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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter – October 2017*

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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter.

### John's Jottings

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

"14th October, 1988

Dear Friends,

This month I would like to present you with a series of "snapshots" of the happenings of the past month, and a quick peek at the weeks ahead!

Thursday 22nd September is another day that will go down in the history of the development of Morwell National Park. The (then) Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, Mrs Joan Kirner, visited Morwell to give two very important announcements regarding the Park.

Firstly, the Minister announced the allocation of \$92,000 to Morwell National Park for:

- Construction of an interpretation shelter.
- Development of a management plan to ensure that, with public participation, planning decisions are made about the future uses and developments of the expanded park.
- Encouragement of community participation through provision of support to the Fund Raising Committee and the Friends of Morwell National Park.
- Maintenance works to ensure that major environmental issues affecting the long-term viability of the park are being tackled as a priority - in particular problems with blackberries and other weeds, and fire protection. Mrs Kirner also outlined grants for other conservation projects in the Latrobe Valley at the same time.

Secondly, the Minister confirmed the commitment of herself and the State Government to the protection of important conservation areas, reforestation programs, and the costly and big task of protecting whole ecosystems. This was especially the case at Morwell National Park where visitors had increased eleven-fold over 10 years, and there was urgent need to control weeds, protect from fires, preserve natural bush and provide recreational facilities for the growing Latrobe area. Thanks was expressed for the hard work of the Friends group in its survey, labour and educational work over the years.

Mrs Kirner then went on to officially launch the Billy's Creek Appeal, officially known as the "Morwell National Park Development Appeal". Mrs Kirner further helped the appeal by herself donating \$50 to the Appeal.

Thanks must be expressed to Crs Keith Hamilton, Gloria Auchterlonie, Ms Val Callister, the Shire of Morwell for their help at this most important day in the life of the Park and the Friends group.

Thanks to Johanna for providing some details of this Launch for the newsletter.



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)

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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).

## September Activity Report

At this activity we had Ken, Grant, Tamara and Darren. We also had new member and local Craig along for his first activity. Sota, a Japanese high school student was along for the activity too. Matt and Beryl were there for the meeting before the activity. We had apologies from Rose, Mike, Cathy and Wayne.

During the last activity, Beryl slipped during the walk to the work site and fractured her foot. At the time she thought it was a sprain but discovered later that she had fractured her foot. It is still very sore and that stopped her taking part in the day's activity.

Over the last month, Matt took a group from Federation Training around the park to investigate weed management within the park. They looked at and discussed the weeds found in the park and how they are managed. They want to undertake some weed removal projects within the park and it was decided that we should support them with these efforts.

It has been mentioned that Parks Victoria has a technique to remove *Pittosporum* from higher ridges and we could look into this for future activities. We have many *Pittosporum* around the park away from the creek banks.

A few of the members are joining with the local Field Nationalists group to help them with a nesting box survey. They normally use a ladder to investigate each box. We will let them use the pole mounted camera to simplify the process.

The day's activity was to investigate the state of the Grand Strzelecki Track and complete some maintenance of this track. With it being wet over the last few weeks, the creek level was high making it impractical to be making the 23 creek crossing through high waters. Instead we completed some track clearing along the Billy's Weir Track.

Across the main track there were a few trees down and these were removed with the chainsaw. We worked our way by vehicle and foot to the first creek crossing. After this the whole group walked on to the beginning of the Grand Strzelecki Track. We found no further trees down and had to navigate around few wet spots on the track. After the Weir there are many large tutsan plants adjacent to the creek.

We walked back to the vehicles and then travelled back to car park. Lunch was had in the car park. After lunch the group finished for the day with Ken and Tamara returning the gear to the shed.





## October Activities

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October

### **Activity 1 – Orchid Walk**

**10.00am**

The first activity will be a walk of around Fosters Gully to search for the orchids which can be found at this time of the year. You will need to bring clothing suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

If you are staying for the koala count you will need to bring your lunch, which can be eaten in the Kerry Road picnic area between the activities.

### **Activity 2 - Koala Count**

**1.30pm**

The Friends of Morwell National Park will be carrying out the annual 'Koala Count in the Park'. Willing participants are requested to meet at the Kerry Road - Fosters Gully car park at 1.30pm to commence the Koala count.

The 'Koala Count in the Park' event is part of the long term strategy to document the numbers and measure the general health of the koalas within Morwell National Park.

Bring your family and friends and enjoy a pleasant stroll in the park while simultaneously helping the team in spotting the resident koalas that may be found in the park.

Participants are advised to bring suitable clothing and footwear applicable for the weather conditions, and if possible, bring a pair of binoculars as it certainly makes it easier to spot the koalas.