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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter – May 2021*

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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter.

### **April Activity report**

For this activity we had Ken, Matt, Tamara, Rose, Darren and Mike. We had apologies from Joelle and Cathy. Mike was only with us for the catch up in the picnic area since he was on call for work. Wendy joined us later.

Matt updated the group about what had happened over the last month. In correspondence Gabrielle requested a letter of support in relation to the Friendly Neighbor Program. The Yinnar/Yinnar South Landcare group wanted a letter of support in relation to their application for a grant for an electric fence to keep out grazing deer. It is hoped that any electric fence will not be dangerous to the native animals.

Latrobe City in association with the NDIS are planning a project to get people with disabilities or at disadvantage involved in activities in nature. We have put an expression of interest for this program. Matt is trying to overcome a problem with Google Maps in that it puts the location marker of Morwell National Park in the main part of the park near Jumbuk Road. People using only Google Maps to find the main location (and ignoring the physical road signs) can tend to get lost. Having the main location marker at Kerry Road would be the best outcome.

Parks Victoria have released a new Volunteer manual. It is attached. The Volunteering Manual provides staff and volunteers with the essential knowledge to effectively implement, support and participate in volunteering programs and activities, consistent with national standards of volunteering.

The main thing which will affect us, in the short term, is that everybody in the group will need a Working with Children Check (WWCC) by the beginning of July. This will include anyone who volunteers on a one-off occasion, as well as anyone who volunteers regularly, individuals and volunteers within groups, even if you do not have direct contact or engagement with children. This will help to ensure Parks Victoria maintains a child safe environment.

The application process must be completed online at <https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/> and once it is finished, you will be sent an email with a barcode attached that you will need to take to an Australia Post outlet to confirm your identity and have a photo taken for your card. You can take your

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phone with you to an Australia Post branch or you can print the barcode out. Another attachment – How to apply for a Volunteer WWCC.pdf helps with the steps to go through. There is no charge for a volunteer Working with Children Check – it is free.

For the activity we were able to all get into one car to drive around to the Brewster Road entrance. We walked down the Silvertop Hill track to see good growth after the 2019 bushfires. It is great to see an area which was normally sparsely vegetated, thick with new saplings.



The Silvertop Hill Side track is overgrown and has had burnt trees from the bushfire pushed across it. The fire recovery team have blocked this track, thinking that it was an access track they created not one that was there before the bushfires. Without heavy equipment it not possible to make this a vehicle track again but it may be possible to make it into a walking track by going around these felled trees. We will work on this at the next activity.

At the base of the hill we got to Muttonwood Track. This is still a formed track and needed many seedling removed from the track itself. Given another year the track would have been too overgrown to be able to walk it. This has now been cleared to the park boundary where a large Blue Gum has come down blocking the path. This fallen tree is beyond our capabilities to clear.



After Muttonwood Track was cleared we walked back up the hill. The progress for some was slow so lunch was held half way up the hill. Wendy joined us for lunch and then after lunch Matt used the chainsaw to cut a tree from across the main Silvertop track.



Matt and Ken then walked the side track (navigating around the fallen trees and larger regrowth), while the rest returned the gear back to the vehicles and then walked the boundary track from the Brewster Road gate. All tracks and the park boundary were slashed at the beginning of summer so this was the easier leg to walk. The two groups met at the park boundary and observed where the track dips over the crest of hill snaking through the larger trees. Investigating and clearing the remainder of this park boundary track will be looked at in our next activity. There is also a small patch of Bluebell creeper near the gate which needs to be removed.

After the bushfires some new plant varieties and weeds have appeared in the park. Some plants like to one shown beside have germinated after the bushfire and add to the biodiversity of the park while some new weed varieties (like the bluebell creeper and inkweed) have come in on fire vehicles.



### **May Activity**

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May 10.00am

The group will meet in the Kerry Road car park to complete track maintenance on the Silvertop Hill side and boundary tracks. You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.