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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – April 2018

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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. It seems that the group had problems with Ranger allocation way back then. The newsletter was quite long but interesting so I have continued it this month.

(Continued) February 28th, 1989.

"Ken made a report of his activities, most of us have been taking it easy but not him; his vigilance is appreciated. He has completed a flora & fauna list detailing his observations in Billy's Creek. This has been forwarded to Debra to assist in the preparation of the management plan. In checking back on the orchid sample plots he is very disappointed to again report that no plant has set seed and so far he has not observed any plants to do so in the park. This has raised many questions and I have written to two prominent amateur botanists who know this local area very well. By chance he met with Craig in Billy's Creek and they removed the last clump of Pussy Willow. Those that were there last December may remember I refused to go into deep rushing water, even in the name of conservation! He was most delighted to report seeing a small young Lace monitor (goanna) in the park.

Yinnar South fair on March 18th looks to be a quiet affair. I have been unable to contact Craig at this stage although I will keep trying. We do not know if CF&L are to have a manned tent and it was felt that some of the effect and appeal would be lost if we were to be alone. Some members have volunteered to help the fair committee by donating an hour's labour on the day - the group received a very nice cash donation for our trouble last year.

Thanks to Johanna Aziz and her family we can now proudly advertise to the community our group via pin on badges. A small donation towards the conference fund will secure one of these master pieces. Very soon hopefully our logo will also be able to be worn on T Shirts etc.

The next meeting on the third Sunday; March 19th at 1.30pm is a walk down the access track into Billy's Creek from Jumbuk Road. If you start to think we are going to just let you enjoy it you may be wrong. On the way we hope to have Ken tell us just what's a weed and what isn't. And why do you need to know you ask? Well we can't have you pull out the wrong plant can we. Needed will be a plastic bag and something big or small to help dig up the offenders.

Regards Yvonne Aplin."



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March Activity Report

This month we had two activities planned. The first activity was to be track maintenance around Stringybark Track. Earlier in the week the forecast was for a hot, humid and stormy day. Since it would have been risky to use chainsaws and trimmers in hot conditions, it was decided (with Parks input) to cancel the first activity. On the morning of the activity we found it wet and steamy instead of hot and humid. We received the best rain of the summer and would not have been able to do the activity with it being too wet rather than too hot.

At the second activity we had Matt, Tamara, Wayne, Peter, Wendy Mc, Beryl, Ken, John and Darren. We had apologies from Mike, Cathy and Grant. The evening activity started with a barbeque. While John started the barbeque, Ken and Wayne set up the mothing sheets and generator for the mothing activity. The barbeque stopped after a few minutes, but fortunately Peter and Wendy came with a barbeque, so this was used to cook dinner. This was the second activity where the barbeque did not work.

During the barbeque two koalas watched us from above the picnic area while Rose and David joined the group. After the barbeque a meeting was held. Parks had told the group about a round of Biodiversity grants which are currently open. It was decided to apply for a grant for weed reduction in Billy Creek basin.

Some teachers from Lavalla College have emailed with a request to make nesting boxes for the Park. The boxes will be made as part of a student based project. We have told them to ahead and we will use them to replace broken boxes. The students will be invited to view gliders in the current nesting boxes.

Heart walks are back and during Parks Week last week, the Heart Foundation organized a walk in Morwell National Park. It was a similar scenario to the previous walks where our leader guided the walk while nobody from the other organizations came. Four walkers enjoyed walk around Stringybark track where they saw two koalas. The walkers indicated that they wish to return for more walks or a future activity.

Express will soon have an article about Powerful Owls. A reporter has talked to Matt and David to make a profile piece about the owls in our Park.

Ken wants to publish a book on the moth species of Morwell National Park. He has recorded 666 species so far with another 300 moths still to be identified. Some of these moths are rare, but have been located in our Park. The group agreed to fund project (likely around \$3,000) and inquiry whether Parks would be interested in funding part of the project.

After the meeting and as twilight approached Ken, David and Matt set up for the mothing. The rest started towards Lyndon's Landing (on the Foster's Gully walk) to see what the spotlights and torches would find. We heard lyrebirds, boo books and wallabies and saw ringtail possums and koalas.

When the group returned to the mothing sheets, we found that some moths had started coming towards the light. The cooler night meant that there weren't many moths. The most common moth of the night was tiger moths.



April Activity
Sunday 15th April

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