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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter – January 2019*

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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 from early Newsletter files.

"November 5, 1989

Hopefully we've got a park left after the recent rains. Billy's Creek became Billy's Torrent after the big storm. According to Rob, water was up over the bridge at the start of the Stringybark Ridge walk. Ah, the delicate and subtle nature of spring-time in the Valley.

Back to business: our last meeting was held in the Billy's Creek area, with a small contingent chopping back and weeding out a particularly nasty patch of Purple-topped Verbena. Hopefully, with a bit of patience and a lot of sweat, we'll eventually be rid of the ugly thing in the area.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, a Children's Expo was held at Kernot Hall. Judy and Johanna deserve thanks for helping out DCF&L staff at the show. A simulated riverbank scene was set up, with model animals and noises aplenty. Apparently the day was very busy, with a lot of interested people taking in the exhibit. Thanks again for your help, folks.

Our next meeting will be on November 19, at Fosters Gully car park at 1:30 p.m. We will be carrying out a koala survey and Butterfly Orchid survey. Please try to come along, so we can get a better koala tally than last time (5!). Another reason to have a good showing is that MLC for Gippsland Province, Peter Hall, will hopefully be dropping in to be shown over the new Billy's Creek extension.

If you watch the local news on Channel 8, you may have noticed Yvonne's mug on the screen a few weeks back. She had the opportunity to talk about issues such as land clearance and the easing up of restrictions on the registration for the care of native animals. Hopefully, with contact like this, the opportunity may be taken in the future to give the Friends a plug through a popular medium.

Friends haven't been idle between meetings: some serious family building has been taking place. Congratulations to Peter Bryant and Sandy on their recent engagement. Congratulations also to Stan Glowacki and his wife on their recent baby. Just 16 more years, and we'll have another Friend signed up.

Look forward to seeing you on November 19.

Steve"



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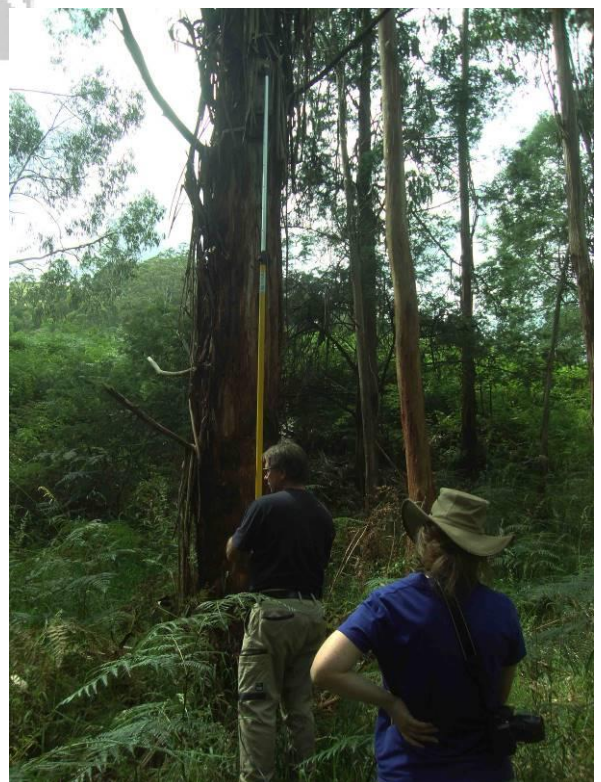
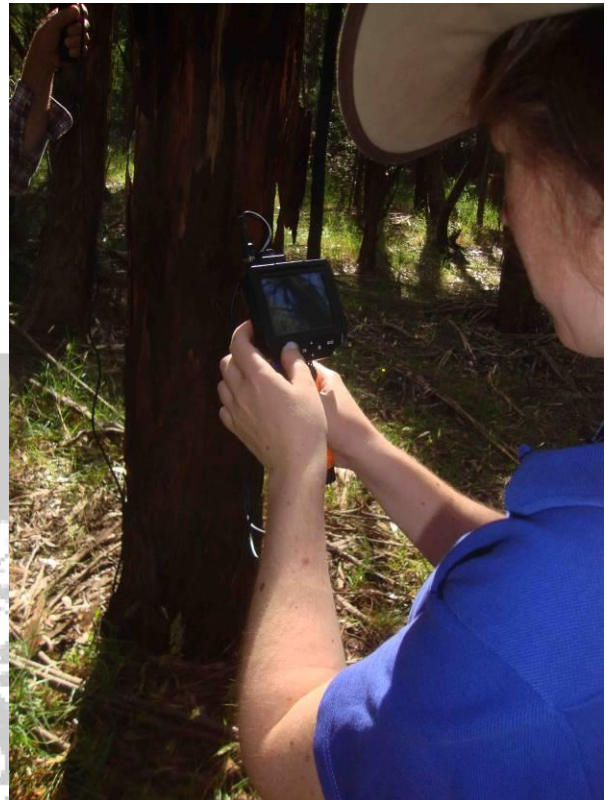
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## December Activity Report

We had Matt, Tamara, Ken, Beryl, Wayne, Grant, Graeme, Joelle and Darren for the nesting box survey. Joelle has also brought Jay and two friends visiting from Germany who were keen to see a variety of animals. Also with us was David Stickney who joined us for the survey of the early boxes.

We started the day early (8.30 for some and around 9.00 for the others) and began the survey with the boxes closest to the car park. Throughout the morning the group rotated between the using the pole mounted camera to complete the survey and pulling weeds which are growing well.





In the nesting box survey, the numbers of sugar gliders were healthy with a few boxes having at least four-five gliders huddled together. In one box we found a nest of three crimson rosella. This is the first time that we have found birds nesting in the nesting boxes. The boxes have been well used since installation by the gliders and possums, so it was great to find birds in the boxes.

Throughout the survey it was found that more boxes are in the need to be repaired or replaced. Some boxes need new lids or replacement bases. For some boxes it will be easier to replace them rather than repair the boxes. We have new boxes constructed by the Lavalla VCAL students and the Churchill Men's Shed available to replace these older damaged boxes. We will need to schedule the repair and replacement of nesting boxes into a future activity (hopefully February).

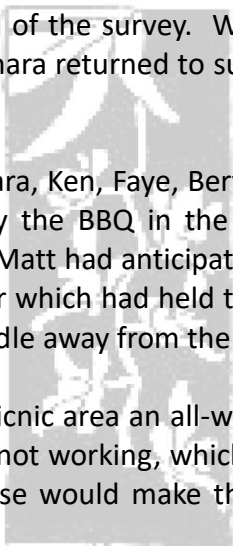
Our new German friends were excited to see the many gliders found in the boxes. They also spotted the koala in a tree beside one of the boxes. They then travelled off to explore other parts of the park. Over the morning a few different mobs of kangaroos were also seen.

We found that weeds are growing well. Blackberries are growing strongly and are ready to fruit. Over the morning many thistle, ivy, foxglove, ragwort and teasel were found and removed. Many more weeds need to be removed and we will plan to spend time at the next activity working on this.

The groups joined together toward the end of the survey. We were efficient in finishing the survey early but missed two of the boxes. Matt and Tamara returned to survey these boxes while the rest made a slow walk back to the car park.

For our end of year BBQ we had Matt, Tamara, Ken, Faye, Beryl, Wayne, Grant, Mike, Cathy, Graeme, Rose, Wendy, John, Margaret and Darren. Sadly the BBQ in the picnic area is still not working (after many promises to have it fixed from our ranger). Matt had anticipated this problem and brought a small portable BBQ to cook lunch upon. Sadly the weather which had held together for the morning activity did not hold for lunch. This resulted in us needing to huddle away from the rain, under the information board roof.

It would be great if Parks could make the picnic area an all-weather site with multiple BBQs (so the public are not disappointed when the only BBQ is not working, which has been the case for over half of this year) and water proof place to sit and eat. These would make the picnic area a better destination and a lot better to use for the general public.



John and Margaret had organized the meats and condiments, while we each had brought a salad or sweet. Graeme returned home to collect a folding table to put the food upon. Huddled away from the rain a lovely lunch was enjoyed. Beryl's cheesecake and Graeme's black forest cake were much loved. Mike left with his sweet tooth very satisfied.

### **January Activity**

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January 10am

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

