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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – December 2018

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaean.net>
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A0016319X

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. With the end of the year close, we want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

John's Jottings

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

"October 1, 1989
Hello,

Last month's koala count was disappointing both in terms of the number of Friends who bothered to take part, and the number of Koala's sighted. Only 5 koalas in total were found, including the one above the barbecue area. Let's hope that this result is an indication of our skills of observation, and not a true census of the koala population.

A few friends helped DCF&L staff at information stand at Mid-Valley shopping centre to help familiarise people with the new Billy's Creek extension. As would be expected, the reaction was subdued, but was quite positive, with many people taking the opportunity to clarify some doubts that they may have had regarding access.

The next meeting is at 1:30 p.m. on October 15, at the bottom of Tebbs Terrace. The official task is blackberry slashing and a koala survey in the Billy's Creek area, however a general weed clearing day will probably take place. Judging from past visits to Billy's Creek, rubber boots will be a necessity."

"Finally, the Friends will have a display at the Children's Expo, to be held at Kernot Hall on Sunday, October 22. If you would like to lend a hand to subdue the milling masses, please contact Yvonne.

Look forward to seeing you on the 15th.
Steve."



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President: Matt Campbell

Vice-President: Ken Harris

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

November Activity Report

We had Matt, Tamara, Ken, Beryl, Wayne, John, Graeme and Darren in for the day's activity. We had apologies from Rose, Grant, and Wendy.

We held a meeting in the picnic area to catch up what has happened over the last month. Ken reported that since the release of **Moths of Morwell National Park**, that over 100 books have been sold. They are still available from Ken, Matt or Churchill Newsagency. The barbeque in the Kerry Road Picnic Area is still to be repaired. We hope that it will work next month for our end of year gathering, next month.

Matt told the group that a suggestion to revise the name of the National Park, has come in. The idea is to add the indigenous word for the Powerful Owl to the current name. There was concern that this word is not a local indigenous term where Morwell is at least a local indigenous word. Powerful owls are found in the park in small numbers but it is not what the park is known for.

In relation to the theft of our equipment from the shed, Parks Victoria have found \$1000 to help replace the stolen equipment. It won't cover everything but it's probably as much as, if not more than, what an insurance claim would have paid out. The equipment shall remain the property of Parks Victoria but be designated for the use only of the Friends of Morwell National Park. We will need to look at storage options (storing in somebody's shed) since the shed is no longer be considered a safe spot. The suggestion to store the equipment in Parks sheds in Traralgon was not viable since few of us live in the Traralgon area and getting equipment to activities would be difficult.

We would like to thank Darren Hill and Helen Dixon for chasing this up for us and Shane Atkins for his work after the break in. Thanks also goes to Jo Durrant, who happened to be on the phone with Matt when he found that we'd been robbed.

Matt went to Lavalla College to take delivery of 10 new nest boxes, made for us by the VCAL Students. They've done a great job. Over the last month, a second group of Lavalla VCAL students accompanied by Jo Durrant and Matt completed a lap of Stringybark and Fosters Gully and did a lot of pruning and cleaning up.

John has also received 10 nesting boxes from Churchill Men's Shed. These boxes are also very well constructed and look like luxury boxes in comparison to our existing boxes. We now have many new boxes to replace some of the current boxes which are beyond repair.

The group split to undertake two different tasks. Ken, Matt and Tamara completed the Butterfly orchid survey where they surveyed the five test plots.

The rest of the group moved to the Billy's Creek Track where they completed repairs to the main track. Graeme had organized crushed rock from Quality Roads which was used to fill some large holes in the main track. A big thanks goes to Quality Roads for the donation of the crushed rock. On the main track there was a broken culvert which resulted in a hole in the middle of the track. Graeme had manufactured a rounded metal plate to repair the hole and the addition of the crushed rock secured the track. The remaining crushed rock



was used on the approaches to the bridge across the Billy's Creek at the end of the Banniff Road track. The wombats regularly dig out these approaches so the crushed rock should make the use of this bridge easier.

After a little hard work it was nice to walk back along Billy's Creek Track, to return the carpark. It was a lovely spring day where we greeting many walkers who were also enjoying the day.



December Activity

Sunday 16th December

Activity 1 – 8.30am Junction Road Car Park: Nesting box survey

We will use the pole-mounted camera to view the animals in each of the boxes.

For this activity you will need to bring clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

Note: the early start time (8.30am) so that all boxes can be surveyed before lunch.

Activity 2 – The Christmas BBQ celebration will celebrate the year and start at about 1.00pm.

You are welcome to can come of one or both activities.



Friends of Morwell National Park Christmas BBQ

Come along and enjoy in a BBQ lunch to celebrate another successful year of activities for the Friends of Morwell National Park

When: Sunday 16th December

Time: 1.00pm

Where: Kerry Road picnic area

What to bring: BYO plate, cutlery, cup/glass, drink and bring either a salad or sweet.