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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter – June 2020*

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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. We have now had stay at home restrictions for nearly two months and the spread of Co-vid 19 has greatly been reduced. Around the world over 323,000 people have died and over 4.9 million have contracted the corona virus. In Australia, over 7,000 have contracted the corona virus and 100 have died. These rates have slowed and over the last week some restrictions have been lifted.

### **Advice from the Victorian Health and Human Services**

The Victorian Government is directing all Victorians to stay at home to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Every Victorian must play their part. By staying at home and limiting contact with other people, we can protect the elderly, the at-risk, and our healthcare workers and each other.

There are five reasons that you can leave home:

- shop for food and other necessary goods and services
- access medical services or provide caregiving – for example, this includes shared parenting obligations or providing care and support to an unwell, disabled, elderly or pregnant friend or relative
- attend work or education where you can't do those things from home
- exercise and participate in some recreational activities adhering to the rules
- visit friends, family and loved ones while adhering to the rules

Some restrictions have been cautiously eased to allow people to look after their own, and others' health, wellbeing and social connection.

You can now:

- Having family and friends visit you at home – with up to five visitors being allowed at your home at one time.
- Gatherings of people for the purposes of non-contact sport and recreation in public settings, such as National, State and public parks – with groups of up to ten being allowed to gather.
- Small gatherings of up to 10 people at some indoor facilities such as places of worship and community centres – along with those required to run the facilities. The four-square metre rule applies in these settings.

With restrictions changing there was a hope that the May activity could run with a group of up to ten people. The advice from the Parks Volunteer Manager was still to restrict all volunteer activities. So we could not run the May activity. We hope that everything should be right my June.

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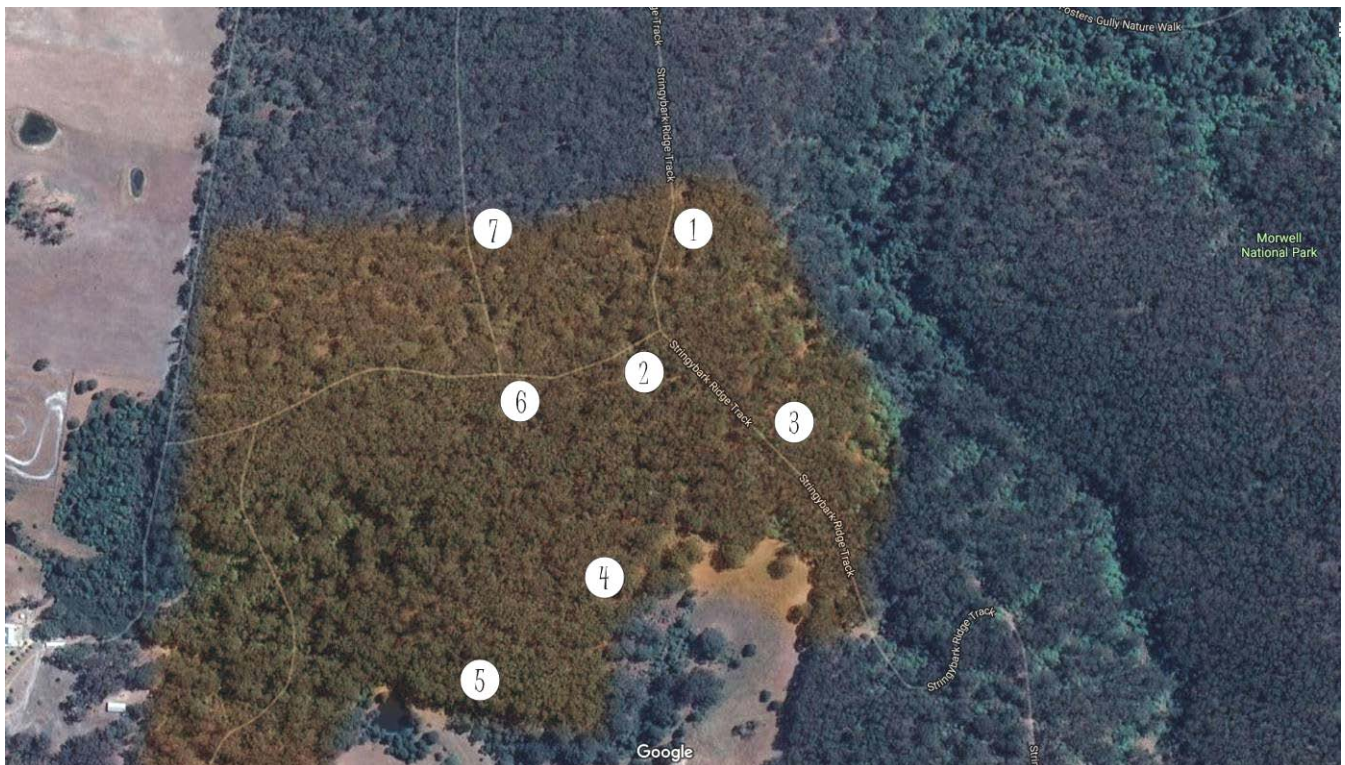
**Other members:** Cathy Beamish, Eulalie Brewster, Graeme Busch, Kerry Campbell, Joelle Champert, Wendy Davies, Gordon Duncan, Jay Duncan, Hayley Mildenhall, Rose Mildenhall, Grant Pengelly, Wayne Pengelly, Chris Sikkema, Joan Sikkema, David Stickney & Wendy Steenberg.

Instead of reporting on our monthly activity, I will report upon my recent walks around the park.

Recently I walked around Stringybark Ridge Track to observe how this area is recovering after the bushfires just over a year ago. There has been good recent rains and the seasonal creek approaching Stringybark has water in it.



The southern end of the Stringybark Ridge Track along with Muttonwood and Silvertop Hill Tracks were the areas affected by the Yinnar South bushfire which started on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019 was fully contained early in April 2019. The red area on the map indicates the area affected within the national park. This southern section of the park was closed for a few extra months to complete emergency stabilization and rehabilitation works.



For each of the numbered points on the map I have included pictures of the regrowth to be found. With our recent cool summer and good autumn rains the regrowth has been strong. In the near future, evidence of the fire will be difficult to find.

New directional signs were needed since some of existing signs and directional markers were burnt and walkers were getting lost.



1



2

The first seat at the turn of the track remains. The other was burnt in the fire.



3



4



5



Tree down across the park boundary fence (Eastern section of Muttonwood Track).



Another tree down across the park boundary fence (Eastern section of Muttonwood Track).



The crossing over the dam overflow has burnt away and the hand rail is now across the gap. If this track is to be used a new crossing will need to be made.

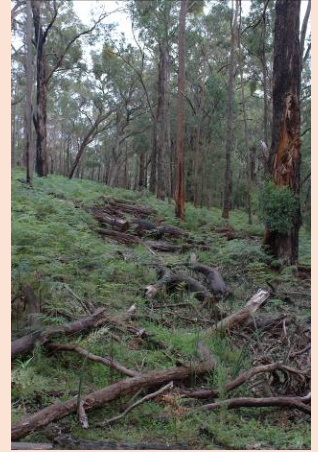
6



7



Closer to the fire break the fire was less intense, so the regrowth is not as strong.



This is what remains of the fire break cutting (western end) used by CFA for fire curtailment.

### **June Activity (hopefully for when the Stage 3 restrictions change)**

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 10.00pm

The group will meet in the Kerry 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.