagre few. Secondly to Kathleen Long for her help in the publicity department which helps to advertise the F.O.M.N.P. in the Newspapers and on Radio. I'd also like to thank Yvonne on behalf of Ian and myself for all her efforts in helping start our Friends Group. Last of all to those people who attended nearly all our meetings. You are the backbone of our group so please keep up the good work in 1987.

This year we hope our projects will be more interesting and varied than those of the past. Some proposed projects at present are:-

1. Collection and propagation of seeds.
2. Tree-planting – Fosters Gully.
3. Re-vegetation – Other areas.
4. Koala Survey.
5. Removal of old boundary fence.
6. Mapping, plotting and photographing.
7. Collection of data – Butterfly Orchid.
8. Collecting plant specimens for plant library.

These are just a few of our exciting projects planned for 1987. If you have any ideas for projects please bring them along to our first meeting on the 8th February as we would like to draw up our annual program with our help.

At this meeting it has been decided after much deliberation to get stuck into an aspect of park operations that we haven't attempted as yet. We will widen/reconstruct a section of the Fosters Gully walking track. This will be a very physical activity and those less physically inclined will still be able to participate by performing light jobs or by supporting the others." "This will be a test case to see if this type of work is desirable to be included into the annual program, all comments are most welcome.

We will meet at the park workshop at 1.30pm and finish with our usual Billy tea and discussion.

Yours truly, Gail Roche."

July Activity Report

At this month's activity we had Matt, Tamara, Ken, Peter, Grant, John, Rose and Darren. We had apologies from Mike, Cathy, Wendy and Margaret. The group met in the car park and John reported that the Term deposit has been reinvested for three months with the interest transferred to the working account. The Ben Cruachan Walking Club will join us in October for the orchid walk. The current program of Green Walks has finished and with each group getting smaller and smaller it was decided not to continue.

It was observed that the Morwell National Park sign at the entrance to the car park has fallen down. The wooden posts have rotted and need to be replaced. On the Billy's Creek track, just before the third bridge and landslide has partially blocked the track. Walkers can go around it but vehicles cannot get past with the cliff wall and the creek running down both sides of the track. It will need a small excavator or a few shovels to clear the track.

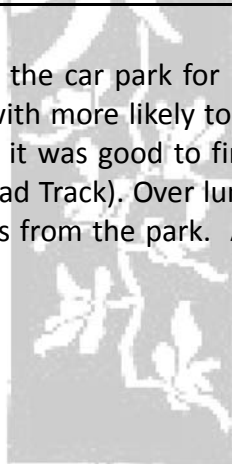
Matt and Tamara had started before the group arrived and had used the pole mounted camera to survey 22 of the nesting boxes. This cut back on the boxes that needed to be survey by the rest of the group. They completed their survey without the maps or the record sheets, so the first task was to transfer their findings to the record sheets. The group then went to find the boxes they missed. Throughout the morning the group surveyed the remaining boxes finding the animal numbers increased as we travelled.



Later in the morning Beryl walked in to join the group. Half way through we found a few trees down across the track. In four different places, branches were hanging over or across the track. These obstructions required Matt to get and use the chainsaw to clear them. He handled this while the rest of the group surveyed the remaining boxes. Two further branches had come down across creek crossings, so Matt cleared these as well. Other trees had blocked the main track during the previous week of storms and Grant had cleared these from the track. Another large tree had fallen across the creek leaving a large mass from the trunk and many branches.



The groups reformed and travelled back to the car park for lunch. During the morning at least 39 Sugar gliders were located in the nesting boxes, with more likely to be found when the footage is scanned more carefully. Amongst the new nesting boxes, it was good to find Sugar gliders in two of the boxes (one on Butt Butt Track and one along the Baniff Road Track). Over lunch, an amount was decided upon to support Grant with his work in removing wasp nests from the park. After lunch the group left to enjoy the sunny afternoon.



August Activity

Sunday 21st August 10am

The group will meet in the Junction Road car park to complete track maintenance. You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.