

PO Box 19  
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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter – November 2013*

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

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. The last month has been a real mixed bag with the weather with much rain and great variation in temperatures.

Last month there was graffiti put upon all surfaces (noticeboards and barbeque) at the Kerry Road car park. Craig has been able to successfully remove the graffiti so that now the boards are back close to the original condition. Cathy during the next month will follow up the pole mounted camera needed for the nesting box survey. It is hoped that this camera will be easier to use and we will be able to store the images or videos recorded.

### October Activity report Orchid Walk

At this activity we had Beryl, Mike, Cathy, Darren, and Craig. We had apologies from Ken, Margaret, John and Wendy. Matt and Kerry met the group in the car park to renew their membership before leaving to seek wildflowers.

The group travelled to the Stringybark track looking in particular for spider orchids which might have been out. The group travelled the track to first cross track and used this to loop around to the return track. It was slow progress since you needed to carefully survey the undergrowth for the small orchids. Only a few orchids were found and no spider orchids.

The group returned to the Kerry Road car park for lunch and to await the Koala count later in the afternoon.



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

**President:** Mike Beamish

**Vice-President:** Ken Harris

**Secretary:** Beryl Nelson

**Treasurer:** John Barker

**Publicity:** Peter McDonald

**Public Officer:** Beryl Nelson

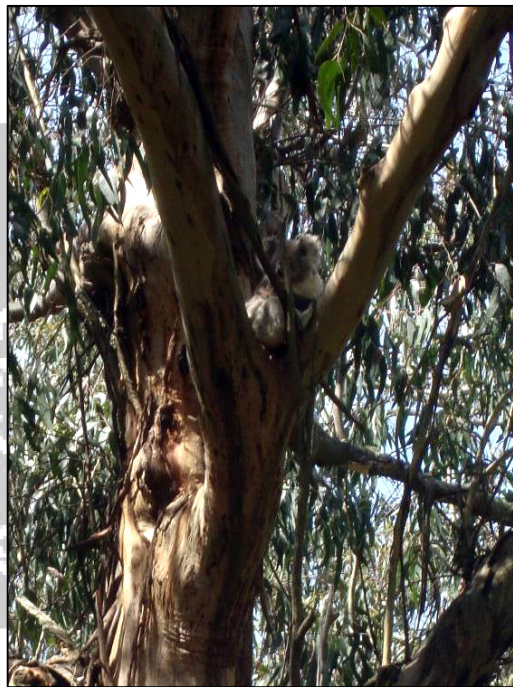
**Newsletter Editor:** Darren Hodgson, [hodgson.darren.d@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:hodgson.darren.d@edumail.vic.gov.au)

**Other members:** Mary Austin, Wendy Steenberg, Margaret Barker, Cathy Beamish, Eulalie Brewster, Reg Felmingham, Wendy McDonald, Joan Sikkema, Matt Campbell and Kerry Proud, Emma Pallett and Rod Haggith, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

## Koala Count

For the Koala count we had Mike, Cathy, Beryl, Peter, Wendy McD, Darren and Craig along with 14 from the public ready to seek the elusive koalas. The group included a few family groups and a few locals. Denis and Jane, who had been part of the group for many years, had brought their family along for the activity. Ken joined the group in the car park and helped to organize the groups and set them upon the day's tasks.

All of the walkers were organized into three groups. The first group to depart was led by Peter and Wendy McD and they travelled over the Stringybark Ridge Walk. This was the longest walk and they were successful in locating 3 koalas. Craig's group were driven by Ken to Jumbuk Road and walked back along the Jumbuk Road fire track to the Kerry Road car park. They had the more difficult terrain to travel and spotted four koalas (one pair being a mother and baby). The last and largest group was led by Beryl, Cathy and Mike and they walked the Foster's Gully track. This group spotted four koalas making a total of 11 koalas located during the count. This was a similar total to last year.



The Jumbuk Road fire track group walked back through the part of the park that DSE had conducted a controlled burn, a few months ago. Sadly they did burn the area where we had done tree planting a few years ago. The lush grass growth is the first benefit from the controlled burn. With the wet spring the grasses are growing well. During the walk we spotted a mob of four kangaroos with one large male (over 7 foot tall). Kangaroos are very rare in this part of the park. The hilly scrub country, which this area was, is an area where wallabies are more common. The strong grass growth has brought the kangaroos into this part of the park. Things are always changing in the park.



## November Activities

**Main activity** – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November

**10.00am**

The first activity will be to remove an old fence line adjacent to the Blue Gum Hill spur track and to remove other star pickets from around the park. The group will meet at 10.00am at the Junction Road car park. You will need to bring your lunch and suitable clothing for the weather conditions on the day.

Later in the day will be the Latrobe friends and volunteers BBQ dinner in Traralgon. Details for this dinner follow on the next page.

**Second activity** – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November

**10.00pm**

This small group will meet at 10.00am at the Kerry Road car park to complete the Butterfly Orchid Survey. This activity only needs Ken and 2 helpers to complete the survey. (These people will be determined at the main activity) You will need to bring your lunch and suitable clothing for the weather conditions on the day.

## Latrobe Friends & Volunteers BBQ Dinner

Friends of Baw Baw National Park  
Friends of Morwell National Park  
Friends of Tarra Bulga National Park  
Friends of Mt Worth State Park  
Friends of Tyers Park  
St Gwinear Ski Patrol  
Friends of Lyrebird Forest Walk  
Friends of Crossover Regional Park  
Friends of Glen Nayook  
Friends of Traralgon South Flora & Fauna Reserve

The Latrobe Ranger in Charge extends an open invitation to you and your family to join Parks Victoria staff for a BBQ dinner to celebrate the significant contributions made by Friends Groups and volunteers in park management during 2013.

This is a great opportunity to network with members of other Friends Groups and celebrate our achievements together. The BBQ dinner will be held at the **Bert Thompson Reserve** (Behind Red Rooster in Argyle Street, Traralgon) on **Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2013** starting at 5.30pm. Soft drinks and food will be provided. BYO dinner plate, cutlery and chairs.

**RSVP:** to Andy Gillham at Parks Victoria, 71 Hotham St Traralgon on 5172 2186 or Email [andy.gillham@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:andy.gillham@parks.vic.gov.au) by **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2013**.

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Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Group: \_\_\_\_\_

I / we will be attending the Friends & Volunteers BBQ Dinner on 17 Nov 2013

No. of adults: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of children: \_\_\_\_\_