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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc. *Newsletter – December 2020*

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.net>
Official Address of FMNP - contactfmnp@gmail.com
A0016319X

Hello everyone and welcome to this months' newsletter. Christmas and the New Year are quickly approaching. We can only hope that 2021 is better than 2020!

Corona Virus (Covid 19) update:

	Deaths	Reported cases
Worldwide	1.4 Million	59.1 Million
Australia	907	27,800

In Victoria we are celebrating a series of double donut days. Over the last three weeks there has been no new covid cases and no deaths related to covid. Any situation can provide an opportunity to create new language, so double donuts have become a thing!

The rest of world is not so lucky with many new Corona virus cases and deaths being reported. The United States of America has recently had 198,000 new cases. So in one day the United States has had 7 times the number of cases that Australia has had since the beginning of the pandemic.

Worldwide there are between 400,000 and 600,000 new cases a day. The worldwide death rate sits between 4,000 and 10,000 per day.

Locally one of the major restrictions has been upon gatherings. We normally have our AGM each August but this year we needed to delay it because the Covid social restrictions did not allow the whole group to gather together (either indoors or outdoors). Recently gathering restrictions have been raised to 50 people outdoors, so we should be able to meet for our AGM in December. It is hoped that all members will be able to attend. Remember to bring your membership fees. After the AGM and committee meeting, we plan to have our Christmas Barbeque.

November Activity report

For our planned November activity we had Matt, Mike, Beryl and Darren in attendance. We had apologies from Tamara, Ken, Cathy and Gordon.

A combination of factors resulted in us not running the planned activity. The main task of the November activity is normally to measure the growth and health of Butterfly Orchid in our five test plots. The Butterfly orchids normally flower best from the second half of November to the beginning of December. Since this activity was early in November, the Butterfly Orchids had yet to start flowering.

The Butterfly Orchid Survey will still be done with a small group completing it before next activity (when

Friends of Morwell National Park Inc: PO Box 19, Churchill, 3842, <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.net>.

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President: Ken Harris

Vice-President: Matt Campbell

Secretary & Public Officer: Beryl Nelson

Treasurer: Mike Beamish

Publicity: Tamara Leitch

Newsletter Editor: Darren Hodgson, darren.hodgson@education.vic.gov.au

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.

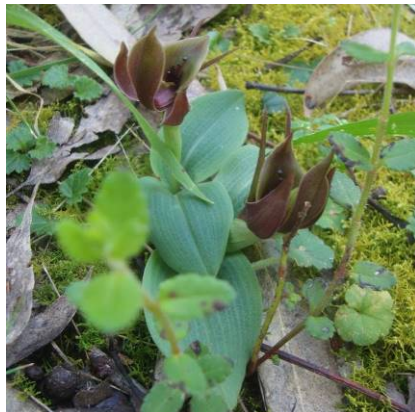
the orchids are in flower).

Most of the group in for the activity were only there for the meeting not the full activity. Being on call for work and poor health made it difficult for some to be there for the full activity.

Matt reported that there are plans to put some new signage up in the Billy's Creek part of the National Park. There are also plans to run a number of plant and animal surveys and a program of weed reduction as part of the Bushfire Recovery programs. The brush cutter needs a new blade (for the thicker undergrowth), so Matt will follow up on this.

This year the growth of local orchids has been spasmodic. This year there has been periods of dry between periods of good rains which have resulted in orchids growing and flowering both earlier and later than usual. Some orchids have had two flushes of grow when they normally have one. They are taking what opportunities exist to grow, flower and reproduce.

The Wild Duck Orchids have multiplied and flowered well this year.



Ten days after the planned activity, some of the Butterfly Orchids were found in flower.





December Activities

Sunday 20th December

Activity 1 – 10.00am

Friends of Morwell National Park Annual General meeting to be held in the Kerry Road picnic area (Kerry Road, Jeeralang Junction). Bring a chair. If you are unable to attend you can send in the membership form (at the bottom of the page).

A **committee meeting** will follow the Annual General meeting.

Activity 2 – The **Christmas BBQ** will start at about 1.00pm in the Kerry Road Picnic Area.



Friends of Morwell National Park Christmas BBQ

Come along and enjoy in a BBQ lunch to celebrate and reflect upon our year in Morwell National Park

When: Sunday 20th December

Time: 1.00pm

Where: Kerry Road picnic area

What to bring: BYO plate, cutlery, cup/glass, drink and bring either a salad or sweet.

The membership form to complete if you are unable to come to the Annual General Meeting.

To: Treasurer, Friends of Morwell National Park, PO Box 19, Churchill, 3842

Please find enclosed the amount of \$_____ (\$10 per person, \$15 per family/group) being for membership 2020/2021.

Name:.....Telephone:.....

Address:.....

Email: