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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc. *Newsletter – November 2020*

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Hello everyone and welcome to this months' newsletter.

Corona Virus (Covid 19) update:

	Deaths	Reported cases
Worldwide	1.16 Million	43.2 Million
Australia	905	27,500
Victoria	817	20,341

In Victoria we have recently had 0 cases and 0 deaths. Yeah. Strict restrictions have also been eased in Melbourne. A range of businesses can now reopen in a limited manner. The process is slow and there are still many restrictions upon our normal lives.

While we move through spring, the Northern hemisphere it getting colder and the regular cold and flu season is starting. There is a strong second wave of Corona Virus infections in Europe and USA. Worldwide there are between 300,000 and 500,000 new cases a day. The worldwide death rate sits between 4,000 and 8,000 per day.

One restriction has been upon gatherings. We normally have our AGM each August but this year we needed to delay it because of the Covid social restrictions. We are planning to have our AGM in December, hoping that Covid gathering rules improve by then. It is hoped that all members will be able to attend. After the AGM and committee meeting, we plan to have our Christmas Barbeque.

## Friends of Morwell National Park Annual General Meeting

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December  
10.00am

Kerry Road picnic area (Kerry Road, Jeeralang Junction)

Bring a chair

A committee meeting will follow the Annual General Meeting

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President: Ken Harris

Vice-President: Matt Campbell

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Other members: Cathy Beamish, Eulalie Brewster, Graeme Busch, Kerry Campbell, Joelle Champert, Wendy Davies, Gordon Duncan, Jay Duncan, Hayley Mildenhall, Rose Mildenhall, Grant Pengelly, Wayne Pengelly, Chris Sikkema, Joan Sikkema, David Stickney & Wendy Steenberg.

In other news, Wildlife Unlimited have been carrying out a fox-baiting scheme in the Morwell National Park for some time. Back on 18th May they discovered some unusual footprints in a wheel rut beside the Grand Strzelecki Track, which they photographed. The consensus of opinion at the time was that they were probably Bandicoot prints, but now way of telling whether they were the Long-nosed Bandicoot or the Southern Brown Bandicoot.

As well as setting baits, they have automatic cameras set up at the bait stations and more recently they have obtained photographs of bandicoots, which prove to be the Long-nosed Bandicoot (*Perameles nasuta*).

Bandicoots were photographed in each of the three weeks prior to 29th September.

The species has been added to our park web site

at [https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fmorwellnp.pangaeon.net%2Fcgi-bin%2Fshow\\_species.cgi%3Ffind\\_this%3DPerameles%2520nasuta%26image\\_size%3D0&data=02%7C01%7CDarren.Hodgson%40education.vic.gov.au%7Cc3825ad287784b935a4208d86507edd2%7Cd96cb3371a8744cfb69b3cec334a4c1f%7C0%7C0%7C637370432454929789&sdata=OkT%2FapUZPcpmJstwuNF830%2BJXq30bRK5Z3wKlst6q%2FI%3D&reserved=0](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fmorwellnp.pangaeon.net%2Fcgi-bin%2Fshow_species.cgi%3Ffind_this%3DPerameles%2520nasuta%26image_size%3D0&data=02%7C01%7CDarren.Hodgson%40education.vic.gov.au%7Cc3825ad287784b935a4208d86507edd2%7Cd96cb3371a8744cfb69b3cec334a4c1f%7C0%7C0%7C637370432454929789&sdata=OkT%2FapUZPcpmJstwuNF830%2BJXq30bRK5Z3wKlst6q%2FI%3D&reserved=0)



It is great to know that this native mammal which is listed as endangered is to be found in Morwell National Park.

Matt reported that Kerry is our representative on the Yinnar-Yinnar South Bushfire Recovery Group.

The group Discovery Relief Australia unites the skills and experiences of Australian Defence Force veterans, emergency responders and civilians to rapidly deploy disaster relief teams domestically and around the globe. They work on community projects before, during and after natural disasters. They have expressed an interest in working upon the clean-up of the Grand Strzelecki Track.

With the Ritchie's community benefits cards, they are requiring everybody using the card to update to a new card and relink to your selected community group. The Friends of Morwell National Park is not available via the new community benefits card since we have never received any money from them and are not part of the updated scheme.

## October Activity Report

We needed to adapt our October plans to accommodate Covid gathering rules. We planned to run an Orchid Walk and then later hold the Koala Count. Since the Orchid walk would have had the whole group walking together to discover the orchids in leaf and bloom, this was a risky activity since we were likely to have over 10 people (outside the current rules). This would have especially been difficult since the Ben Cruachan Walkers planned to join the Orchid Walk. So we adjusted the activities.

The Ben Cruachan Walkers started early and did their walk (separate to us) around Stringybark and then Foster's Gully tracks. We completed the Koala count in staggered starts which meant that we weren't in any large groups.

The first group to leave was the Stringybark Track group of Beryl, Wayne and Darren. At the top of this walk where the bushfire burnt, the undergrowth is growing strongly. Sadly the canopy is too thin to sustain koalas. Hopefully this will improve over the years to come.

The Fosters Gully crew of Cathy, Mike and Joelle searched hard and found some koalas in difficult to locate crevices of trees. Determined searching was rewarded.

The Jumbuk Road group of Matt, Tamara, Graeme and David Mills were driven to their starting point by Ken and travelled the difficult route along the fire break.

On the Stringybark Track, it was good to see water flowing in the seasonal creek and we observed a few black wallabies, many rosellas, a wedge tail eagle (being harassed by another small bird), lyrebirds and a few koalas.



Ken remained in the picnic area to collect the results from each group. The counted koalas for the day were:

Track	Koalas counted
Fosters Gully Nature walk	6 koalas
Stringybark Track	3 koalas
Jumbuk Road firebreak	5 koalas
Kerry Road picnic area	1 koala

### **November Activity**

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November 10.00am

The group will meet in the Kerry Road car park to complete the Butterfly Orchid Survey and some track maintenance. To ensure that the group is not larger than 10 in size we will have a number of small work teams. You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.