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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – March 2020

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Hello everyone and welcome to this months' newsletter.

A big thanks goes to Tamara who wrote about and took photos at the last activity.

February Activity Report

After gathering at the Junction Road carpark and sharing our experiences of Friday night's violent storm (around 80 mm locally), we focused on the day's task of track clearing.

First we attended to a large, messy fallen branch near the firebreak end of Fosters Gully, and admired a number of flowering Autumn Bird-orchids on the way back. Harry, Joan and Chris completed the Fosters Gully loop and came across a very solid, dead Blackwood over the track, but this one was a bit big for us to tackle. We noted that the sign at the start of Fosters Gully Walk was flat on the ground, due to both of its wooden posts having rotted at the base.



We proceeded around the Stringybark Ridge loop, clearing small logs and spindly wattles hanging over the track. We found a comfy log near the top of the hill to sit on while we ate lunch and discussed the breeding behaviour of koalas and the difficulty in distinguishing Messmates from Yertchuks when their bark is burnt.





At the south-western corner of the loop, the sign at the junction had been burnt during the fire in March last year, and the track was almost obscured by new growth. Walkers were seen taking the track to West Boundary instead, thinking they were heading towards the carpark; we intercepted a bewildered bunch on one of the small tracks linking West Boundary to Stringybark and pointed them in right direction.

A single, mysterious plant with broad, sticky leaves was observed not far from the missing sign – although it looked quite out of place, Ken thought it may be a native plant in the Daisy family. At the edge of the burnt area, we found some Pale Grass-lilies and Blue Pincushions flowering, and the remains of flowers on a Holly Lomatia. Ken said the Grass-lilies were flowering well out of their normal season, and he had never seen a Lomatia flowering before in the Park, even after a planned burn undertaken some years ago.



Nice views of a foraging wallaby were enjoyed by some as we ambled back to the carpark at the end of the day.

March Activity

Sunday 15th March 10am

The group will meet in the Kerry Road car park to complete track maintenance. **Note:** This is a change from the original calendar and we will complete the evening mothing activity in April. You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.