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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – April 2020

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Hello everyone and welcome to this months' newsletter.

March Activity Report

At this month's activity we had Ken, Mike, Cathy, Graeme, Matt, Tamara, Rose, Darren and ranger Craig. We had Shelena along for her first activity. We had an apology from Beryl.

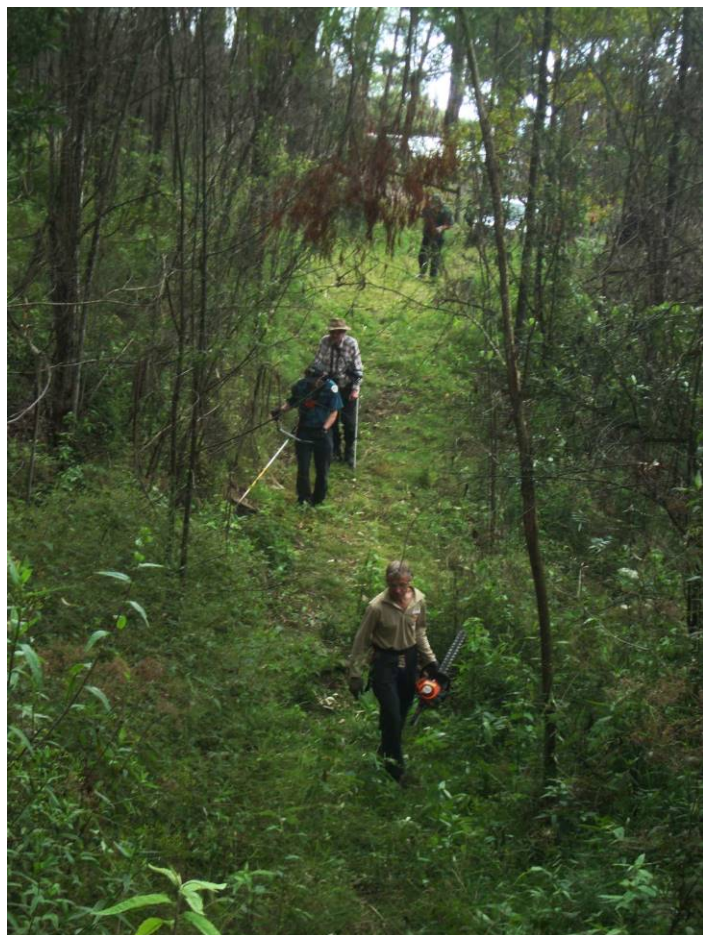
Around the park some signs need to be replaced or added. At the beginning of Foster Gully Track the sign has rotted out of the ground while around the top of Stringybark Track some of the directional signs need to be replaced. After the bushfire the signage was burnt away and with the undergrowth growing well (obscuring the track), many walkers are missing the turns and getting lost. Some of the neighbors have rescued lost walkers and helped them to safely return.

There are plans to replace the signage but approval from Cultural Heritage is required to dig any holes. This approval has yet to be received so a plan was made to laminate some signs and put them on a few well-placed trees. Craig and Matt will look into this and fortunately no approval is required for this. Hopefully this will help walkers from getting lost.

Over the next month there will be plans for a few Junior Ranger activities and for a group from Lavalla College to complete a gridded plant survey at both Billy's Creek and Foster's Gully. These activities could/will be affected by Coronavirus group restrictions.

Ranger Gabby is collecting animal sighting evidence and wants to go through the past collected nesting box survey data and motion camera footage. She wants to continue collecting and wants to look at animal movements before and after the bushfires. She may use our motion cameras to collect some post bushfire animal sightings.

At the end of the January nesting box survey, the camera had some problems and it was found that



the problems were in the cabling between the camera and the viewing screen. Matt spoke with the supplier and a few of the same camera have had a similar problem so they have changed the cameras to a wireless connection. We could have upgraded to wireless but it was determined that buying his last cabled camera and some spare pieces was the better strategy. This camera has served us well for the past few years.

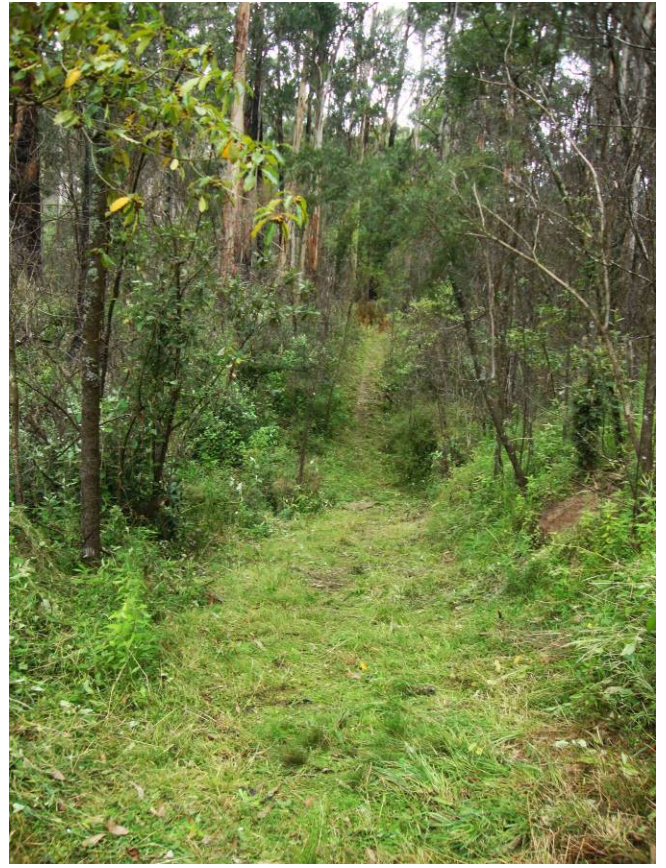
For the day's activity we did track maintenance. Matt and Rose went around Foster's Gully and used the brush cutter to removed undergrowth which had encroached into the track. Parks staff had over the last month removed some fallen trees. Craig, Cathy and Graeme used the hedge trimmer and brusher cutter to remove undergrowth and trees around Stringybark Track. Ken, Mike, Tamara, Shelena and Darren drove in via Brewsters Road to Silvertop Hill. They found that after the bushfire the undergrowth is growing back strongly with many small seedlings and eucalyptus are growing powerfully in some areas. They found that the Muttonwood Track was totally lost to the undergrowth and fallen shrubs.



The first step for this team was to find the track across the ridge. They then started the remove the larger obstacles from the track. All teams joined up at Silvertop Hill for lunch. After lunch everybody slashed this track across the ridge. At different stages the hedge trimmer, brush cutters and chainsaw were used to create this track where it was previously only bush.

The following photos show Muttonwood Track before and after the day's work.





April Activity

Sunday 19th April 5.30pm

BBQ, spot light walk and moth survey

The group will meet in the Kerry Road picnic area for a BBQ, spot light walk and moth survey. You will need to bring a torch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the evening outdoors and the weather conditions. For the BBQ: a seat, cutlery, plates, drink, etc. would be very useful.

Note: This is a change from the original calendar.