

PO Box 19  
Churchill  
3842



President:  
5122 3137

# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter – November 2010*

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeaan.net>  
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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. The weather over the last few months has been a real mixed bag with hot and cold days following each other and many days of welcome rain. The rain have been regular over the last two months with about 70mm in the water gauge for each of the last two months.

It is good to announce that we now have a new ranger and her name is Bronwyn Grass. Bronwyn was able to start off with the Koala count where an increased number of Koalas were counted. This was a great sign that Bronwyn was able to encourage the koalas out of hiding (or help to locate) in her first activity. It is the first year in a while that the number of koalas counted has increased and especially good since it was a smaller group at last month's activity to count the koalas. I know there are koalas around in the Park since I have over the last week been regularly hearing the nocturnal grunts and screams of koalas in the trees around my home.

Big thanks go to Ken for writing the article about what happened at the Koala Count. If you are in to horse racing enjoy the cup season.

### November Activity

10.00am Sunday 21<sup>th</sup> November

The group will meet at the Junction Road entrance to undertake both the Butterfly orchid survey and other odd jobs. One of the odd jobs we may uptake could be looking for more Tutsan in Billy's Creek (there never seems to be less of it). So bring waders or gumboots if you have them since they are very useful while walking through the creek. We will meet at the Junction Road car park and from there we will decide upon a plan of attack for the day's work.

You will need your lunch, clothing and footwear suitable for the terrain and weather conditions on the day.

**Friends of Morwell National Park Inc:** PO Box 19, Churchill, 3842, <http://morwellnp.pangaeaan.net>.

**President:** Ken Harris, 51223137

**Vice-President:** Peter McDonald

**Secretary:** Beryl Nelson

**Treasurer:** Wendy Steenbergen

**Publicity:** Denis Sultana

**Public Officer:** Jane Sultana

**Newsletter Editor:** Darren Hodgson, 90 Tebb Terrace Jeeralang Junction 3840, 51222108, [dhodgson@wideband.net.au](mailto:dhodgson@wideband.net.au)

**Members:** Mary Austin, John & Margaret Barker, Mike & Cathy Beamish, Eulalie Brewster, Reg Felmingham, Tom Lawless, Peter & Wendy McDonald, John Pulis, Joan Sikkema, David Stickney, Laura Webber, Kate Richardson, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

## October Activity Report

### Koala Counting 2010

Our October working bee was our annual Koala Count in Fosters Gully. This must have been one of our worst attended Koala counts ever, with only three members of the friends turning up. We must improve our publicity for this important event in our calendar before next year's count (and arrange for better weather).

Fortunately we had 4 others to make our number up to 7 enabling us to count 2 of the usual tracks. We had to omit the Jumbuck Rd Track from this year's count.



John Barker and Joan Sikkema and I represented the friends and we were accompanied by our new ranger Bronwyn Grass and her brother and Joan's son Matthew, and I brought a visitor from the SEANA Camp, Gloria Dean.

The day started and finished wet and windy, but it remained dry while we were counting the koalas

John, Gloria and I surveyed the Fosters Gully Track, while the other four surveyed Stringybark Ridge. We were fortunate in that we were caught up by a young family. Two women with three young children caught us up along Fosters Gully and joined with us searching for koalas for the rest of the track. It was one of the 2 young girls who spotted our first Koala, a female high in a Mountain Grey Gum in Fosters Gully. After we had passed Lyndon's Clearing, Gloria spotted another koala, a male this time, but also in a Mountain Grey

Gum. Finally as we were emerging from the bush onto the boundary fire break, we heard a male calling from nearby, but failed to locate it.

We returned to the car park, fairly pleased with our count of 3 koalas, arriving back at the exact same moment as the other party. They reported a total of 4 koalas, 3 males and 1 female. One in Mountain Grey Gum and the other 3 somewhat surprisingly, all in Messmate trees.



The total of 7 koalas from just 2 tracks compares favourably with last year when only 6 were found on 3 tracks. Over the years the counts have varied from a lowest of 2 to a highest of 18, with the tracks surveyed varying from 2 to 5. Our count of 7 from 2 tracks bears out the general impression from our surveys of a pretty stable population, and all the koalas we saw seem to be healthy.

Ken Harris

### **Where in the park is this?**

Your task is to identify where in the park the following photo has been taken. The park has many wonderful views to see and here is an opportunity to share your prize pictures with others.



Where in the park has the following photo been taken? To take part in the discussion of possible answers you can come along to this month's activity. For those who are really keen, you can even go on a search for the spot the photograph was taken from.

So if you have a photo of a special corner or an unusual event that has occurred in the park, please send in your photos. They could be of one of the wonderful vistas or a rarely seen part of the park.

Please send them to Darren via email to [dhodgson@wideband.net.au](mailto:dhodgson@wideband.net.au).