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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter – March 2022*

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.net>  
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Over the last month there have been a number of gatherings to collect seed for future plantings. Before the regular activity, two seed collection outings occurred. On Australia Day and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February groups went out to collect seed. Below is a report from Jay about 5<sup>th</sup> February's work.

Saturday was a useful day and we had ten collectors at work, so we seem to have given that section of the Park a good going-over.

My un-moderne phone didn't get e-mail to say that Merrin set off but had to turn back because of car trouble. Audrey was a surprise addition to our crew and proved to be, among her other skills, a valuable climber upper of steep slopes.

For the record, we have yet to manage to get up Side Creek and the bottom of Lodge Track / Blue Gum Hill Track (north end). I have heard from our ranger that the creek crossing has washed right away in the floods, so it may not have been possible just yet.

Zig Zag track on the other side of the creek was a useful substitute collection area.

Walking to Potato Flat was feasible without getting wet feet by setting off from Braniff's Road track. The bridge wasn't exactly safe (no railings in the middle) or easy for some [me] to climb on to, but it exists. Perhaps not exactly where it was before the June floods according to Ken.

Opening the Pipeline track has made this a very short walk indeed and seeing two Rufous Fantails along the track was a bit of a bonus.

Peter was the sole enthusiast for after-lunch action and went to round up any remaining Blackwood seed from the end of Tebb Terrace and maybe the top of Braniff's Rd.

*Pomaderris aspera* (Hazel Pomaderris) has had a weird season. Some seems not to have flowered and some is about to start! We now have a few that have flowered that we can monitor for ripe seed. We think we have a bit of time now before *Cassinia* seed will be ready. Ditto Sweet Bursaria.

### February Activity Report

For the regular activity we had Ken, Mike, Cathy, Rose, Tamara, Anita, Gordon and Darren. We had apologies from Beryl, Matt, Graeme, Jay, Joelle and Peter.

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Over the last month Park staff have been into the Park slashing and cleaning up around the tracks. Between activities, Matt tested the old camera and was not able to resolve the problems with it, so he triple charged the new camera used in the last activity. Fortunately the battery lasted a lot better this time. Long term we will need to investigate a charging pack for these cameras.

The tasks for the day were to finish the nesting box survey (boxes not surveyed last month) and some seed collection from some of late blooming trees. With no ladders or other tools, it was not possible to complete any maintenance to, or replacement of nesting boxes.

Rose (armed with bags and many collection tools) and Tamara (with a great knowledge of the different trees) travelled to Moran's Road to collect seed in this corner of the Park above the Clematis Track.

The rest of group travelled in to survey the nesting boxes off Baniff's Road and up the Butt Butt track. Amongst the boxes up Butt Butt Track one box had come off the tree, another was horizontal instead of vertical while a third was upside down (but still attached to the tree).



Surprisingly the upside down box had a sugar glider asleep within, near the top (originally the bottom).





The work by Parks staff have clear the creek crossing making it possible (previously there were feet of mud and silt) to drive across the creek. Now across the creek the Baniff Road boxes were surveyed to find less future maintenance will be required on these boxes. Over the day at least 12 sugar gliders were observed in the boxes. This makes a total of over 40 sugar gliders, one ringtail possum and a few Agile Antechinus that were observed over the two outings. The numbers of animals found in the boxes was less than in previous years.

When the nesting box survey was completed the group travelled around to Moran's Road to offer assistance Rose and Tamara. The walk in was longer than expected with a tree down across the road near the beginning of Moran's Road. With the pine plantation now removed there are lovely views across the Valley and the old pondage.







As we neared the park gate we met Tamara and Rose on their way out. They had managed to collect a few seed species to add to the seed previously collected. A large thanks needs to go to Wendy who is storing and managing this seed collection. The group drove back to the car park for lunch. With no other pressing tasks we were able to leave after lunch.

### **March Activity**

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 5.30pm

#### **BBQ, spot light walk and moth survey**

The group will meet in the Kerry Road picnic area for dinner, spot light walk and moth survey. For the dinner bring a seat, cutlery, plates, drink, along with either finger food snacks, a salad or a dessert to share. For the spot light walk, you will need to bring a torch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the evening outdoors and the weather conditions.