

PO Box 19  
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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter – August 2019*

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.net>  
Official Address of FMNP - [contactfmnp@gmail.com](mailto:contactfmnp@gmail.com)  
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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter.

At the beginning of August we will have our Annual General Meeting. It is hoped that all members can attend. Included is the membership form to complete if you are unable to come to the Annual General Meeting. Thanks goes to Margaret and John who will kindly host the meeting for us.

### Friends of Morwell National Park Annual General Meeting

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August  
1.30pm

10 Walker Parade, Churchill

A committee meeting will follow the Annual General Meeting

At the conclusion of both meetings we will have Afternoon Tea – Bring a plate

To: Treasurer, Friends of Morwell National Park, PO Box 19, Churchill, 3842

Please find enclosed the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$10 per person, \$15 per family/group) being for membership 2018/2019.

Name: ..... Telephone: .....

Address: .....

Email: .....

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

Official Address of FMNP - [contactfmnp@gmail.com](mailto:contactfmnp@gmail.com)

President: Matt Campbell

Vice-President: Ken Harris

Secretary: Beryl Nelson

Treasurer: John Barker

Publicity: Tamara Leitch

Public Officer: Beryl Nelson

Newsletter Editor: Darren Hodgson, [hodgson.darren.d@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto: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, Peter & Wendy McDonald, Rose Mildenhall, Denis Nagle, Grant Pengelly, Wayne Pengelly, Joan Sikkema, Wendy Steenbergen, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

## John's Jottings

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



"May 1, 1990

Hello,

Who would have thought that we would be worried about whether the trees we planted would get enough water? All we need worry about now is whether or not they've slipped down the bank. Approximately 150 plants were put in; including blue and grey gums, prickly mo, wonga vine, varnished wattle and blackwood. Here's hoping some pesky rabbits haven't made a feast of them.

Well there's news a'plenty this time around. About a month back, Rob took a walk around the park at night and spotted a couple of Greater Gliders in the car park/Fosters Gully area. Ken also had the pleasure of seeing a Wedge-tailed Eagle by the lodge site at our last meeting.

The Yinnar South Country Fair committee has generously donated the funds to purchase 5 large vermin traps - at \$80 a pop; this is a very helpful contribution.

Students from Monash Uni are currently doing a project to look at the rate of vegetation, and the species that re-vegetate, following the spraying of blackberries. They have test plots set up along the Billy's Creek reserve between the park and Junction Road. The information obtained from this work should prove invaluable in monitoring re-vegetation in the new section of the park.

Whilst on the subject of the creek reserve, Ken has spotted a small cluster of swamp gum with very accessible seeds. These should prove valuable once the pussy willow is removed from the creek banks.

Some research closer to home is being planned by a teacher from Yinnar Primary School. He has applied for an environmental research grant, and plans to involve the kids in some tree planting in the park. This planting will be coupled with some broader teaching of ecology within the park. This will hopefully lead to a much greater appreciation of the role of the park by the local kids. At the very least, they'll have a strong personal appreciation for the park, after having had a part to play in its re-vegetation.

And so to our next meeting: please note the changes. The Department of Conservation and Environment (as they now must be known) have cancelled all weekend work in the region, as Wilson's Prom. blew out their budget. This is going to make Friends work very difficult for the rest of the financial year. Still, with socially redeeming projects like changing your name to occupy your time, why waste money on trivia like hands-on conservation work by volunteers. (I enjoyed that).

Anyway, next meeting will involve weeding, either of verbena around Billy's Creek, or pine seedlings along Jumbuk Road. We are still meeting on May 20 at 1:30 p.m. however we are now meeting at Foster's Gully car park. It'd be great to see you with shovels etc. to help out. The weed infestation in the new section of the park is going to take some work to overcome.

See you round,  
Steve"

## July Activity Report

This month we had Ken, Tamara, Wayne, Beryl, Graeme, Sharon and Darren for our July activity. We had apologies from John, Rose, Mike, Cathy and Matt. The group met in the Junction Road car park to make our plan for the day. Over the day we would complete the winter nesting box survey. Ken had the pole mounted camera, maps and record sheets needed for the day's activity. We packed lunches into the vehicle and started the survey close to car park.

Close to the car park few gliders were found in the nesting boxes. Commonly our winter survey will find fewer gliders and this year's survey was the same. The animals found in each box was a lot lower than our summer survey. We found that many boxes need repairs (about 1/3) while some others need replacement. A few boxes were found on the ground at the base of the tree in which they started. The existing numbers are getting hard to read so it would be good to paint new numbers on the side on all of the old boxes. These tasks should be completed as part of a future activity.

Ken will investigate whether we can gain access to Blue Gum Hill via the adjacent property on Reidy's Road for next month's activity. If we can get vehicles and equipment to the top of Blue Gum Hill it make the activity easier and save having to carry gear from the Junction Road Car Park.

During the morning we had a little drizzle, but it was not enough to stop the survey. Over the morning we saw a few separate mobs of kangaroos and a koala. In one box the sugar glider came to the opening to greet us. Whether there were more gliders in that box is difficult to be determined. Beryl had been observant and removed some old tree guards and more patches of ivy. It is difficult to locate and remove all of these patches of ivy. The group stopped for lunch at the Baniff's Road bridge crossing.

After lunch the remaining boxes were surveyed and a more gliders were found. These newer boxes are being well used. After surveying the last box, Ken drove around to the Junction Road car park while a few of us enjoyed the sunny walk back to the car park. It was great to see a few different groups of walkers over the day.



## August Activities

For our August activities we will be joining with the Yinnar-Yinnar South Landcare Group to undertake a direct seeding trial on Blue Gum Hill. Over the weekend we will have two activities:

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August – 2.00pm** - Presentation by Bronwyn Teesdale about direct seeding as a planting method for revegetation projects at Yinnar ARC (Switchroom). Bronwyn worked for Greening Australia for thirteen years specialising in large revegetation projects mainly involving direct seeding. Prior to that she owned an indigenous nursery, and she currently coordinates the Basscoast Landcare Volunteer Nursery at Bass.

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August – 9.30 start** – Direct seeding trial on Blue Gum Hill. We will meet in the Junction Road car park to plan the day's work.

For the direct seeding trial, you will need to bring your lunch and drinks along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day. Jay from the Yinnar-Yinnar South Landcare Group has requested people (if they have them) to bring hoes, metal rakes or maddocks to clear soil for seeding and spice jars with shaker tops of seed distribution.

You can attend one or both activities depending on your availability.

The Yinnar Yinnar South Landcare group have a re-veg project that is only a few hundred metres upstream along Billy's Creek from the Morwell National Park boundary. So they have partnered with Friends of Morwell National Park to run a direct seeding demonstration/trial inside the park where the results will be easier to monitor than they would on their block.

Much of the Billy's Creek section of Morwell National Park was once farmland. It was planted to locally indigenous vegetation by volunteers from about 1980 on, and the early plantings are now forest that supports a wide range of native fauna.

Blue Gum Hill is an area that hasn't enough native vegetation, so the plan is to tackle that with this activity. The Yinnar Yinnar South Landcare group have a lot of left over seed from previous re-veg work that was collected inside the park, and they will be using this plus some recent collections for this direct seeding trial.