

PO Box 19  
Churchill  
3842



# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter – August 2017*

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.net>  
Official Address of FMNP - [contactfmnp@gmail.com](mailto:contactfmnp@gmail.com)  
A0016319X

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter.

The 50th anniversary of Morwell National Park will be celebrated this month. The celebratory dinner will be on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August at the Churchill Hotel.

**Friends of Morwell National Park celebrate**

**MORWELL NATIONAL PARK'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August  
6.00pm**

Churchill Hotel

After the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner we will hold our Annual General Meeting. This hoped that all members can attend.

**Friends of Morwell National Park  
Annual General Meeting**

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August  
7.30pm**

Churchill Hotel

A committee meeting will follow the Annual General Meeting.

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

Official Address of FMNP - [contactfmnp@gmail.com](mailto:contactfmnp@gmail.com)

**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:** Margaret Barker, Mike and Cathy Beamish, Eulalie Brewster, Graeme Busch, Kerry Campbell, Tamara Leitch, Wendy McDonald, Rose Mildenhall, Grant Pengelly, Wayne Pengelly, Joan Sikkema, Wendy Steenbergen, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

Included is the membership form to complete if you are unable to come to the Annual General Meeting.

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 2017/2018.

Name:..... Telephone:.....

Address:.....

Email: .....

## John's Jottings

The ongoing saga of WHEN and by WHOM our Park was Created, Legislated, and Declared is now finally at rest. It appears that the Declaration was in April 1967, and we have adopted that date. Below is some of the data our group has been able to assemble (many thanks to our many helpers) and we will celebrate our 50th with a happy heart.



**Ref: THE MORWELL NATIONAL PARK: by Dr. L.H. Smith.  
Article from the "Victoria's Resources Magazine" Vol. 9 No 2. June-Aug. 1967.**

"The circumstances surrounding the creation of Victoria's twentieth national park are as interesting as they are unusual. In fact, at the moment of writing, the area in question has not been declared, although on 29th. November 1966, H.E. the Governor of Victoria signed a Bill which had recently been passed by both Houses of Parliament, providing that the land should become the Morwell National Park after certain preliminary action had been taken."

**Ref: Morwell National Park November 1998 - Management Plan.**

"1.4 Creation of the Park

Morwell National Park (138 ha) was originally declared on 26 November 1966 as a result of the *Morwell National Park Act 1966 (Vic.)*. Subsequent additions in 1969, 1981 and 1989 increased the Park size to 396 hectares. The Park is included in Schedule 2 of the National Parks Act."

**Ref: Morwell National Park – Park Notes**

"Park Development

Originally declared in 1967, the Park has grown over the years and now covers about 410 acres."

**Ref: REPORT of the NATIONAL PARKS AUTHORITY for the Year ended 30th June 1967.**

"LEGISLATION

In April, 1967, an area of 342 acres, situated approximately three miles distant from the town of Yinnar was dedicated as the Morwell National Park."

"The declaration of this area as a national park was made possible by the co-operation of the Morwell Shire Council which provided half of the finance required to purchase the land, the other half being a special grant from the Government."

This subject (except for any consequent information on the exact date) is now closed!!!!!! Happy celebration.

## July Activity Report

At this activity we had Beryl, Ken, Graeme, Wayne, Rose, Mike, Tamara and Darren. Matt and John were also there for the meeting in the car park (they needed to leave after the meeting). We had apologies from Cathy, Peter and Wendy McD. With us for the activity was Melina Bath the State Parliament member (MLC) for Eastern Victoria. She was invited along by Shane because she has an interest in natural spaces and wildlife. She was very interested in what the group does and in seeing some sugar gliders.

The days' task was to complete the winter survey of the approximately 84 nesting boxes located along Billys Creek. It was a very cold day where beanies and gloves were necessary. While it was cold, at least it was dry.

The group started from the car park and began with the nesting boxes nearest Junction Road. Using the pole mounted camera, each box was located and then the camera was placed through the hole to video and collect still images what was inside each of the boxes. The roles of everybody changed throughout the day with different people locating the nesting boxes (found recorded on sectional park maps), while a few other people managed the camera, animal identification and record keeping.

All nesting boxes showed signs of use with scratching around the holes and leaf litter in most boxes. The sugar gliders, who are the most common users of the boxes, will live in small family groups and frequently change boxes. Multiple gliders will huddle together in a box especially during the cold of winter.







We stopped for lunch at the Baniff's Road Bridge across Billy's Creek. After lunch a smaller group (Rose, Mel and Beryl had left) surveyed the remaining newer boxes up the Butt Butt track and along the Baniff Road track.

Over the day we located at least 27 sugar gliders in the nesting boxes. There may be more found when the photos and videos are looked at on a bigger screen. All gliders found were huddled deeply into the leaves and grouped tightly together, so what we observed from above, may not include those further from the camera or under other animals.

This was the lowest recorded number of animals found in the boxes. The winter totals have always been lower than the numbers of animals located in summer. Last year in the winter survey, we located 47 sugar gliders.

### **August Activity**

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August 10.00am

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