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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – December 2023

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.net>
Official Address of FMNP - contactfmnp@gmail.com
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Welcome to this month's newsletter.

November Activity Report

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

In a meeting before the activity Jay told the group that the work on the bird book is progressing well and they have recently received funding from Mirboo North & District Community Foundation's Community Grant for \$1,500. For the awarding of the grant they wanted some signatories to attend their Monday night meeting. Since it the same evening as a Field Naturalists meeting, finding people available was difficult. Fortunately, Matt and Tamara could alter their plans to attend the meeting and receive the grant.

A name has been settled upon for the bird book and will involve Feeling Chirpy. The bird book group will continue to look for other groups that may be able to sponsor the bird book and are planning on a having it completed later next year for a public launch.

There has been no progress upon the repairs to broken bridges, but a project manager has been appointed. It has been repeated that the bridges only need to be repaired and don't need to be upgraded.

The group divided to complete a few different activities. Matt, Tamara and Helen undertook the Butterfly Orchid survey. Ken, Jay and Joelle walked along Fosters Gully Track. Darren drove up to Jumbuk Road to tackle some of the pine trees found last month.

For the Butterfly Orchid survey each of the plots were surveyed and the number of orchids and health of the plants was like last year. A few of the plots have undergone many changes over the past five years. On one there has been a massive landslip and on another a major tree fell across the plot knocking out most of the trees and changing this plot greatly.

Darren used hand saws and pruners to cut down the smaller pines trees which have seeded after the main plantation was cut down. Each stump was sprayed to stop it reshooting.

The plantation was cut down over five years ago and many seedlings have grown since. There are a number which were too large to cut by hand and will require the chain saw to cut them down. Lower limbs on each of these larger trees were removed to make the chain saw work easier.

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

On many of the pine trees there was evidence that stag deer have been rubbing their antlers against the trees. The sappy scars have not affected the growth of the trees.



From the top of the hill the views over the park and the valley were spectacular.



December Activity

Sunday 17th December – Kerry Road

Activity 1 – 10.00am

The group will meet in the Kerry Road car park to complete track maintenance. 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. Meet at 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 17th December

Time: 1.00pm

Meet at: Kerry Road picnic area

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

