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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – June 2023

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

May Activity Report

For the activity we had Anita, Matt, Ken, Graeme, Wayne, Joelle, Gordon and Darren. Mike B and Cathy had come for the morning meeting. We had apologies from Rose, Caitlin and Tamara. We also had Damien and Mike along for their first activity. Mike B gave both a membership form so by next month we should have some new members.

The group met in the carpark and were watching the sky. The weekend had been wet and rain was likely. Gordon opened the meeting and Matt spoke about the recent Biolink meeting. Biolink is a committee with the goal of creating a plant and wildlife link between the Strzelecki ranges and the high country. The focus has been upon mapping the biolink route through public and private land. This was the first physical meeting since covid and the focus was back upon the mapping. It was discovered that two other biolinks are planned and will link in with this local corridor. There is a Biolink planned on the Bass Coast and another around Traralgon. An improvement that has been made is the fencing on the Princes Freeway at the Morwell Wetlands. The fencing has been changed to encourage wildlife to cross under the road rather across the freeway. At Hearn's Oak there is concern about the number of animals on the freeway and changes are being looked at.

Gordon and Joelle (separately) have recently taken overseas friends and family for walks in the park. The walkers were impressed by the natural environment, age of the trees and diversity of habitat. The groups greatly enjoyed their time in the park.

The whole group walked around Foster's Gully with Wayne handling the chainsaw to remove two trees across the main track. It was good to take time to investigate some of the fungi found at this time of year. One fungi spotted was the *Armillaria luteobubalina* (shown beside).

Ken walked to whole circuit and Damien got the opportunity to learn much about the plants, animals, and local history from Ken. Our walk was well timed since it did not rain while we walked



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around Foster's Gully.

After the walk a few stayed to eat their lunch before returning home.



At the next activity the plan will be to complete some track widening work on Stringybark Track. In the areas where the bushfire has been, the undergrowth is growing strongly and the track is difficult to negotiate. Recently there have been many deer sightings around the park. Last week, I was greeted in the early morning by a mature deer running down the center of Junction Road.

June Activity

Sunday 18th June 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.