

PO Box 19
Churchill
3842



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – September 2018

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.net>
Official Address of FMNP - contactfmnp@gmail.com
A0016319X

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. The Annual General Meetings for the group were held earlier this month. The minutes from the meetings and this year's President's Report are at the end of this newsletter.

John's Jottings

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

"21st, July, 1989.

Dear Friends,

At our last activity, which was a very successful clean up around Billy's Creek, there were 16 members in attendance. Only one local attended, and may we welcome, Stan.

During the day Rob's truck made two trips out of Billy's, one load was transferred to his new trailer. Rob feels that approximately 2 tonne of mainly iron was removed. He has asked me to thank those involved, together with a special thanks to the 4 people who gave up another Saturday on the 24th June, to plant those 90 Eucalyptus trees that were to have been planted on the 19th June, only the weather was against us. Thank you to those involved.

We were all quite pleased to see what a good job that the D.C.F. & L. had done in relation to burying the old lodge and workshop. We do however still have approximately one more load to remove, once some repairs are carried out on the bridge near the workshop.

Of special note to us is the fact that on the 23rd of May, the existing National Parks Act was amended to include Billy's Creek into the Morwell National Park. They also prohibited the mining and exploration in National and State Parks and in Wilderness Areas. So now, all the rules of National Parks apply to Billy's. Cr. Lawless expressed the feeling that the Council's attitude re access to Billy's would be in line with the feelings of the local residences at this stage.

Rob has now obtained some 44 gallon drums to be used in the recycling depot. Rob will happily assist with the unloading of your trailer loads of green and white glass, beer bottles and aluminum cans. Anything that is made out of this recycling is to go towards the cost of running the Friends Group. So come on Friends, Rob has the containers, let's fill them and help the environment at the same time. Thanks Rob."

"Yours Faithfully. Yvonne APLIN"



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President: Matt Campbell

Vice-President: Ken Harris

Secretary: Beryl Nelson

Treasurer: John Barker

Publicity: Peter McDonald

Public Officer: Beryl Nelson

Newsletter Editor: Darren Hodgson, hodgson.darren.d@edumail.vic.gov.au

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).

August Activity Report

At this activity we had Matt, Wayne, Grant, Beryl, Ken, Tamara, John, Graeme, Rose, Mike and Darren. Today it was wet. We met in the carpark while it rained.

Ken reported that his new book - Moths of Morwell National Park should next week come from the printers. He should have it for the next Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist meeting.

Matt and Tamara discussed a meeting (where they were our representatives) that occurred on 18/08/2018. The meeting was a gathering of local friends groups who oversee the management of many varied parks and reserves throughout central Gippsland. Paul Strickland had a great job of setting up, organizing and managing the event. The meeting had a range of guest speakers which then led onto reports from each of the different parks and reserves on how each was managing. The two focus National Parks (Baw Baw and Tarra-Bulga) and Tyers State Park reported good support from Parks Victoria while the rest of the groups stated that they were receiving little or no support. Tyers Park run all of their activities on weekdays when Parks staff are available on the normal roster. The focus of the meeting was to foster interaction between the different groups and identify things that can be shared for the greater good. Few groups had found much use or benefit of Parks Connect. An interesting statistic is that for each hour that a Parks ranger sends in a Park, volunteers have spent 12 hours.

Ranger Shane was on leave. A new round of grants have started for amounts between \$1,000-\$5,000 for purchase of tools and small equipment. If somebody has the time, Matt will happily give them the paperwork to make a submission. Matt and Ken discussed how they have been collecting different fungi samples and have been sending them to an expert for identification. The search is on for new varieties.

During the discussion the rain changed from showers to clear then a downpour. Additional waterproof jackets and umbrellas were collected to protect us from the rain.

Matt went through the JSA and the Volunteer Activity Form. Another downpour managed to wet all the paperwork. Most of the group elected to return to warmth and dryness of their homes, while Matt, Ken and Tamara went for a drive around Stringybark to clear the track of some small obstructions. So with the poor weather (not really poor since there has been so little rain this year!) it was a short activity for most of us.

September Activity

Sunday 16th September 10.00am

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

Friends of Morwell National Park

Annual General Meeting held Sunday 5th August 2018

Annual General Meeting declared open at 1.40pm

Attendance: - Beryl Nelson, Wendy Steenbergen, Darren Hodgson, Ken Harris, Tamara Leitch
John & Margaret Barker, Mike & Cathy Beamish, Rose Mildenhall, Wayne & Grant Pengelly.

Apologies: - Matt Campbell, Peter & Wendy McDonald

Previous AGM minutes held on 18th August 2017 were read and accepted as a true account.

Moved by Margaret Barker, **Seconded** by Tamara Leitch

The President's Report was read and accepted **Moved** by Ken Harris, **Seconded** by Beryl Nelson.

Ranger's Report – No report received from Parks Victoria

Treasurer's Report was read and accepted - **Moved** by John Barker, **Seconded** by Ken Harris.

The Treasurer reported that we have 23 financial members for 2017-18

The Term Deposit was re-invested on 8th July 2018.

Motion was **Moved** by John Barker that Incorporation fees (\$57.80) be paid for this financial year, and that membership fees will remain the same - \$10.00 per person, \$15.00 per family or group (**Seconded** by Darren Hodgson) passed unanimously.

Election of Office Bearers: -

President – Matt Campbell (**Moved** – Ken Harris, **Seconded** – John Barker).
Although absent from the AGM, Matt Campbell agreed to be President for another year.

Vice President – Ken Harris (**Moved** – Darren Hodgson, **Seconded** - Margaret Barker)

Secretary/Public Officer - Beryl Nelson (**Moved** – Wendy Steenbergen, **Seconded** – Cathy Beamish)

Treasurer - John Barker (**Moved** – Wendy Steenbergen, **Seconded** – Darren Hodgson)

Newsletter - Darren Hodgson (**Moved** – John Barker, **Seconded** – Rose Mildenhall)

Publicity – Tamara Leitch (**Moved** – Ken Harris, **Seconded** – Mike Beamish)

Annual General Meeting declared closed at 2.10pm

Friends of Morwell National Park **2018 Presidents Report**

This year my report will be very brief, especially compared to previous years. Partly to do with the fact that I'm not here and secondly, as I write this, I am suffering from a mild concussion and I seem to keep 'zoning out' and forgetting what it was I was doing.

Anyway, first off I'd like to thank everyone for the past year. It's been hard to keep up morale but I suppose we're all here because we share a common goal and that is to protect and promote Morwell NP. People have shown up time and time again to do what they can. The ongoing issues with Parks Victoria are making it hard to stay motivated but hopefully over the coming year we will get all that sorted and things can start looking up again.

I suppose one positive is that by planning the calendar so it lines up with the financial year means we can possibly see Rangers along to more events. Darren Hill has said that if he knows what activities we need or want a Ranger for, he can budget and plan for that.

It certainly looks like Parks Connect is here to stay and it is something we are going to have to start using, as much as many of us, myself included, aren't too happy about. In the past we gave up our time to help Parks and everything else was done by them. Now we're expected to not only provide our time for the activity, but we're expected to do everything else as well. Jo has been great in trying to assist us in the transition but I fear we need a lot more work on this matter. I guess we will need a group training and information session at some time. So far Ken and I are the only ones trained and that was 2 years ago. I've certainly not done much with it since.

It was also good that we skipped our June activity to plan some projects. It was great having so many along (and massive thanks to Wayne's hospitality) and some really great ideas were suggested. As with any such sessions, some will come to fruition, some will be modified and some may never happen, but at least it's given us something to work on. I don't know about the rest of you but personally, if I look at the calendar and all it has it weeding and track maintenance, it can be hard to get motivated.

Anyway, I'd like to thank everyone for attending today and I hope it goes well. I'd probably rather be there than where I am but the fact is I'm elsewhere. I did say at the last activity that should nobody else put their hand up, I'll do this job again but unless things change dramatically for me, this will be my last year in the role. I have/am enjoying it and I've made a lot of contacts and learnt a lot, but it is getting harder for me to make time and do the job that the position both demands and expects. A couple of others have also indicated that, after very long stints in their respective roles, they would like to step down. I thank them for their time and work and I hope that others are willing to step up and take on some extra work.

p.s. Seriously, if anyone else wants to sit in the big chair, don't be afraid to put your hand up!

Friends of Morwell National Park

General Meeting held Sunday 5th August 2018

General Meeting declared open at 2.00pm

Attendance: - Mike & Cathy Beamish, Beryl Nelson, Darren Hodgson, Ken Harris, Wendy Steenbergen, John & Margaret Barker, Grant & Wayne Pengelly, Rose Mildenhall, Tamara Leitch,

Apologies: Matt Campbell, Peter & Wendy McDonald.

Minutes of previous meeting held on 18th August 2017 were read and accepted as a true account **Moved** by Beryl Nelson, **Seconded** by Ken Harris.

Business arising from Previous Meeting: -

The situation with Parks Victoria remains unsatisfactory, Ken Harris suggested that we write to a higher authority.

Discussion regarding **Parks Connect** – which each member will need to register onto the database, as we have no choice.

Discussion about access to Friends equipment at Kerry Road and the need to keep the chainsaws and brush cutters sharp and maintained – Wayne and Grant Pendelly offered to maintain them for the Friends Group.

Inwards Correspondence: -

4th July 2017 - Reminder email from VEFN that nominations for VEFN 2017 Best Friend Award will be closing 26th July 2017.

15th July 2017 - Email from Consumer Affairs regarding the Annual Statement Notification.

25th July 2017 – Email from Ashlee Hope (Volunteer Officer Parks Victoria) regarding Park Connect Group Member Registration.

14th August 2017 – Email from Melinda Bath MP requesting to be put onto MNP newsletter distribution list.

7TH Sept 2017 - Letter from Australian Government requesting an update of details related to our ABN.

8th Sept 2017 – Tax Invoice received from Consumer Affairs Victoria for payment \$56.90

Incorporation Fee for 2016-2017.

14th Sept 2017 – Friends of MNP were unsuccessful in applying for Biodiversity Community On-Ground Action & Volunteer Action Grant.

27th Sept 2017 – Australian Business Register sent in form to update the Friends Group details.

12th Nov 2017 – Email from Friends of Tyers Park, inviting other Friends groups to a barbeque at Peterson's Lookout at 6.00 Thursday 14th December 2017. Tyers Park had encouraged Parks Victoria to restore the annual barbeque held before Christmas but to no avail.

21st December 2017 – Email from Dylan Roche regarding upcoming Junior Ranger activities being held in the Morwell National Park and surrounding areas.

10th April 2018 – Email from ATO regarding help for your No-For-Profit organizations.

11th May 2018 - Email from Melinda Bath, extending an invitation to community groups to meet the Shadow Cabinet 28th May 2018 at Premier Function Centre between 12-1pm.

23rd May 2018 – Invitation to VEFN Social Media Workshop on 16th June 2018.

27th May 2018 – Email from Joanna Durrant regarding Friends and Volunteers Celebration event on 13th June 2018 to be held at Park Headquarters Traralgon.

3rd June 2018 – Email from Stephen Derrick (VEEN) encouraging people to have their say on environmental volunteering.

18th June 2018 – Email from Paul Strickland, nominations for VEFN 2018 Best Friend Award closes Wednesday 27th June 2018.

Outwards Correspondence –

8th Sept 2017 – Email from Consumer Affairs Victoria returning “Annual Statement” after AGM Minutes/annual incorporation fee were submitted.

20th Sept 2017 – Letter of “thank you to Angela Robertson for her work related to Morwell National Park proclamation/formation. Angela also donated related information to the Friends Group which will be incorporated into our records.

27th October 2017 – Form sent back to Australian Business Register updating details of Office Bearers of the Friends Group.

General Business:

There was discussion by members regarding the June meeting with Park Victoria (Joanna Durrant) at Wayne Pengelly’s residence – had there been any feedback from Parks regarding the ideas put forward?

Discussion about the Activities timetable, the Friends group will have to make sure it is formulated in May, to have it available for Parks Victoria, before the start of the next financial year.

There was discussion about Climate Watch, whether MNP had been included, Matt Campbell had taken some visitors out to the Park

Ken Harris informed the meeting that Morwell National Park Moth Book had been completed – some minor adjustments were required. The book will be available in late August for the public and interested groups to purchase.

John Barker brought along to the meeting, some Ritchie (IGA) cards/key tags that the Friends group can use and the proceeds will be directed to the Friends of Morwell National Park.

Ken Harris indicated that the Friends Group will have to get a permit for some seed collection in December/January – so that some tree planting can be done later next year.

Meeting declared closed at 2.50pm