

PO Box 19  
Churchill  
3842



President:  
5122 3137

# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter – January 2011*

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaean.net>  
A0016319X

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter and welcome to 2011. A big merry Christmas and wishes for a happy and safe new year to you all.

The weather continues to be wetter and colder than normal, so it is still very green in the park. The risks of bushfires at this part of the season are now very low but it hard to say what it will be like at the end of summer.

At the end of the December activity and after the barbeque we had a quick committee meeting to discuss the use of monies allocated to us. The meeting occurred in the shed so that we could hide from the storm that had blown up.

For the small hand tools equipment grant that we had received, we decided to put the money towards a star picket remover, sharpening stone, secateurs, wire cutters, lopper and possibly a whipper sniper.

For our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration we can write a special application and that could go towards the celebration and either a shelter for Kerry Road picnic area or a fish ladder for Billys' Weir.

Other items discussed are the need to work on making the new brochure for the park and need to write a new application for funding to upgrade the toilets at Kerry Road.

Bronwyn also reported that the grass within the park will be cut starting on December 29<sup>th</sup>.

The calendar of planned activities for 2011 is included on the last page of the newsletter.

**Friends of Morwell National Park Inc:** PO Box 19, Churchill, 3842, <http://morwellnp.pangaean.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).

## November Activity Report

For this month's activity we had Ken, Beryl, Cathy, Mike, Peter, Wendy, John, Reg, Bronwyn and Darren in attendance. It was good to see John back with us fit and well.

John reported that the echidna written about recently in the Latrobe Valley Express that was travelling through the center of Churchill ended up near their house. John and Margaret then collected the echidna and have relocated it into the National Park (a lot safer home for it). Others discussed how koalas have been spotted near the traffic lights in Churchill and Ken reported how both echidnas and koalas have been located in Mathison Park.

For the nesting box survey Bronwyn had located a camera on an extendable pole with a viewing screen. This was great for looking into the nesting boxes with larger holes and took away the need to open half of the nesting boxes. This was a lot less disruptive to any animals that might have been in the nesting boxes. A great tool we hopefully are able to use in the future since this along with the GPS that made the activity very productive.

During this activity 26 of the nesting boxes were checked, out of the 40 boxes. Next month we will look into the remaining boxes. The count from the survey was at least 3 antechinus (2 in one box and one in another) at least 6 sugar gliders (5 +1) and a nest with two eggs.

At the end of the activity we were greeted by Rob clearing some of the grass near the car park.

Below is Ken's photo of the sugar gliders where four of them can be clearly seen.



Ken also spotted a Spotted Skipper (or Spotted Sedge-skipper) - *Hesperilla ornata*. It is the first sighting in the Park of this butterfly. Ken's picture is below.



During lunch we were visited by a Grey Shrike-thrush. Ken's photo follows.



After the nesting box survey we had the Christmas Barbeque and a good time was had. The crew who had earlier completed the nesting box survey was joined by Rob, Faye, Margaret and her family. The pictures below tell the story. The last photo shows Mike with his latest love – Beryl’s cheesecake.



**January Activity**  
10.00am Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January

The group will meet at the Junction Road entrance to undertake firstly complete the nesting box survey and then undertake some seed collection (Blackwood, Vanish Wattle and Silver Wattle).

You will need to bring clothing and footwear suitable for the terrain and weather conditions on the day.

**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).

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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Calendar 2011*

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeaan.net>

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Activities are scheduled for the third Sunday of each month, with extra days scheduled as required.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Activity:</b>	<b>Venue and Time:</b>
January 16	Nesting boxes survey/Seed collection	Junction Rd, 10.00am
February 20	Weir Walk Weed Removal	Junction Rd, 10.00am
March 20	Weir Walk Weed Removal	Junction Rd, 10.00am
April 16	Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
May 21	Anniversary Celebrations	At nighttime - to be confirmed
May 22	Walk in the park	To be confirmed
June 19	Tree Planting	Junction Rd, 10.00am
July 17	Tree Planting	Junction Rd, 10.00am
August 7	AGM	To be advised, 1.30pm
August 21	Walk in the park	To be advised
September 18	Spotlight walk or Weed removal	To be advised
October 16	Koala Count	Kerry Road, 1.30pm
November 20	Orchid Survey/Odd jobs	Junction Rd, 10.00am
December 18	Nesting boxes survey/Christmas Function	Junction Rd, 10.00am

For all activities, it is BYO food, drinks, suitable clothing and footwear, and other personal items, unless otherwise indicated in the newsletter. Up to date details of each forthcoming activity are provided in the monthly newsletter, which is emailed to members and available to the public on the website.