

PO Box 19
Churchill
3842



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – August 2021

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

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter.

The park remains closed after extensive storm and flood damage and we have entered the fifth statewide lockdown, so the planned July activity was not held. With no activity there will be no activity report this month.

In August, we would normally have the AGM along with a separate August activity. The park is currently closed and we are in lock down until at least 27th July. So it is likely that we will not be able to meet for the AGM on 1st August (as planned).

If we are able to get together for our scheduled August activity on 15th August we will try to have the AGM then. If we can have the activity will meet outside (so rug up and bring a seat) and then go for a walk to survey the damage.

August Activity (If we are allowed to have an activity)

Sunday 15th August 10.00am – Kerry Road picnic area

The group will meet in the Kerry Road picnic area to firstly have the AGM and Committee Meeting.

Below is 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 2021/2022.

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

Address:.....

Email:

The task after the meetings will be to have a walk through the Billy's Creek part of the park to survey the storm damage first hand. You will need to bring a seat, your lunch along with clothing and footwear (waterproof – if you are crossing the creek) suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

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

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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.

June 2021 Morwell National Park storm damage

On 9th & 10th June, a large storm hit Morwell National Park and surrounding areas. Much rain and strong winds impacted the area. Over 200mm of rain fell in a short period and local creeks and rivers flooded.

The impact upon the park has been large. The park is currently closed and likely to be closed for a while yet since there is still damage to be removed before it will be safe for the public to enter. Parks contractors have been in to clear the main tracks. Many massive trees have been removed from the tracks however there is still a lot of trees leaning against other trees, widow makers and trees across other tracks. Most of the stuff on the ground has been cleaned up but we are waiting on arborists to get in and remove the dangerous limbs.

With the bridges across Billy's Creek only one remains undamaged. All bridges have now been located.

The following photos will demonstrate some of the damage in the Kerry Road Picnic area and along Billy's Creek.



Kerry Road Picnic Area – In June 2021.



Kerry Road Picnic Area – In July 2021.



The main gate (at Kerry Road) has been reinstated. The tree that fell across the picnic area was at the base of the gate.



The barbeque (Kerry Road picnic area) had a large tree fall across it and will need to be replaced.

Billy's Creek bridges



The bridge across the creek linking to Baniff Road has been found! Washed up the creek bank – under the fallen trees. Thanks to local Rex for the photo.



The one surviving bridge. The flood at its peak was over the bridge. There is much creek mud on the bridge surface.



The bridge at Potato Flat was picked up by the flood and moved downstream against two trees on each side of the bank. It has been raised by at least 2 feet.



The bridge closest to Billy's Weir is now in the creek. If you are to travel to the Weir you will need to enter the creek.

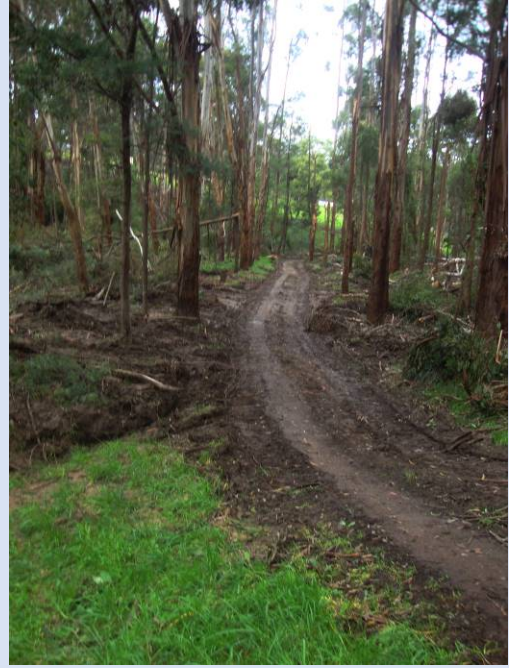


These are the first two creek crossings on the Grand Strzelecki Track. The creek crossing have been remade (mud removed) and large branches have been used to support large vehicles to move further down the track.

The changes created by and after the storm



The main Billy's Creek walking track soon after the storm. Many fallen trees and at least a foot of mud on the track.



The main Billy's Creek walking track after the contractors cleared the track.



The beginning of the Grand Strzelecki Track & the Blue Gum Hill spur tracks (in 2014).



The beginning of the Grand Strzelecki Track (now). The storm has greatly changed the outlook.



Billy's Weir (from 2011)



Billy's Weir (now)



The creek crossings have been remade with much mud removed to allow vehicle crossings.



The creek crossing at Potato Flat.



This is beginning of the Blue Gum Hill track.



This is the small side creek (you would normal step over) at the base of Blue Gum Hill. It is now a large crevice.



The storm has greatly impacted upon the Grand Strzelecki Track alongside Billy's creek.



The storm has changed the nature of the creek, creating rocky banks and changing the direction of the creek.