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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

*Newsletter – June 2022*

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.net>  
Official Address of FMNP - [contactfmnp@gmail.com](mailto:contactfmnp@gmail.com)  
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Welcome to this month's newsletter.

## May Activity Report

For the activity we had Gordon, Beryl, Mike & Cathy, Ken, Rose, Joelle, Wayne, Tamara, Caitlin & Graeme. Matt left after the morning meeting. There was an apology from Darren.

A big thanks goes to Mike and Cathy who have written and taken photos from the activity for the newsletter. Thank you Mike and Cathy.

The group gathered in the picnic area and discussed the following:

- Fox baiting has been undertaken in the Park. Some damage was done to Matt's access track in the process.
- The Bio-Link Committee will be meeting again shortly, volunteers are invited to attend although Jay unofficially represents several groups.
- TAFE students will visit this week and are looking for projects - Matt and Gordon will attend.
- Confirmation of Feathertail Glider presence in the Park from Joan Sikkema.
- Matt has recently submitted the first Victorian record of a moth species at his residence.
- Members of the Group expressed dismay at the recent removal of Koalas from nearby HVP plantations for a South Australian wildlife park breeding program.

Most of the group walked over to Stringybark Ridge, while two vehicles made their way through Matt's access track, cleaning up some fallen limbs for Matt in the process. We proceeded over to the western side of the loop to the junction with the first of the Firebreak crossovers where the first of the large fallen trees was waiting for our attention. Small parties headed off in a variety of directions to check the track conditions (and avoid the noise) while the chainsaw crew set themselves up and went to work. Wayne did most of the heavy work with his own chainsaw, while Gordon helped out with the group's saw. The rest of us tidied up or wandered ahead with the loppers and secateurs. Two large trees, one very solid and the other pretty rotten, and two smaller trees had to be removed before we could drive the vehicles to the western boundary.

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We then headed south along the boundary, looking for the next Firebreak crossover track. It was a bit difficult to locate as it was almost completely grown over. Out came the brushcutter and some good teamwork followed with everyone doing their bit with whatever tools were available. Another substantial treefall blocked our path, so Wayne again did the heavy chainsaw work, making some nice seats for us to rest on for lunch. The other parties caught up to us just as we were settling down for a spell and a bite to eat at about 12.30pm.



Wayne had to depart then, but luckily we didn't encounter any more large trees across the tracks, only a number of smaller branches, which were easy enough for me to deal with. We were able to clear all of the second Firebreak Track from the western boundary right over to the eastern loop of the Stringybark Ridge Track, where we called it a day at about 3pm.

Some interesting flora finds were made over the day:



This little spider is most likely an Eastern Bush Orbweaver *Plebs eburnus* and was found on Matt's access track across Foster's Gully on the way to Stringybark Ridge.



The big toadstool is most likely *Phlebopus marginatus* (that the Western Australians' call Salmon Gum Mushroom) which was growing at the junction of Firebreak Track 1 with the western boundary.



The scale insects are Wattle Tick Scale *Cryptes baccatus* feeding on the common wattle that we were pruning back from Firebreak Track 1.

### **June Activity**

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June 10am

The group will meet in the Junction Road car park to complete Blue Gum Hill Track Maintenance & Test plot survey. You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.