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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter – May 2023*

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

### April Activity Report

Firstly, an update from the moth survey held last month. At the last activity, two mothing sheets were set up and over 80 moth species were identified at Mike and Cathy's mothing sheet located in the Kerry Road picnic area and over 70 moth species were identified at Ken and Matt's mothing sheet at the beginning of the Foster's Gully track. Seven new species of moths (to Morwell National Park) were observed over the evening.

Now some figures from Ken - within Morwell National Park over many moth surveys - 767 different species of moths and 26 different butterflies have been identified.

On the morning of the activity, we were greeted with a wet day. This summer it has been a lot cooler than normal and relatively dry. So, the rain was welcome but not helpful for our planned activity.

For the activity, we had Matt, Mike, Gordon, Graeme, Ken, Tamara, Rose, Beryl and Darren. There were apologies from Caitlin, Cathy, Anita and Joelle. A few wisely did not want to venture out into the rain.

The group met in the car park in the raincoats. It was raining and we were hoping that it would stop. The group decided that it was not practical to complete an activity in the rain and would leave the work until next month.

After the effort of coming out for the day; Matt, Tamara, Graeme and Gordon decided to walk around Foster's Gully in the rain.

Recently here has been problems with people bringing horses and dogs into the National Park. With the information board gone there are less reminders to the public that horses and dogs are not welcome in the national park. Additional signage will help to reinforce this message.

Next month the group will need to tackle two trees down across Foster's Gully Track (walkers can walk over them) and another at the top of Stringybark Track.

A few days after the planned activity, I went for a wander to Billy's Weir. It is sad to see that only two bridges are open with the others being washed away two years ago in the big storms. The temporary bridge before Billy's Weir is now on the bank and no longer spanning the creek. The second bridge crossing (near Potato Flat) which was washed off its footings in the storm but is still useable as a bridge across the creek. It would be good if repairs could be made to the handrails to make it a safer creek crossing.

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Billy's Weir can only now be accessed if walkers enter the creek. Over the years with many storm events the Weir is silting up. The area behind the weir is getting shallower and is now only a few feet deep. In the center of the weir the silt has collected and now makes a solid bank above water level.



### **May Activity**

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 10am

The group will meet in the Kerry Road car park to complete track maintenance. You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

Note: This a change of location from the original yearly calendar.