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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – February 2023

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.net>
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Welcome to this month's first newsletter.

January Activity Report

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

In the week before the activity, Caitlin and Peter went out to collect mature seed in the National Park. They collected more Varnish Wattle from West Boundary and Prickly Moses from Jumbuk Track. Along with seed collected previously the group should have will now have enough of both species. They observed that the Silver Wattle has little seed on it this year and the Pomaderris at Junction Road and Kerry Road was looking close to ready, so that would be collection focus for this activity.

The group met in the car park and planned the tasks to be done in the day's activity. There were two activities planned for the day – the nesting box survey and seed collection. Jay, Joelle, Rose and Graeme worked upon seed collection along Billy's Creek Track. They collected Pomaderris seed by snipping the tips laden with seed into a large bag. The timing was right for the group to collect lots of seed from multiple plants and locations near the track.

The rest of the group focused upon the nesting box survey. Anita and Leonie took charge of the camera, while Beryl looked after the record keeping (both animals sighted and boxes needing repairs). Darren scouted out boxes to be surveyed. There are many weeds around the boxes, so Ken and Gordon worked on removing some of these and keeping the gear close to the working groups.

At a few of the nesting boxes, the sugar gliders were active and came out when we came close to inspect the box. At some boxes the sugar gliders came out and climbed the tree, another glided to an adjacent tree, while another poked its nose out of the hole.



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The photos show some of the sugar gliders that came out of the boxes. The last shows a sugar glider watching us from the entrance into the box.

After a few hours both groups stopped together for lunch. Rose left after lunch and the groups separated after lunch. Over the day all boxes were surveyed and at least 40 sugar gliders, one ringtail possum and one agile antechinus were sighted. Also in two of the boxes eggs were found (5 in total), which is a rare find in the nesting boxes. When the video is studied more sugar gliders could be found since the boxes with moving sugar gliders were only given a quick survey so not to overly disturb the animals.

Next month we will use the list to make repairs to some boxes and replace others lost in the falling of trees during the storms.

February Activity

Sunday 19th January 10.00am

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