

PO Box 19  
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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter – September 2019*

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.net>  
Official Address of FMNP - [contactfmnp@gmail.com](mailto: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 two meetings, this year's President's Report and the planned program of activities for August 2019 - July 2020 are at the end of this newsletter.

This month we will have the last John's Jotting. John has for years searched through the old newsletters to find little gems to share with us. A big thanks goes to John for all of his hard work for both the newsletter and around the park.

### **John's Jottings (last of the series)**

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

"June 4, 1990  
Hello,

There's no complaints about the turn-up last month; we were able to split up into two groups. (!!!) One group went to the site off Jumbuck Road where we previously planted some trees, to re-secure the tree guards and remove some wayward pine seedlings. The other (fool) hardy bods did goat impersonations in the new section of the park to continue the removal of Verbena. Whilst the clearing looks impressive at the moment, the site will have to be closely watched to ensure that the stuff doesn't come back with a vengeance.

Rob made an interesting observation at the old workshop site where we planted back in April. Very few plants have been munched upon, however he noticed that the naturally regenerated plants hadn't been touched. I guess the disturbed soil must be a dead giveaway to any forager on the prowl.

Next meeting, on June 17, will have us combining the removal of the Nightshade, that's taking off like wildfire around Billy's Creek, with some tree planting. We will also be holding a meeting to deal with some business, the most important of which is paying our new members the courtesy of official accepting them into the fold.

Hope to see you there,  
Steve"



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**President:** Ken Harris

**Vice-President:** Matt Campbell

**Secretary:** Beryl Nelson

**Treasurer:** Mike Beamish

**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:** Cathy Beamish, Eulalie Brewster, Graeme Busch, Kerry Campbell, Joelle Champert, Gordon Duncan, Rose Mildenhall, Grant Pengelly, Wayne Pengelly, Joan Sikkema, Wendy Steenberg, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

Over the month we have had good rains (over 200mm) with some heavy downpours. Winter started relatively dry and it is good that we have received some late winter rains. The level of Billy's Creek rose with the increased water flows. The following photos show Billy's Creek and the Weir a week before our August activity. Thankfully the creek level dropped again before our activity.



## August Activities Reports

For this month we had two activities over the weekend paired with the people from Yinnar-Yinnar South Landcare group. The first activity was a presentation on Direct Seeding.

After the Annual General Meeting for the Yinnar-Yinnar South Landcare group was held and many problems with technology were solved the presentation started.

Bronwyn Teesdale spoke about direct seeding as a planting method for revegetation projects. Bronwyn has worked on many large revegetation projects involving direct seeding. She went through the different tilling techniques (machinery to hand digging techniques) and showed the results from some of the projects she has been involved in. Most techniques involved spreading seed by hand into tilled areas. It was interesting to see the site photos from small seedlings after six months to saplings after two years and larger trees after a decade.

Plans for the following day where the two groups will set up some test sites on Blue Gum Hill were discussed. The plan is to create some test sites on Blue Gum Hill of direct seeding to see how effective this technique will be for this area. The Yinnar-Yinnar South Landcare group then hope to transfer the techniques that work to their plot beside the Grand Strzelecki Track further up Billy's Creek.

The second activity for the weekend was a joint activity with the Yinnar-Yinnar South Landcare group to set up test sites of direct seeding on Blue Gum Hill. For this activity we had Ken, Matt, Beryl, Tamara, Cathy, Mike, Joelle, Rose, Graeme, Hayley, Gordon and Darren; and from the Yinnar-Yinnar South Landcare group we also had Jay, Dave, Bev and Wendy.

The groups met in the Junction Road car park to make the plan for the day. Seed collected from previous activities and seed from storage was to be used today. A combination of gum, wattle and other seed was mixed with dried sand (as filler) to make the seed mixture to be spread today. Plastic bags and plastic herb containers were filled with the mixture.

The group was split with some driving in from Reidy's Road (to come in via the top of Blue Gum Hill) and the others driving in via Billy's Creek Track. The seed mixture was split between the groups and mattocks

and hoes loaded into vehicles. Mike and Matt drove their groups to the base of Blue Gum Hill and walked up the side creek to where the Blue Gum Hill Track starts to zig zag up the hill. The creek level had dropped so these walkers were able to get across the crossings without getting too wet. Their terrain was very steep so a lot of care was needed and a few falls occurred.

The other group drove around the park to Reidy's Road where they entered the park and Blue Gum Hill via an adjacent property. Care was needed in driving in on the wet tracks. This group needed firstly to find the track and after finding it worked halfway down the hill. This test plot was to be adjacent to track cut in by contractors many years ago when they unsuccessfully tried to plant out the hill. The group divided with most scrapping a layer of grass and weeds away for the seed spreaders to spread the seed mixture on the bare spot. A seed mixture which had added apple box was spread closest to the track. When this ran out the remainder of the plot was sown with the standard seed mixture.

This group worked on for a few hours until all of the seed mixture was finished. Thankfully the group could get off the steep hill and sit down and have some lunch.



At the end of lunch this group spotted some of the other group working up the hill. A few travelled down to help them finish up while most of the group walked back to the top of Blue Gum Hill to drive out. It was found that driving out was more difficult than driving in. The uphill trip over the wet track was difficult.

The downhill group finished up the last of their seed in an area between the two test sites. They had experimented with some different tilling techniques so it will be interesting to come back and see which techniques were effective. The three test sites are very different and match the varieties of landscape at the Landcare's Billy's Creek site. The best conditions to start the seeds off is to have good rain after the seed is

sown and that occurred overnight after the activity. It will be interesting to see what the strike rates will be at the different sites.

### **September Activities**

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 10.00am

The group will meet in the Junction Road car park to complete maintenance on the nesting boxes. 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 4th August 2019**

**Annual General Meeting declared open at 1.40pm**

**Attendance:** - Beryl Nelson, Darren Hodgson, Ken Harris, Tamara Leitch, Matt Campbell, Mike Beamish, Rose Mildenhall, Gordon Duncan, Jay Duncan, Joelle Champert, Graham Busch.

**Apologies:** - Wayne & Grant Pengelly, John & Margaret Barker, Wendy Steenbergen, Cathy Beamish.

Previous AGM minutes held on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2018 were read and accepted as a true account.

**Moved** by Beryl Nelson **Seconded** by Tamara Leitch.

**The President's Report** was read and accepted **Moved** by Matt Campbell, **Seconded** by Mike Beamish.

**Ranger's Report** – No report received from Parks Victoria.

**Treasurer's Report** was read and accepted - **Moved** by Matt Campbell, **Seconded** by Joelle Champert.

The Treasurer reported that we have 19 financial members for 2018-19.

The Term Deposit was re-invested on 8th July 2019.

Motion was **Moved** by Ken Harris that Incorporation fees (\$59.20) 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 Beryl Nelson - passed unanimously).

Election of Office Bearers: -

**President** – Ken Harris (**Moved** – Matt Campbell, **Seconded** – Graham Busch).

**Vice President** – Matt Campbell (**Moved** – Ken Harris, **Seconded** – Beryl Nelson)

**Secretary/Public Officer** - Beryl Nelson (**Moved** – Matt Campbell, **Seconded** – Darren Hodgson)

**Treasurer** – Mike Beamish (**Moved** – Ken Harris, **Seconded** – Beryl Nelson)

**Newsletter** - Darren Hodgson (**Moved** – Matt Campbell, **Seconded** – Rose Mildenhall)

**Publicity** – Tamara Leitch (**Moved** – Mike Beamish, **Seconded** – Darren Hodgson)

**Annual General Meeting declared closed at 2.20pm**

## **Friends of Morwell National Park** **2019 Presidents Report**

I am sitting here trying to think back over the last year and pick out some key points, just drawing a blank. Then it dawned on me, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. That was the day the Yinnar South fire started. It made its way into the SW corner of the NP the following day. Thankfully the forecast high winds never eventuated and it has lost a lot of its intensity by then so the damage wasn't as bad as it could have been. The Park was closed for a while and re-opened gradually, but some of us were able to get in pretty soon after the fire and while it was something I'd have preferred never happened, it was good to see that most the fire had pretty much burnt through the undergrowth and left the trees largely intact.

The rehabilitation work took some time to commence but was done in a professional manner and with new life coming through it will be interesting to see the bush regenerate. We've already had some interesting fungi and the orchids could put on an amazing show come spring.

I suppose the other noteworthy event from the past year was the theft of our equipment from the sheds. Thieves peeled back the cladding on the tilt door and helped themselves to our brush cutter and hedge trimmer, along with most of our safety gear. While it did take a little while, Parks did come through and replaced most of what we lost.

Speaking of Parks, things seem up and down there. There's been a fair bit of staff movement so some of the faces we've come to know in recent years are no longer with us. It was such a shame to see Jo Durrant inform us that she was moving on but she had good reason. Jo did so much for us in her time here and I wish her all the best further east. Kirsten also left the area and will be an asset to her new region.

One thing Jo did that was highly appreciated was to set up over a year's worth of activities on Park Connect. I mentioned last year that we were stuck with Park Connect but all the work that Jo did made it so much easier to comply. In fact, in a way it's better than the old days where I'd have to get the volunteer paperwork to the office. Now I can just tick a few boxes and the work is done. This year will be a bit different, there'll be more work to do for me or whoever takes the role of President. But once set up, it's not too bad.

That leads me onto my next point. The Presidents job. I did state last year that I was struggling to give the role the time it deserved and that it would be my last. I suppose the problem is that a few others have also expressed the same thing about their roles and positions are never easy to fill in such organisations. I truly would love though to have someone else put their hand up. I'm more than happy to continue doing some parts such as signing off on the Park Connect stuff but I do need to make some more time for myself. Again, when I took on the role, things were much different but over time, more and more has been expected of us as a group which in turns creates a lot more work for some. The same goes for the other roles, which have been filled by the same people for a long time now!

Lastly, following on from the above, I would like to thank each and every member of the group. You keep showing up, month after month, giving your time to help us preserve this beautiful piece of the Strzelecki Ranges. It is a sanctuary for so many species, some of which are clinging on to survival in a world that encroaches on nature every day. So again, thank you to all of you.

Matt Campbell

## Friends of Morwell National Park

### **General Meeting held Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

#### **General Meeting declared open at 2.20pm**

**Attendance:** - Mike Beamish, Beryl Nelson, Darren Hodgson, Ken Harris, Rose Mildenhall, Tamara Leitch, Ken Harris, Matt Campbell, Graham Busch, Gordon Duncan, Jay Duncan, Joelle Champert.

**Apologies:** John & Margaret Barker, Wendy Steenbergen, Cathy Beamish, Wayne & Grant Pengelly.

Minutes of previous meeting held on 5th August 2018 were read and accepted as a true account

**Moved** by Darren Hodgson, **Seconded** by Tamara Leitch.

#### **Business arising from Previous Meeting: -**

No co-operation from Parks Victoria was received this financial year, not only it is affecting MNP but all “friends” groups. Not enough staff (Rangers) on the ground to help volunteer groups.

Climate-Watch, nothing has been heard regarding its implementation – though it was aimed at schools.

The Moth Book was released and a lot have been sold. The Lichen brochure has been selling very well.

#### **Inwards Correspondence: -**

**3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018** Email from Consumer Affairs Re – New reporting exemptions for registered charities.

**6<sup>th</sup> July 2018** Email from Ryan Incoll (Regional Mgr. Natural Environment (Gippsland)

Regarding the launch of the new Forest Park in the Strzelecki Ranges by Minister for Energy, Environment & Climate Change the Hon. Lily D’Ambrosio MP.

**8<sup>th</sup> July 2018** Annual Statement Notification from Consumer Affairs Victoria.

**17<sup>th</sup> July 2018** Email from Ryan Incoll (Regional Mgr. Natural Environment Gippsland)

Proposed Forests (Recreation) Regulations 2010 Amendments. Bratauaung Forest Park and Gunyah Rainforest Reserve – MNP being identified as stakeholder, were asked for feedback/views on management of these areas.

**22<sup>nd</sup> July 2018** Email from Consumer Affairs Victoria acknowledging the lodgement of our annual statement.

**12<sup>th</sup> Sept 2018** Email from Nadiah Rosian (Climate Watch Mgr.) inviting the Friends Group to participate in Climate Watch at Parks Victoria Traralgon – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

**19<sup>th</sup> Sept 2018** Email from Phoebe Macak (Dept. Environment Land & Water Planning Regarding Project results of nest boxes in Victoria.

**26<sup>th</sup> Sept 2018** Email from Joanne Durrant (Parks Victoria) regarding a community event exploring various ways to control & treat Tutsan in the Walhalla area.

**1<sup>st</sup> October 2018** Friends Net 104 September 2018.

**13<sup>th</sup> October 2018** Email from Parks Victoria informing the Friends group about BBQ dinner 30<sup>th</sup> November from 5pm at Bert Thompson Reserve.

**21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2018** Friends Group stolen equipment will be replaced by Parks Victoria who found \$1,000 to cover the cost. We will have to discuss safer storage of the equipment, once it has been replaced.

**21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2018** Matt Campbell attended Lavalla College Traralgon, to take delivery of 10 nest boxes, made for the Friends Group by VCAL students.

**19<sup>th</sup> Dec 2018** Christmas Greetings from Melina Bath MP – Member for Eastern Victoria.

**25<sup>th</sup> March 2019** Email from Matt Campbell regarding the extent of the fire within our Park boundaries.

**1<sup>st</sup> April 2019** Email from Matt Campbell advising that planned reopening of MNP and rehabilitation work was starting on Monday.

**16<sup>th</sup> June 2019** Email from Peter Maffei, Convener Bushwalking Tracks & Conservation asking Federation University whether any students would be interested in volunteering for track maintenance & conservation activities run by Bushwalking Victoria.

**17<sup>th</sup> June 2019** Email from Naomi Biggs Federation University replying to Peter Maffei – that there are opportunities for students to participate but needs some organization from Bushwalking Victoria.

**26<sup>th</sup> June 2019** Letter from Ritchies Supermarkets regarding the process changes to their Community Benefit Program.

**Outwards Correspondence –**

**21<sup>st</sup> Aug 2018** Department of Justice & Regulation (Consumer Affairs) Annual Statement lodged - \$57.80.

**22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2018** Email to Graeme Busch, thanking him for supplying stone material to fix up culvert/potholes and approaches to footbridge along Billy's Creek Track.

**General Business –**

No feedback has been received from Parks Victoria, regarding the ideas that were put forward at a meeting with Joanne Durrant at Wayne Pengelly's residence.

Discussion around the Activities timetable being formulated in May for Parks Victoria benefit, made no difference to the amount of co-operation the Friends Group has received.

Letter from Ritchie's Supermarkets was discussed as to the benefits, as the current system is no longer functional due to hard disk failure.

The Group discussed the how direct seeding of Blue Gum Hill was to be achieved, in the following fortnight.

**Meeting declared closed at 3.20pm**





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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## Calendar 2019/20

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

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Activity:</b>	<b>Venue and Time:</b>
August 4	AGM	Churchill, 1.30pm
August 17	Direct seeding presentation	Yinnar ARC, 2.00pm
August 18	Blue Gum Hill seeding	Junction Rd, 9.30am
September 15	Nesting box maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
October 20	Orchid Walk Koala Count	Kerry Road, 10.00am & Kerry Road, 1.30pm
November 17	Orchid Survey	Kerry Road, 10.00am
December 15	Seed collection Christmas Function	Junction Rd, 10.00am & Kerry Road 1.00pm
January 19	Nesting box survey	Junction Rd, 10.00am
February 16	Weeding/Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
March 15	BBQ & Spot light walk & Moth survey	Kerry Road, 5.30pm
April 19	Track Maintenance	Kerry Road, 10.00am
May 17	Weeding/Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
June 21	Track Maintenance	Kerry Road, 10.00am
July 19	Nesting box survey	Junction Rd, 10.00am
August 2	AGM	TBC, 1.30pm

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.