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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – February 2020

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Hello everyone and welcome to this months' newsletter.

January Activity Report

At this month's activity we had Ken, Beryl, Mike, Graeme, Matt, Tamara, Rose, Joelle, Wendy, Wayne, Grant and Darren. We had Maria and Miguel along for their second activity and Kim came for her first. They had travelled from Melbourne for the day. We had apologies from Hayley and Gordon. This was a great rollout for the first activity of the year.

Over January, Parks rangers have run a few Junior Ranger activities which get children into the park to discover the plants and animals found in the park. The Minibeast Discovery allowed the children to get their hands wet and peer into the world of minibeasts. The Climate Watch Trail Walk encouraged the children to become citizen scientists and help the Rangers learn how climate is affecting our plants and animals.



The Parks contractors have been in the park and they have recently slashed the tracks and park boundaries. Our Ranger, Gabby has reported that they hope in the near future to have the parks works teams in to do some track maintenance. This will be after all fire recovery works have been completed.

In relation to Climate Watch, there have so far been no interest from school groups. So it has been suggested that we make some of our regular activities, dual activities with most completing the regular maintenance activity while a few support and lead a Climate Watch walk.

The main activity for the day was to complete the nesting box survey. The group started at the car park and worked down Billy's Creek Track. The pole mounted camera was used at each nesting box to view what was inside each box. While most of the group worked together to locate boxes, view inside each box with the camera and record the findings, others worked on removing some weed species. Rose followed the survey crew and removed weeds from this area while the 'ivy league' of Beryl, Graeme and Darren worked on some patches of ivy, foxgloves, thistles and tutsan. This group was happy that there were not a large numbers of tutsan in the sections of the creek they worked upon. Most tutsans were older bushes with much fruit.

Before 1pm the groups joined up and lunch was taken. Rose, Wendy, Joelle and Graeme left during lunchtime. After lunch the groups reorganized to survey the remaining boxes and tackle a few more weeds.

Over the day, many mobs of kangaroos were seen and at least 48 sugar gliders were found in the nesting boxes. These numbers could be revised upwards when the video footage is checked and a clearer picture of how many animals were in each box is established. No other species were found in the nesting boxes. A few of boxes had come off their trees while a couple of others have moved on the tree and will need follow up maintenance.



February Activity

Sunday 16th February 10am

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