

PO Box 19
Churchill
3842



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – September 2022

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

Welcome to this month's newsletter.

August Activity Report

For the activity we had Gordon, Matt, Ken, Rose, Anita, Beryl, Mike, Cathy, Tamara, Graeme, Wayne and Darren. There were apologies from Jay, Joelle and Caitlin.

The group had two tasks to work on during the activity. The first was to complete the nesting box survey started last month. Mike, Cathy, Ken, Anita, Beryl, Wayne and Tamara used the pole mounted camera to search the remaining boxes on both sides of the creek. A healthy number of sugar gliders were found in the boxes. A rampant stag deer and a number of kangaroos were also seen.



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President: Gordon Duncan

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, Matt & Kerry Campbell, Joelle Champert, Wendy Davies, Jay Duncan, Ken Harris, Hayley Mildenhall, Rose Mildenhall, Anjali Pal, Anita Pither, Grant Pengelly, Wayne Pengelly, Caitlin Punshon, Chris Sikkema, Joan Sikkema, David Stickney & Wendy Steenbergen.

In the other group, Graeme, Matt, Gordon, Rose and Darren started adjacent to the car park to replace nesting boxes that either had come off the tree, were damaged or needed repairs. Seven new boxes were put up to replace missing or unusable nesting boxes. Most of these new boxes were kindly made for us by Lavalla College students as part of a building project. A number of other boxes were repaired. There are many more still to be replaced or repaired and this will hopefully be done next month.



Moving up to lunchtime, the box surveyors finished the last boxes (after unsuccessfully not finding box 67 - there is no box 67) and returned to the car park for lunch or to leave. The box replacement crew joined them after repairing some boxes around Butt Butt Track. Lunch was enjoyed in a little splash of sunshine.



Matt has provided a summary of the nest box surveys completed over July and August:

- On the 17th July, 38 boxes were surveyed. The results were 17 Sugar Gliders and 1 Ringtail. Box 10 had what people thought may have been a Ringtail but looking on the footage on a larger screen, it is definitely a Sugar Glider. However, it does not move at all and seems to be in an awkward position. Most boxes seem to have eucalyptus leaves used for making 'nests' but Box 6 was full of very fresh Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*) leaves.
- On the 21st August, we did 25 boxes, making a total of 63 for the survey. The spread sheet shows us as having 81 boxes in total although several are currently in need of repair or replacing, which we have started doing. I propose that once we finish repairs, we re-write the sheets, correcting the GPS positions, hole sizes, aspect, tree species, etc, as many of these have changed. I also propose that we remove the trees that were chosen to have boxes but never had one installed be removed so as to save confusion. Anyway, the results for the day was 30 Sugar Gliders.

On the following pages are the minutes from the Annual General Meeting and General Meeting held early this month. Also included is the 2021/2022 President's Report (a great summary of what the group has done over the last year) and the planned activity calendar for 2023.

September Activity

Sunday 18th September 10am

The group will meet in the Junction Road car park to work on two different activities. The first will be to continue replacing or repairing nesting boxes while the second will be to distribute seed along the Grand Strzelecki Track. You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day. If you are spreading seed, expect to get your feet wet at some of the creek crossings on the Grand Strzelecki Track.

Friends of Morwell National Park

Annual General Meeting held Sunday 7th August 2022

Annual General Meeting declared open at 1.45pm

Attendance: Ken Harris, Mike Beamish, Beryl Nelson, Darren Hodgson, Graeme Busch, Jay Duncan, Matt Campbell, Joelle Champert & Caitlin Punshon.

Apologies: Cathy Beamish, Gordon Duncan & Anita Pither.

Previous AGM minutes held on 19th September 2021 were read and accepted as a true account.

Moved – Mike Beamish Seconded – Matt Campbell

The President's Report was read and accepted Moved – Darren Hodgson Seconded – Joelle Champert

The President's report is included below.

Treasurer's Report was read & accepted Moved – Mike Beamish Seconded – Beryl Nelson

The Treasurer reported that we have 22 financial members for 2021-22.

The Term Deposit was closed on 5th July 2022.

Motion was Moved by Beryl Nelson that Incorporation fees (\$61.20) be paid for this financial year, and that membership fees will remain the same - \$10.00 per person, \$15.00 per family or group.

(Seconded by Darren Hodgson) - passed unanimously.

Election of Office Bearers: -

President – Gordon Duncan Moved – Matt Campbell Seconded – Ken Harris

Vice President – Cathy Beamish Moved – Matt Campbell Seconded – Mike Beamish

Secretary/Public Officer – Beryl Nelson Moved – Graeme Busch Seconded – Joelle Champert

Treasurer – Mike Beamish Moved - Darren Hodgson Seconded – Beryl Nelson

Newsletter – Darren Hodgson Moved – Matt Campbell Seconded – Ken Harris

Publicity – Caitlin Punshon Moved – Matt Campbell Seconded – Joelle Champert

Committee Member – Matt Campbell Moved -Beryl Nelson Seconded - Darren Hodgson

Annual General Meeting declared closed at 2.25 pm

Friends of Morwell National Park

General Meeting held 7th August 2022
General Meeting declared open at 2.30pm

Attendance: Mike Beamish, Ken Harris, Beryl Nelson, Matt Campbell, Joelle Champert, Jay Duncan, Darren Hodgson, Caitlin Punshon & Graeme Busch.

Apologies: Gordon Duncan, Cathy Beamish & Anita Pither.

Minutes of previous meeting held on September 2021 were read and accepted as a true account
Moved – Mike Beamish Seconded – Matt Campbell.

Business arising from Previous Meeting: -

No discussion arose out of the previous meeting.

Inwards Correspondence: -

- 28th July – Email from Consumer Affairs regarding the Annual Statement.
- 28^h July – Email from Parks Victoria regarding COVID19 Update.
- 2nd Sept – The Conservation Regulators Quarterly Newsletter.
- 22nd Sept - Parks Victoria update regarding the easing of restrictions from the 21st October.
- 12th Nov – Email from Carolyn Judd enquiry about becoming a member of the Friends Group.
- 13th Nov – Email from Consumer Affairs regarding annual payment.
- 27th Nov – Volunteering Innovation Fund announcing the winning participants.
- 2nd Dec – Email from Fern Cadman regarding Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into ecosystem decline & which recommends increased funds for nature.
- 13th Dec – Email from Treasurer regarding the membership status of the Friends Group.
- 27th Dec – Email from Parks Victoria thanking everyone for volunteering in 2021.
- 3rd Feb – Email from Matt Campbell regarding seed collecting on 5th February.
- 7th Feb – Email from Jay Duncan regarding the results of seed collecting on 5th Feb.
- 20th Feb – Email from Anita Pither inquiring about becoming member.
- 25th Feb – Email from Sasha Miles (Latrobe Community Health) regarding the Heart Foundation Walking Group.
- 16th April – Email from Caitlin Punshon enquiring about April's activity & membership.
- 20th May – Email from Parks Victoria regarding National Volunteer Week 2022.
- 27th May – Letter from Melina Bath MP regarding the Agriculture Legislation Amendment Bill 2022.
- 30th June – The Conservation Regulators Quarterly Newsletter June 2022.

Outwards Correspondence –

- 26th Nov – Email from CAV that payment was made by cheque on 6th Nov at Moe Post Office.
- 25th Feb – Mike Beamish emailed Latrobe Community Health, to say because of insufficient numbers the walks have ceased and requested that our name be taken off the list.

General Business –

Problems were discussed about communicating with Parks Victoria regarding seed planting. No one responds to telephone calls and messages. Also, discussion was centred around where and when seeding could be done.

The meeting was informed that the Grand Strzelecki Track has been closed between the Morwell National Park boundary to Jumbuk camp site due to severe storm damage and lack of resources.

Discussion also centred on nesting boxes, there are a lot that are damaged or lost which will need to be replaced or repaired – there are about 10 in the Parks shed, that are ready to be put up.

Meeting declared closed at 3.00pm 7th August 2022

President's Report 07/08/2022

Looking back at Matt's President's Report from last year I'm struck by the thought that we and the park are still in a little bit in limbo. Although we've been able to travel more and undertake a FoMNP activity each month there's been a number of months where members have been unable to attend due to being in isolation. Thankfully they've been able to return to us at subsequent activities. At the time of our AGM last year the park itself was only just beginning to reopen after the June storm and there is still more work to be done. Most of the tracks are clear now and we are looking forward to having new facilities installed at Kerry Rd in the near future. The repairs/replacement of the Stringybark Track bridge and Billy's Creek bridges may however, still be some time away. One highlight for the year has been the welcoming of Caitlin and Anita as new and active members. Hopefully we can add more members in the coming year. Now for the year in review.

In October last year we met for our annual Orchid Walk and Koala Count. A total of fourteen orchids were observed with nine flowering. After lunch we set off in three separate groups due to having a large number of people attending the Koala count. A total of nine were spotted with a number of others heard.

The annual Butterfly Orchid survey in November brought a reminder of how destructive the June storm was with Matt and Tamara reporting that one of the test plots has been almost completely lost due to a landslip. On a positive note they also reported that the Butterfly Orchid numbers had rebounded after a poor year in 2020.

In December we started a summer of seed collecting with collecting continuing in January and February. Many thanks to Matt and Kerry who hosted the annual Christmas BBQ. Apart from seed collecting in January and February we completed the summer nest box survey with a total of 40 sugar gliders, one ringtail possum and a few Agile Antechinus observed.

The annual Moth Count and Spotlight walk in March was once again one of the highlights of the year. Many thanks to Cathy for preparing a magnificent feast before the night's activities and with dusk approaching two moth traps were set up by Matt and Cathy Powers. Over the night many moths, as well as a dragonfly and a butterfly, were observed with one new species to the park recorded. It was an honour to once again to have Cathy Powers with us, especially since Cathy returned home to the United States to live soon afterwards. The spotlight walk was also successful with many sightings, the highlight of which was an Owlet Nightjar.

The weather was especially kind to us in the months of April and May so were we were able to undertake quite a bit of track maintenance at Stringybark. Plans to complete the track maintenance in June were curtailed by heavy rain so an inspection of the previous seeding at the Blue Gum Hill was undertaken. Almost all of our seeding has been in vain due to feral sheep and deer. Lastly in July we were back down at the bottom of Billy's Creek to do our winter nest box survey. On that day the weather wasn't kind to us.

Lastly, thank you to all our members and the committee for your efforts in the last twelve months. As this was my first year as president I am especially grateful to all of you and my thanks to Matt for guiding me through the year and to Darren, and Cathy for the month that Darren was unavailable, for producing the monthly newsletter.

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Calendar 2023

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Activities are scheduled for the third Sunday of each month, with extra days scheduled as required.

Date:	Activity:	Venue and Time:
January 15	Nesting box survey	Junction Rd, 10.00am
February 19	Nesting box repairs	Junction Rd, 10.00am
March 19	BBQ & Spot light walk & Moth survey	Kerry Road, 5.30pm
April 16	Track Maintenance	Kerry Road, 10.00am
May 21	Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
June 18	Track Maintenance	Kerry Road, 10.00am
July 16	Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
August 6	AGM	Kerry Road, 1.30pm
August 20	Track Maintenance	Kerry Road, 10.00am
September 17	Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
October 15	Orchid Walk Koala Count	Kerry Road, 10.00am & Kerry Road, 1.30pm
November 19	Orchid Survey	Kerry Road, 10.00am
December 17	Seed Collection Christmas Function	Junction Rd, 10.00am & Kerry Road 1.00pm

For all activities, it is BYO food, drinks, suitable clothing and footwear, and other personal items, unless otherwise indicated in the newsletter. Up to date details of each forthcoming activity are provided in the monthly newsletter, which is emailed to members and available to the public on the website.