

PO Box 19
Churchill
3842



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – January 2013

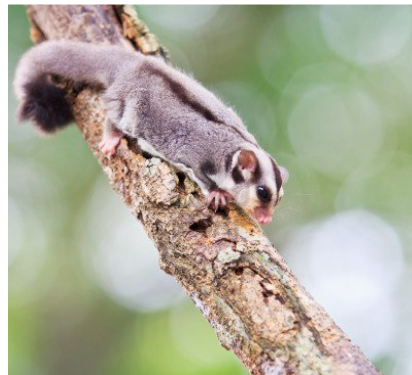
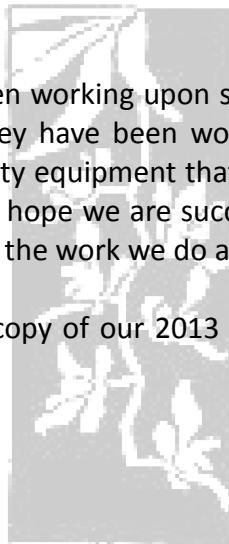
Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaean.net>

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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. Welcome to the madness of the Christmas season and the joys of the New Year. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Christmas and a great 2013.

Over the last month Mike and Craig have been working upon some submission for funding for projects within the park. There were three submissions they have been working on. One submission is for deer control, another for a chainsaw and the required safety equipment that goes with it. The last is for 5,000 seedlings to be grown and planted on Blue Gum Hill. We hope we are successfully with some of these applications. They will definitely improve the park and help with the work we do around the park.

Included at the back of this newsletter is a copy of our 2013 calendar of events. Hope to see many people along to the activities in 2013.



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

President: Mike Beamish

Vice-President: Ken Harris

Secretary: Beryl Nelson

Treasurer: John Barker

Publicity: Peter McDonald

Public Officer: Beryl Nelson

Newsletter Editor: Darren Hodgson, 51222108, hodgson.darren.d@edumail.vic.gov.au

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).

December Activity Report

Sunday 16th December

Nesting Box Survey

At this month's activity we had Mike, Cathy, Ken, Beryl, Brenda, Janna, Peter, Melissa, Wendy, John, Margaret, Darren, Tina and Craig along. This was the largest crew we had had for a quite a while. Tina is a new summer crew ranger and also new to the area. She will be around for a few months, so hopefully we will see her again next month.

The worry for the day was the weather and the possibility of rain. The only rain we had over the day was a little drizzle, so we all did not suffer too much. It is very unusual to have an activity in December affected by rain. It is more usual to have it affected by heat.

The group started from the car park with the ladder and the pole mounted camera. We surveyed about 30-35 boxes and were lucky enough to get our best animal count yet. The boxes are increasingly being used by many small mammals. Over the day we spotted at least 29 Sugar Gliders, 2 Agile Antechinus and 2 Ringtail Possums. We say at least this number of animals since in some boxes there could have been more animals hiding behind or under others and in some boxes the animals were active, so we didn't want to disrupt them any further.

This count is higher than we counted last year for the whole count and we still have half of the boxes yet to check. We have yet to find birds or bats in any of the boxes.

For a number of boxes the lids have come off or they are in need of repair and a few will need to be put back onto their trees. These boxes were recorded and they will need to be dealt with next activity.





Christmas Function

After the nesting box survey the weather was still good so the group moved to Kerry Road for our Christmas BBQ. It was good to have the whole group together and celebrate the good year the group has had. Our only apology was Fay, who we hope is up and about in full health soon.

Craig brought the meat for the BBQ and cooked up a storm. He was helped by Tina. Everybody else brought a feast of salads and desserts. We all ate our fill. It was a good way to celebrate the end of the year.

We looked through the photos from the Butterfly Orchid survey and between the four different photographers we should have some suitable ones. We will shortlist the photos and look at them again at the January activity.

January Activity

Sunday 20th January

The group will meet at 10.00am at the Junction Road car park to conclude the nesting box survey along with completing repairs to some of the nesting boxes. We will need Craig to bring the camera mounted on the long pole and the extension ladders. You will need to bring your lunch and suitable clothing for the weather conditions on the day.

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Calendar 2013

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

| Date: | Activity: | Venue and Time: |
|--------------|---|---|
| January 20 | Nesting boxes survey | Junction Rd, 10.00am |
| February 17 | Grand Strzelecki Track Weed Removal | Junction Rd, 10.00am |
| March 17 | Grand Strzelecki Track Weed Removal | Junction Rd, 10.00am |
| April 21 | Grand Strzelecki Track Weed Removal | Junction Rd, 10.00am |
| May 19 | Track Maintenance | Kerry Road, 10.00am |
| June 16 | Track Maintenance | Kerry Road, 10.00am |
| July 21 | Blue Gum Hill Track Maintenance | Junction Rd, 10.00am |
| August 4 | AGM | To be advised, 1.30pm |
| August 18 | Blue Gum Hill Track Maintenance | Junction Rd, 10.00am |
| September 15 | Weed removal & Track Maintenance | Junction Rd, 10.00am |
| October 20 | Orchid Walk Koala Count | Kerry Road, 10.00am & Kerry Road, 1.30pm |
| November 17 | Orchid Survey/Odd jobs | Junction Rd, 10.00am |
| December 15 | Nesting boxes survey/ Christmas Function | Junction Rd, 10.00am & Kerry Road 1.00pm |

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.