

PO Box 19
Churchill
3842



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – January 2021

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

Hello everyone and welcome to the first newsletter of 2021. We can only hope that 2021 will be better than 2020. The Annual General Meeting for the group was held earlier this month (later than normal because of Covid restrictions). The minutes from the two meetings, including this year's President's Report and the planned program of activities for 2021 are at the end of this newsletter.

December Activity report

The focus of our December activity was to complete the AGMs which had been delayed by Covid meeting size restrictions. The day started slowly with both Matt and Ken thinking (or deciding between themselves) that the meeting was starting at noon. It gave everybody else an opportunity to catch up and discuss ideas before the meeting started. We started with Mike, Cathy, Jay, Joelle, Beryl, Rose, Tamara, Darren and later Matt and Ken in attendance. We had an apologies from Graeme and Ranger Gabrielle.

Matt and Tamara had completed the Butterfly Orchid survey since the last activity and they reported that there were fewer Butterfly Orchids found in each plot. One plot had no Butterfly Orchids in it since a tree had fallen across the whole plot. There previously were few orchids in this plot and now there are none. This year has been generally good for ground orchids with healthy rains but not so good for the Butterfly Orchids.

The Annual General Meeting and General Meeting were held and the minutes of these meetings are included later in this newsletter. After the meetings we had the Christmas barbeque.

For the BBQ, the group from the meetings were joined by Faye, Wendy, Joan and Chris. Mike and Cathy had done a great job to bring everything we needed, with Mike cooking up a storm on the barbeque. Lunch had a selection of sausages, hamburgers and chicken which people ate with a large selection of salads. Later Beryl's Lemon Cheesecake and a selection of slices were enjoyed.

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President: Matt Campbell

Vice-President: Cathy Beamish

Secretary & Public Officer: Beryl Nelson

Treasurer: Mike Beamish

Publicity: Tamara Leitch

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

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



January Activity

Sunday 17th January 10.00am

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

Friends of Morwell National Park

Annual General Meeting held Sunday 20th December 2020

Annual General Meeting declared open at 11.00am

Attendance: - Beryl Nelson, Mike & Cathy Beamish, Darren Hodgson, Rose Mildenhall, Tamara Leitch, Joelle Champert, Ken Harris, Matt Campbell, Jay Duncan.

Apologies: Graham Busch, Gabrielle Brown

Previous AGM minutes held on 4th August 2019 were read and accepted as a true account.

Moved - Ken Harris, Seconded - Darren Hodgson

The President's Report was read and accepted

Moved - Matt Campbell, Seconded - Beryl Nelson.

Treasurer's Report was read and accepted –

Moved - Mike Beamish, Seconded – Ken Harris.

The Treasurer reported that we have 22 financial members for 2019-20

The Term Deposit was re-invested on 1st July 2020

Motion was **Moved by Beryl Nelson** that Incorporation fees (\$59.20) be paid for this financial year, and that membership fees will remain the same - \$10.00 per person, \$15.00 per family or group (**Seconded** by Mike Beamish - passed unanimously).

Election of Office Bearers: -

President – Matt Campbell (**Moved** – Ken Harris, **Seconded** – Cathy Beamish)

Vice President – Cathy Beamish (**Moved** – Mike Beamish, **Seconded** – Matt Campbell)

Secretary/Public Officer – Beryl Nelson (**Moved** – Joelle Champert, **Seconded** – Matt Campbell)

Treasurer – Mike Beamish (**Moved** – Cathy Beamish, **Seconded** – Ken Harris)

Newsletter - Darren Hodgson (**Moved** – Rose Mildenhall, **Seconded** – Cathy Beamish)

Publicity – Tamara Leitch (**Moved** – Matt Campbell, **Seconded** – Joelle Champert)

Annual General Meeting declared closed at 11.35am

President's Report for 2019-20

Our activity year started well and our schedule was planned out for the year, subject to some deviation at times due to the weather and condition of the walking tracks.

The first half of 2020 has been a strange year one for the Friends Group but we managed to get some monthly activities done, on/off schedule because of Corvid 19 restrictions.

Throughout the year before Covid 19, MNP was visited by Lavalla College doing a biodiversity study. Some students from Lavalla College made a number of nesting boxes for the Friends Group, five of which were put up to replace others that needed repairing. Matt Campbell took a walking group around Billy's Creek Track who were very impressed by the Park.

Federation University visited the Park to study the weed species, located within its boundaries.

Climatewatch did a walk through Foster's Gully with a group to engage in the Climatewatch program and to collect data.

Our nesting box surveys in July and January – showed that there were fewer gliders during the winter months which is the same result as last year. The group noticed that quite a few boxes needed repairs or replacement. In September 2019 new nesting boxes were put up to replace those that were damaged.

In August, the Friends Group tackled Blue Gum Hill with a plan to direct seed the area to determine how effective this technique will be in this area. Yinnar-Yinnar South Landcare (Bronwyn Teesdale) gave a presentation about direct seeding. In December 2019, the Friends Group collected seed from three areas – Billy's Creek, across the road from Junction Road carpark and Blue Gum Hill where the direct seeding was checked – found that there was some success but the thick grass made it hard to assess the overall result.

Track maintenance was a constant for the Friends Group, with plenty of rain and wind, meant that tracks needed frequent attention – some fallen trees were beyond the Friends Group to handle, Parks Victoria would have to clear them. In March the group tackled Muttonwood Track which had become so overgrown with undergrowth and fallen shrubs, that it wasn't visible. After a concerted effort the track was cleared – great job well done!!

The bushfire in March 2019 affected the Muttonwood Creek area which was rehabilitated by Parks Victoria on the whole it was a good job but on closer inspection two patches of Silver Banksias had been flattened by firefighting machinery. I would like to see this species of banksias replanted in the same area.

In November 2019, the group was notified that Morwell National Park had a new Ranger (Gabrielle Browne) and back in May – Craig Campbell retired, I would like to thank him for all his help when he was our Ranger and on other occasions.

Orchid Walk/Koala Count went well, though the orchids showed up later this year but in larger numbers whilst the Koala count had a good result, some spotted by enthusiastic members of the public, especially sharp eyed children.

The Friends Group completed the scheduled activities up to March, when April 2020 came and the Covid 19 restrictions were imposed and our activities were suspended by Parks Victoria. By June there was a relaxation of restrictions ie. Only ten people could attend any activity, the priority was track maintenance, as some of the tracks had become overgrown.

Friends of Morwell National Park

General Meeting held Sunday 20th December 2020

General Meeting declared open at 11.40am

Attendance: - Beryl Nelson, Mike & Cathy Beamish, Darren Hodgson, Rose Mildenhall, Tamara Leitch, Joelle Champert, Ken Harris, Matt Campbell, Jay Duncan.

Apologies: Graham Busch, Gabrielle Brown

Minutes of previous meeting held on 4th August 2019 were read and accepted as a true account
Moved - Darren Hodgson **Seconded** - Rose Mildenhall

Business arising from Previous Meeting: -

No discussion arose out of the previous meeting.

Inwards Correspondence: -

- 4th July - Email from Consumer Affairs notifying the Friends group when the Annual Statement is due.
- 2nd August - Email from Jay Duncan regarding venue for direct-seeding talk Saturday 17th August & Field Day in MNP Sunday 18th August.
- 4th August – Letter from Margaret & John Barker tendering their resignation from the Friends Group.
- 20th August – Email from Consumer Affairs acknowledging the lodgement of our Annual Statement.
- 27th August – Email from Russell Northe MP office regarding the Flora & Fauna Guarantee Amendment Bill 2019, where Russell spoke about Tarra/Bulga NP & Morwell NP.
- 27th August – Email from Lyn McAlister (Lavalla) asking whether anyone was available to talk to Year 10 Environmental students about our activities in the Park, as well as studying the biodiversity in the Park.
- 20th Sept – Email from Ian Cornthwaite regarding Public presentation about saving Mirboo North Greater Glider.
- 23rd Sept – Email from Parks Victoria related to consultation on land Mgt Strategy Draft Aspiration and Guiding Principles – asking for feedback by 29th Sept 2019.
- 25th Sept – Email from DELWP with Environmental Volunteering Update Sept 2019.
- 7th Dec – Email from member of the public, sighting a sick koala near Zigzag intersection.
- 19th Dec – Email from Matthew Jackson (Parks Victoria) thanking volunteer groups for their contribution during the year.
- 5th March – Email from Matt Campbell regarding repair costs to our inspection camera & whether the Friends Group should buy the last wired camera left from the manufacturer.
- 8th March – Email from Matt Campbell, it was decided to buy the last wired inspection camera.
- 27th March – Email from Consumer Affairs regarding social distancing measures associated with Corona Virus, affecting meetings.
- 28th March – Email from Consumer Affairs stating due to rapidly changing circumstances due to the corona virus restrictions – steps that have to be followed for meetings.
- 5th April – Email from Parks Victoria regarding the impact Corona virus will have on the group's activities within the MNP.
- 19th May – Email from Parks Victoria recognising/acknowledging all volunteers in these uncertain times.
- 24th May – Email from Parks Victoria requesting all volunteers get Working with Children Check. More information will be sent out once Covid 19 restrictions are eased and concerns addressed.
- 30th May – Email from Matt Campbell informing members that Paul Strickland is disputing the need for WWC.
- 1st June – Email from Matt Campbell that Paul Strickland is challenging PV idea of WWC for volunteers.
- 1st June – Email from Parks Victoria regarding the recommencement of volunteering during Coronavirus – Interim Advice.
- 12th June – Email from Ryan Chick asking how to become a member of the Friends Group.

14th June – Email from Wendy Cartledge (walking group member) regarding dates for a walk /talk by Matt Campbell about features & wildlife of MNP.

Outwards Correspondence –

- 24th August – Letter to John & Margaret Barker thanking them for their contribution to the Friends Group.
5th April – Matt Campbell emailed members that all group activities are cancelled until further notice as per Parks Victoria advice due to the coronavirus.
17th June – Email to Wendy Routledge, advising her of Matt's email address, for direct contact.

General Business –

Discussions were centred on our activities for the next year. Jay discussed the collection of seed with the co-operation of Yinnar Landcare Group. The question was asked whether different types of seeds could be brought into the Park. Parks Victoria would have to officially sanction a response.

Most appropriate times for seed collecting was discussed subject to permits being obtained from Parks Victoria

Some group members were attending a meeting with Parks Victoria on 21st December to discuss projects that could improve the diversity of MNP, as a result of the 2019 bushfires which will be included on the Parks Victoria website.

Meeting declared closed at 12.30pm

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Calendar 2021

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Activities are scheduled for the third Sunday of each month, with extra days scheduled as required.

Date:	Activity:	Venue and Time:
January 17	Nesting box survey & Seed Collection	Junction Rd, 10.00am
February 21	Nesting box repairs & Seed Collection	Junction Rd, 10.00am
March 21	BBQ & Spot light walk & Moth survey	Kerry Road, 5.30pm
April 18	Track Maintenance – Silvertop Hill	Kerry Road, 10.00am
May 16	Track Maintenance – Silvertop Hill & Muttonwood Creek	Kerry Road, 10.00am
June 20	Blue Gum Hill Track Maintenance & Test plot survey	Junction Rd, 10.00am
July 18	Track Maintenance	Kerry Road, 10.00am
August 1	AGM	Kerry Road, 1.30pm
August 15	Direct seeding – Blue Gum Hill	Junction Rd, 10.00am
September 19	Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
October 17	Orchid Walk Koala Count	Kerry Road, 10.00am & Kerry Road, 1.30pm
November 21	Orchid Survey	Kerry Road, 10.00am
December 19	Seed Collection Christmas Function	Junction Rd, 10.00am & Kerry Road 1.00pm

For all activities, it is BYO food, drinks, suitable clothing and footwear, and other personal items, unless otherwise indicated in the newsletter. Up to date details of each forthcoming activity are provided in the monthly newsletter, which is emailed to members and available to the public on the website.