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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – November 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!

Sunday October 9th was our last Project day. A small but enthusiastic group of 9 gathered to help clear some paths through Blackberries in order to facilitate further Blackberry spraying by the Department. This was done on the northern bank of the second river crossing in Billy's Creek. Evidence of earlier spraying success was noted by the ferns starting to appear along some creek edges, where blackberries have previously choked them out.

This further helped with the discovery of an old, now derelict dwelling and outhouse on the hillside where we were clearing black berries. Many objects of past habitation had been spread throughout the nearby bush giving evidence that it may have been part of the agricultural activity that is a part of the Billy's Creek history. To add to this interesting and exciting discovery, we discovered two koalas in the small area we had been working in! So, we more than covered our aims for day without having to go far into the area! We had a terrific time. Thanks to all who attended and helped!!

The results of the Logo Competition were also announced at the October Project Day. We are grateful to our two judges, from GIAE and ARC Morwell, for their objectivity and help. First Prize went to Rohan Jones from Traralgon High School, with second prize to Trina Harrison also of Traralgon High School. Rohan's entry, with slight modification by the Judges, is the new letterhead, and Trina's entry can be used for Badges. On request of the two student teacher, the \$100 prize money is going to be shared between the two students.

Both entries will be featured in the "Express" and also at the Traralgon High School Art & Craft exhibition (October 18- 21). Some other entries will also be displayed at the Art & Craft Exhibition. It is planned to present the awards to Rohan and Trina at a Junior Ranger Day to be held shortly. Please show your support by attending, or sending an apology to Yvonne or Peter if unable to attend on the day."

Well, that's all for now folks. See you on 22nd October, 6th November and 13th November for more exciting activities. Peter Bryant



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

Official Address of FMNP - contactfmnp@gmail.com

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October Activity Report

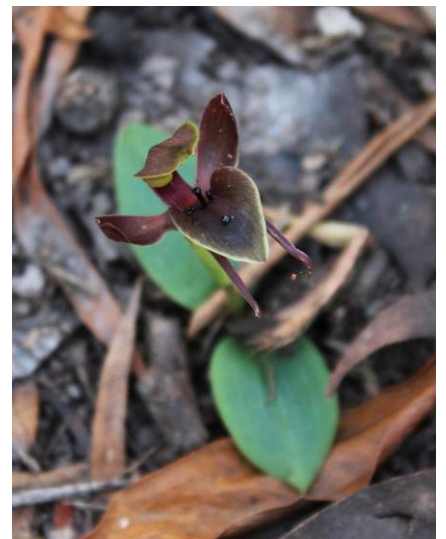
Activity one – Orchid Walk

At the Orchid Walk we had Matt, Chris, Joelle, Graeme, Denis and Darren. Denis is a new member and signed up on the day. We had apologies from Rose, Tamara, Wayne, Peter and Wendy Mc. Beryl was also along for the meeting only since she is unable to complete the walk with her sore foot (injured in a previous activity). She had also brought the paperwork for the Koala count.

For the orchid walk were joined by nine people from the community. They had read about the activity and were keen to see what orchids were out today. Matt welcomed the group and went through the necessary safety instructions for the walk.

The weather for the day was perfect for walking and great for orchid viewing. To ensure that we did not lose walkers, Matt led the group while Darren and Graeme followed at the tail. The group were thorough investigating many small orchids and other little flowers found beside the track. The variety of orchid found was not large but many were located. There was much disturbance around the outgoing track, the lyrebirds had been busy.

Some of the orchids and flowers found during the walk are shown below.



Activity two – Koala Count

For the Koala Count we had Matt, Chris, Joelle, Joan, Graeme and Darren. We were joined by eight members of the public. Matt welcomed the group and told them what they should be looking during the count (koala and tree details).

The group was divided into three groups with Fosters Gully, Stringybark Track and the Jumbuk Road fire break being surveyed.

Matt, Chris, Graeme and one community member travelled to the top of Jumbuk Road and walked back via the fire break. They drove to the top of the track and found two koalas on the top of the ridge and one at the end of the Fosters Gully track. Darren and Joan took four walkers around Stringybark Track and they saw one koala at the beginning of Fosters Gully track and another soon after crossing the bridge. Joelle took another three around Foster Gully to find 4 koalas (with the help of the other groups).



This total of seven koalas is the smallest total we have had and we hope that the lower total is just based on less observations rather than a smaller koala population. The numbers located each year have been variable and this variation has also between the different tracks, which makes sense considering koalas are very mobile animals.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Foster's Gully	4	3	8	4	4
Stringybark Track	3	2	3	7	1
Jumbuk fire trail	4	3	1	2	2
Totals	11	8	12	13	7

Over the three walks, many other animals were seen including a lyrebird, goanna, wallaby, skink and many birds.



November Activities

Sunday 19th November 10.00am

The group will meet at 10.00am in the Kerry Road car park. The group will work upon two tasks – the Butterfly Orchid survey and some track maintenance. You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

