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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – May 2018

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A0016319X

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.

"31st March, 1989.

Dear Friends,

The last activity day was a very quiet affair with only 4 families represented, 7 people in all. 5 of these accompanied by Craig walked down the access track from Jumbuk Road weeding out Purple Top Verbena en route. We extend a warm welcome to new members Steve & Shelley, we look forward to getting to know you both.

The activities of the Yinnar South Country Fair were enjoyed by a few of our members. I thank Wendy, Johanna, Joan & Faye for donating their time to help out with the billy teas and also assisting the fair committee. A letter requesting a donation to the Development appeal has been sent to the Fair Committee with a decision expected early April. Craig organized a tent with a nature trail that was very popular but the billy teas and damper were not taken advantage of as in previous years. The display photos of Billy's Creek and the aerial photo attracted a lot of interest.

Ken and his family enjoyed the Friends Conference at Roses Gap (Grampians) and he found it informative and socially stimulating. Ken is at present preparing an extensive report that we hope will be available next meeting.

Deborah Bourke (Planning Officer, CFL) has organized a Public meeting at the Churchill Community Hall on April 12th. 8pm. This is to be a forum for local residents to discuss the access options into Billy's Creek. Deborah has personally tried to contact each resident on Braniffs Rd and Tebb Terrace. This meeting is also for us (the friends) and I would ask you to make every possible endeavour to come." "Please mark your calendar - this could be a very important meeting.

"Work is advancing in Billy's Creek, a Botanist has begun a comprehensive survey and a bulldozer was due to do some work on the Jumbuk Road Access track as well as clean up and bury the remains of the 'Lodge'. Interviews have been conducted for the Ranger positions but I am unable to contact Craig to discover the outcome of these.

Our next meeting is on April 16th, 1.30pm at the end of Tebb Terrace. It is planned to remove hard rubbish that is scattered through the bush. Gloves maybe useful to help protect hands and avoid any nasty bites."

"Yours sincerely Yvonne Aplin"

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

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April Activity Report

At this activity we had Matt, Wayne, Beryl, Ken, Rose, Chris, Mike and Darren. We had apologies from Tamara, Peter and Wendy Mc. We met in the car park in raincoats. So far it had been a dry autumn, but that broke over the weekend of the activity. During the morning there had been regular rain and it was raining while we met in the car park.

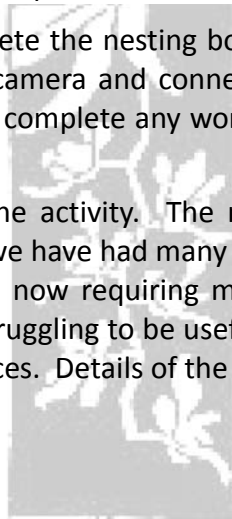
Matt spoke about the recent grants submission which we did not put in an application for. The submission required us to apply in partnership with Parks and he could not get any support from them.

Ken spoke about his book - Moths of Morwell National Park and it is progressing well. With the funding of the book, Parks Victoria have said they will not be helping but Ken will soon meet with Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists to see whether they can help. Our group will fund the rest of the printing costs. The planned print run is for about 650 copies. The book is at test print/layout stage and Ken showed the test print to the group. Ken plans for the 673 moth and 25 butterfly species that have been identified in the Park, to be included. He has another 200-300 moths still to be identified.

DELWP (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning) is trying to collect data about all of the nesting boxes in use. They want to be able to monitor all of these boxes. The group agreed to send details of our boxes to them. We are happy to send them these details, as long as it does not require us having to meet other paperwork or administrative requirements.

With the rain, it was not possible to complete the nesting box survey. The camera should not be used in rain and the water would be bad for the camera and connectors. We will postpone the survey to next month. With the rain it was decided not to complete any works and finish the day early. It was not worth everybody getting very wet for little reward.

We will hold a meeting instead of our June activity. The meeting will be to discuss and decide upon priorities for our group. Over the last year we have had many problems with Parks and their lack of support and any task which we want to undertake now requiring much paperwork and follow-up. We have an active and keen group of people who are struggling to be useful in this changing environment. We need to determine where to best devote our resources. Details of the meeting will be in our next newsletter.



May Activity

Sunday 20th May 10.00am

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.