

PO Box 19
Churchill
3842



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – December 2022

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

Welcome to this month's newsletter.

November Activity Report

For this month's activity we had Tamara, Mike, Cathy, Gordon, Ken, Rose, Caitlin and Darren. We had apologies from Anita, Beryl, Graeme, Joelle and Matt.

The forecast was for rain, so this was a factor in the planning for the day. The main task was to complete the annual Butterfly Orchid survey. Tamara had brought the record sheets and with the wet conditions the plan was to survey only some of the five sites. With one site spanning the creek and another requiring crossing the seasonal creek, these sites were going to be difficult to safely survey.

The group met in the carpark and observed a wallaby grazing up on the hill. A koala was also found above the picnic area. The group walked into the Foster's Gully track. Caitlin and Darren went along the track cutting back foliage that had grown into the track. The rest of the team worked up to the first plot and surveyed the Butterfly Orchids within the plot. In total three plots were surveyed over the morning.

Following the wet winter and spring, the butterfly orchids are growing well. There were more orchids found at each site and they are generally larger plants.



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

Official Address of FMNP - contactfmnp@gmail.com

President: Gordon Duncan

Vice-President: Cathy Beamish

Secretary & Public Officer: Beryl Nelson

Treasurer: Mike Beamish

Publicity: Caitlin Punshon

Newsletter Editor: Darren Hodgson, darren.hodgson@education.vic.gov.au

Other members: Melina Bath, Eulalie Brewster, Graeme Busch, Matt & Kerry Campbell, Joelle Champert, Wendy Davies, Jay Duncan, Ken Harris, Tamara Leitch, Hayley Mildenhall, Rose Mildenhall, Anjali Pal, Anita Pither, Grant Pengelly, Wayne Pengelly, Chris Sikkema, Joan Sikkema, David Stickney & Wendy Steenbergen.



Above are photos of some of the orchids found during the survey and along Foster's Gully Track.

Mike captured a few rare finds. One was the yellow flatworm while the other was a Butterfly Orchid with what looks like last season's seed capsule still attached on a separate spike to this year's flowers.



Over the morning's work the groups escaped with only a few showers wetting our heads. When more rain threatened it was a good time to finish for the day.

Over the past month, Matt, Ken and Graeme were recognized by Morwell Rotary for their care for the environment via their annual Pride in Workmanship Awards.

There was an article in the LV Express (10/11/2022) discussing their achievements. If you missed the article – a copy of it is below. Morwell Rotary also made a \$300 donation to the Friends of Morwell National Park. So thanks goes to Morwell Rotary and congratulations goes to Matt, Ken and Graeme.

Dedicated workers recognised by Rotary for park efforts

A CITIZEN scientist/science communicator, a Landcare specialist, and a field naturalist expert in plant/insect identification were all recipients of Morwell Rotary Club's annual Pride of Workmanship Awards at last week's special dinner at the Morwell RSL.

Matt Campbell, Graeme Busch and Ken Harris, all experts in their special fields, work to protect, maintain, improve and promote all aspects of the Morwell National Park, and encourage others to recognise and respect the wonderful asset the community has on its doorstep.

Matt Campbell's long-term interest in conservation and natural history continues in his work, promoting the park, engaging other people, especially students, and showing them the wonders of the local native fauna.

Matt's involvement in the park dates from 2012, and since then his activities have included re-vegetation, weed removal, track maintenance and surveying fauna and flora of the park. Favourite jobs are koala counts, butterfly orchid surveys and annual checking of nest boxes. His steadfast dedication to the park ensures its preservation and protection for this and future generations.

Graeme Busch, an active member of Friends of the National Park for 10 years, is involved in track maintenance, weed removal and checking nest



Great service: Pictured at the Pride of Workmanship Awards are Rotary vocational service director Anne Vokes, Matt Campbell, Ken Harris, Graeme Bush and Adrian Walker. photograph supplied

boxes. His passion is the protection of the unique orchids, and removing any sign of the invasive ragwort throughout the park and elsewhere.

His work with the Yinnar/Yinnar South Landcare has made a big contribution to the group's success in re-vegetation and protection activities. His natural ability and know how identified an access track (called Graeme's Track) to a remote planting site.

His efforts and focus on achieving outcomes enables others to experience and enjoy nature and make their own contribution to sustainability.

Ken Harris is an inaugural member of the Friends of the Morwell National Park, joining in 1987, and is considered to be "the" authority on all matters relating to the park. His knowledge and skills in identification and photography of different species

of plants and insects is tantamount to his focus and determination.

His involvement in LV Field Naturalists includes cataloguing existing species of both plant and animal, which is crucial in understanding and maintaining environmental health and biodiversity. Ken's role as environmental teacher and science communicator and his passion for technology, ensures that his knowledge is understood and shared by all others to help find ways to live sustainably.

The Pride of Workmanship awardees were supported by their family and friends, including Adrian Walker, a well-known local farmer and supporter of the park, whose family was instrumental in the park's beginning. Matt Campbell, on behalf of the awardees, thanked the Rotary Club members for their acknowledgement and recognition of their work. Elsewhere, Morwell Rotary will host its inaugural Christmas Family Day at Morwell Recreation Reserve on December 11 from 10am.

The event will offer food vans, market stalls, local community service providers, activities for kids and a visit from Santa.

If any food vendors, market stall holders or community service providers would like to participate, email mffdmorwell@gmail.com for further information.

December Activity

Sunday 18th December – Kerry Road

Activity 1 – 10.00am

The group will meet in the Kerry Road car park to collect seed that will be used for plantings in future activities. You will need to bring clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

Activity 2 – The **Christmas BBQ** will begin around 1.00pm starting in the Kerry Road Picnic Area.

Friends of Morwell National Park Christmas BBQ

Come along and enjoy in a BBQ lunch to celebrate and reflect upon our year in Morwell National Park

When: Sunday 19th December

Time: 1.00pm

Where: Kerry Road picnic area (or near by)

What to bring: BYO plate, cutlery, cup/glass, drink, folding seat and bring either a salad or a sweet.

