

PO Box 19
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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – December 2012

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

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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. November continues to wetter and cooler than normal. As a result of this the Park is very green with the grasses growing madly. The Park is very lush and very green at the moment.

Over the last month the Park has been in the media. There has been an article in the Latrobe Valley Express and a story on Win TV. Ken took a group from Commercial Road Primary School to the park to look at the plants and investigate the plants under a microscope. Photos from this excursion appeared in the Latrobe Valley Express. Also over the last month WinTV did an interview with Mike about the Koala Count.

Recently John has made improvements to the shelter at Kerry Road. The discolored and broken roofing has been replaced with clear plastic sheeting.

Christmas is coming soon and so is our Christmas BBQ. See the last page for details.



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

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Other members: Mary Austin, Wendy Steenbergen, Margaret Barker, Cathy Beamish, Eulalie Brewster, Reg Felmingham, Wendy McDonald, Joan Sikkema, Kate Richardson, Hilmar Batza, Bronwyn Grass, Matt Campbell and Kerry Proud, Wendy Ritchie, Emma Pallett and Rod Haggith, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

November Activity Reports

Sunday 18th November

At this month's activity we had Mike, Cathy, Ken, Beryl, Brenda, Darren and Craig along. The main task of the day was to complete the Butterfly Orchid survey.

The group divided into two groups. Ken, Beryl, Cathy and Brenda went to Foster's Gully to complete the Butterfly Orchid Survey and take photos of the Butterfly Orchids.

Mike, Craig and Darren firstly went along Billy's Creek track to remove a tree from the track. A tree that had fallen across the track was removed and then this group went check a tree down across a track near the end of Foster's Gully Track. This tree was too large to remove, so the next job for this group was to clean out the gutters on the shed. After this, the group joined the survey crew to find Ken and Beryl completing the survey while Cathy and Brenda were taking photos. Mike joined Ken and Beryl while Craig and I joined the photographers. The Butterfly Orchids along Foster's Gully were spectacular.

Three Butterfly Orchid plots were surveyed using the GPS references recorded last year. In the first plot only two orchids remain and these did not flower this year. The second plot had a similar plant and flower count to last year. In the third plot, all orchids from last year were located along with some new plants. The flower count overall was increased from previous years. The wetter year has resulted in more and healthier Butterfly Orchids.



The photos included are a selection from the ones I collected during the activity. During the Christmas BBQ we plan to look through all of the photos collected from the activity. Hopefully we will locate a suitable one to use as a new group logo.



December Activity

Sunday 16th December

The group will meet at 10.00am the Junction Road car park to conduct the nesting box survey before the Christmas BBQ celebration at 1.00pm. We will need Craig to bring the camera mounted on the long pole and the extension ladders. You will need to bring clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

At the Christmas BBQ we will look through the photos of Butterfly Orchids taken during the November activity. If you want to refrigerate food for the BBQ, bring it along and this can be looked after.



Friends of Morwell National Park Christmas BBQ

Come along and enjoy in a BBQ lunch to celebrate another successful year of activities for the Friends of Morwell National Park

When: Sunday 16th December

Time: 1.00pm

Where: Kerry Road picnic area

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

Please come along.