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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – January 2023

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.net>
Official Address of FMNP - contactfmnp@gmail.com
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At this stage of the year we wish all a merry Christmas and restful New Year. Welcome to the first newsletter of 2023.

December Activity Report

For the last activity of 2022 we started with some seed collection, track maintenance and the completion of Butterfly Orchid Survey which was followed by the Christmas barbeque. For the morning we had Rose, Beryl, Tamara, Anita, Matt, Ken, Peter, Caitlin, Gordon and Darren. We had apologies from Jay, Joelle, Graeme and Wendy. Cathy and Mike were to join the group later at the barbeque.

An update to the number of koalas counted in the 2022 October Koala Count was made and the final figures were:

Foster Gully Track	12 koalas
Jumbuk Road Track	1 koala
Stringybark Track	5 koalas
Total	18 koalas

The group met in the car park to plan what was to be attempted during the morning. With the wet Spring the expectation of finding trees with ripe seed was low, so dividing the group was decided. Matt, Tamara and Gordon completed the Butterfly Orchid Survey (started last month). The final two plots were surveyed but few Butterfly Orchids were found since within these plots, land slips and fallen trees have made these plots not very suitable for Butterfly Orchids. Overall the health of the Butterfly Orchids was good in 2022.

The rest of the group went to Stringybark Track to look for seed and complete some track maintenance. On the side track we saw some wonderful Butterfly Orchids in full flower. The group travelled along the return leg of the Stringybark Track and then travelled back via the west boundary. Not many seeds were collected, since not many plants had set seed. Some was very green (so possibly it can be collected later). Vanish Wattle was the species most collected and now Peter has the homework to label and record each seed variety. Wendy has kindly offered to store and maintain the seed collection. Thank you Wendy.

On the return leg of the Stringybark Track there is a small tree across the track and on last section of the track from the West Boundary there is a large tree down across the track, so hopefully Parks will be to clear these trees to return full access.

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After each group had finished, everybody moved off to the end of year barbeque. The morning groups were joined by Mike, Cathy, Kerry and Faye. Thank you goes to Matt and Kerry for hosting the group, Mike and Cathy who brought in all of the meat and a selection of salads and Beryl for her annual lemon cheesecake. It was lovely to sit back and enjoy the moment. Thank you to everybody who brought a plate. A big thanks goes to everybody in the group for your efforts in 2022. It was a challenging year and each time somebody has dragged themselves out on a cold Sunday morning, we collectively have made improvements within the park.

January Activity

Sunday 15th January 10.00am

The group will meet in the Junction Road car park to complete the annual survey of the nesting boxes and collect some seed for planting later in the year. You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.