

PO Box 19
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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – September 2021

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

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. As we near the end of winter and welcome spring, the park remains closed after June's extensive storm and flood damage.

In country Victoria we have recently finished lockdown 6.0 and reentered in lockdown 6.1, while Melbourne remains in lockdown with nightly curfews.

With the Park closed the planned August AGM and activity could not be held. Hopefully the park will be open next month and we will be able to have our AGM and an activity next month. With no August activity there will be no activity report this month.

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

Sunday 19th September 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 to survey some of the storm damage first hand. You will need to bring a seat, your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

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President: Matt Campbell

Vice-President: Cathy Beamish

Secretary & Public Officer: Beryl Nelson

Treasurer: Mike Beamish

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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.

Foster's Gully storm damage

In June, a large storm hit Morwell National Park and surrounding areas. The park is still closed, but many people are still walking in both sections of the park.

Soon after the storm much track clearing was done, but there is no evidence of further work being done over the last month with more trees coming down across tracks. It has been reported that there is at least one large tree across the track on the Grand Strzelecki Track.

In mid-August more rain again swelled Billy's Creek (as shown below). It increased the water in the creek but cause no flooding.



Billy's Creek – August 2021



Billy's Creek – August 2021

Steps to Stringybark Track



Trees down across the steps to Stringybark Track after the original storm.



The main tree has been removed and the track is still blocked by fallen trees.

Foster's Gully



Branches have fallen across Foster's Gully track.



Some further trees have fallen across the track as well.



Multiple trees have fallen across the track near Lyndon's Clearing.



The track has go through these fallen branches!



A number of large trees have been cleared from the track.



Could this be a future sitting place half way around Foster's Gully Track?



More fallen branches on the walking track.



Another large tree removed from the track.

Blue Gum Hill track



The first creek crossing to Blue Gum Hill. It is now a deep ravine requiring a lot of earth and rock movement or a bridge if walkers are to cross safely.



At the second creek crossing walkers can walk across although many stones have washed up here.



A Silver Wattle has fallen across the track. Blackberries on the bank have been sprayed and are mostly dead.



The flooded creek has underwashed the track leaving little of the original track. Blackberries and other plants will need to cut back on the bank to allow safe walking.



A few markers have been put along the track, hopefully indicating plans for work from Parks.



The footing to the bridge (near Billy's Weir) remain on both banks. If the bridge is to be replaced these footings could be reused.

