

PO Box 19
Churchill
3842



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – July 2018

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeaan.net>
Official Address of FMNP - contactfmnp@gmail.com
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.

"May/June 1989

Dear Friends,"

"My name is Trish Grigg and I maybe the acting Secretary for the group. At the last meeting on the 21st of May 1989, we had fourteen adults and five children. Some of which were visitors. The Braniffs Road residents group sent a representative, Mr. Stan Glowacki. He has decided to join the Friends group.

The Friends had an informal meeting and discussed a recently published letter in the Latrobe Valley Express criticising the Billy's Creek Proposals. It was also suggested that members reply to the accusations. It was hoped that the D/CFL's Yarram Region's reply would be printed in the Latrobe Valley Express on 23rd May.

Note: it was printed on the 26th of May, under letters to the Editor.

A ride on the back of the Rangers truck was much enjoyed by the children although I am not quite so sure about some of the adults. We went up to Peel's land where we were shown the boundaries of the Park. There were also a few attempts at plant identification, some right and some wrong. We walked along a gully and stopped at the corner of the block, below the dam. After a short break and chat we walked up the hill to the firebreak and back to the truck. Once again on the back of the truck to see a recently bull-dosed fire access road along the boundary of Brewster's Block.

After this it was back to the car park for the usual cup of Billy Tea. It was a pleasure to once again meet Ian and Gail Roche, who dropped in to say hello and catch up on the gossip.

Good news is the Park has a new Ranger. His name is Mr Rob Howell, so please come to the next meeting to get to know him.

Our next meeting will be the 18th of June and it will be a working bee and tree planting day. Meet at the Park car park at 1.30 p.m.



Trish"

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

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Other members: Margaret Barker, Mike and Cathy Beamish, Eulalie Brewster, Graeme Busch, Kerry Campbell, Joelle Champert, Chris Lange, Tamara Leitch, Wendy McDonald, Rose Mildenhall, Denis Nagle, Grant Pengelly, Wayne Pengelly, Joan Sikkema, Wendy Steenbergen, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

June Activity Report

This month we had a meeting instead of our regular activity. At the meeting we had Matt, Wayne, Grant, Beryl, Ken, Tamara, John, Peter, Wendy Mc, Graeme, Mike, Cathy, Rose, Darren and Ranger Jo. We had an apology from Chris. We met in the Baniff Road car park before going to Wayne's house for the meeting. Thanks goes to Wayne for providing the place for the today's meeting.

First discussed was the Latrobe Friends and Volunteers Celebration held earlier in the week. A few from our group went and concluded that Paul Strickland from the Friends of Mt Worth State Park may be a good person to talk to about grant applications, since he has made many successful applications.

This meeting was held to discuss and decide upon priorities for our group. Over the last year it has been difficult to get support from Parks and we are finding that we need to work in a more independent nature.

The ideas discussed were:

- Make improvements to Blue Gum Hill track and Blue Gum Hill spur track. Improve the quality of the track, improve signage and install more seats and even a picnic table at the top. Make it a destination where walkers can spend some time.
- Get some people counters to gain a good picture of how many people use the different parts of the park.
- Complete some re-vegetation of Blue Gum Hill and/or the Jumbuk Road grassy area. For this we would need to collect more Blue Gum seed and look into outside groups which can grow our seed stock into seedlings.
- The Yinnar South Landcare Group have received a grant to plant a 25 hectare site near the southern boundary of the park. This is part of a larger project to make a habitat corridor through the Strzelecki Hills which will end at the southern end of the park.
- Need to be more proactive with how we promote ourselves via Facebook and the Latrobe Valley Express. We need regular updates on events or things that can be located in the park at a given time along with photos.
- We need to revisit the interpretative signs for around Foster's Gully. The current markers need replacing and updating along with the map. All of preparation work has been completed in previous activities. We will need to look for a grant to complete this project.
- Look into creating more interpretative signs for Potato Flat and the Lodge track to tell of the history associated with these places.
- Investigate whether we can join the IGA community benefits card program where for card holders a small percentage of purchases will go to the park.
- Look at the name of the Park since Morwell National Park may not be the best name to represent the area. It was named Morwell National Park because in the 1960's when the park started it would only be supported by the then Morwell City Council if it was called Morwell National Park. An indigenous name would be best like the local Tarra-Bulga. Matt has already started talking to the local Gunai-Kurnai people to see whether there is an indigenous name for the area or a feature here.
- Talk to Google Maps and change the location marker for Morwell National Park. The current location is at the center of the park (a place difficult to get to) and changing the location marker to one of the carparks would be more useful for people trying to find the park.
- Work on removal of fruit trees and ivy which are starting to become more common in the park.
- At our next activity remove we should work on some fallen trees which are across Muttonwood track and near the beginning of the Grand Strzelecki Track. Walkers can still travel around these

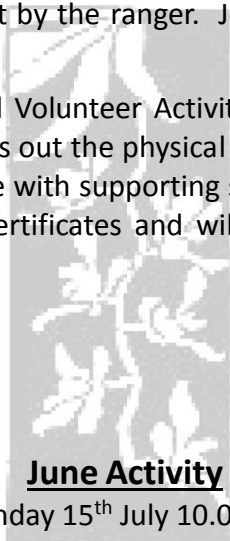
trees but vehicles cannot.

- An old wire fence line on the eastern side of Blue Gum Hill is still to be removed. We previously had removed this fence from the western side and across Blue Gum Hill, but the eastern section still remains.
- Look at getting more waders since the few that remain in the shed are in poor repair and more are needed if we do any work in the creek.

The 2018/19 calendar of activities was discussed. We needed to change from a calendar of activities based upon the calendar year to one based on the financial year so that we could possibly have rangers attend our activities. Rangers are rostered across each the calendar year and only work on 8 weekend days each year. The activities we will most want a ranger at will be the Koala count/orchid walk (where the public join the group and expect to see a ranger) and major track works. The 2018/19 calendar of activities is included at the end of the newsletter.

Jo spoke about Parks Connect. It is a portal of all Parks activities and services. Everything related to Parks is organized through this portal. This group is on the portal and all activities need to be entered and approved via the portal. Each person at an activity needs to be checked off on the system. All members can/should enroll on Parks Connect and they can access and receive a range of information from Parks. Other people from the community can find details of our activities and possibly select to join an activity. All JSAs should be completed on Parks Connect by the ranger. Jo can organize an induction for us on how to enroll and use Parks Connect.

Next Jo started the process for our Annual Volunteer Activity Plan. The plan outlines the activities and projects the group will be involved in. It sets out the physical and personnel resources you have to support these activities. We collected lists of people with supporting skills and qualifications. We will need to look into getting more people with first aide certificates and will need to get first aide equipment for each activity.



June Activity

Sunday 15th July 10.00am

The group will meet in the Junction Road car park to complete track maintenance at the beginning of the Grand Strzelecki and Muttonwood Tracks. You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

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Calendar 2018/9

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Activities are scheduled for the third Sunday of each month, with extra days scheduled as required.

Date:	Activity:	Venue and Time:
July 15	Weeding/Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
August 5	AGM	To be advised, 1.30pm
August 19	Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
September 16	Nesting box survey	Junction Rd, 10.00am
October 21	Orchid Walk Koala Count	Kerry Road, 10.00am & Kerry Road, 1.30pm
November 18	Orchid Survey	Kerry Road, 10.00am
December 16	Nesting box survey/seed collection Christmas Function	Junction Rd, 8.30am & Kerry Road 1.00pm
January 20	Seed Collection/Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
February 17	Weeding/Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
March 17	Weeding/Track Maintenance BBQ & Spot light walk/Moth survey	Junction Rd, 10.00am & Kerry Road, 5.30pm
April 21	Nesting box survey	Junction Rd, 10.00am
May 19	Weeding/Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
June 16	Track Maintenance	Kerry Road, 10.00am
July 21	Weeding/Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am

For all activities, it is BYO food, drinks, suitable clothing and footwear, and other personal items, unless otherwise indicated in the newsletter. Up to date details of each forthcoming activity are provided in the monthly newsletter, which is emailed to members and available to the public on the website.