

PO Box 19  
Churchill  
3842



# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter – January 2014*

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

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. We have again reached the end of another year. 2013 has been a good year in the park and we hope that this will continue into 2014. Let us take this opportunity to wish everybody a merry Christmas and a happy and safe new year.

The weather over the last month has continued to be cool and wet. The hot temperatures that are common at this time of the year have not occurred, making perfect growing conditions. The park continues to be very lush with the grass and other undergrowth plants growing strongly. With the thick undergrowth it is good that the mower has been in over that last month the slashed the main tracks making it easier to get around the park.

Over the last month, Cathy was able to experiment with the new pole mounted camera. She had problems with the camera taking continuous flash photos and was able to take it back to the supplier. They were able to replace the camera so that we were right for the December activity, where the camera was needed. Ken has also over the last month received the two motion detection cameras.

There has been some interest expressed by the GippsTAFE Horticulture Department in growing seedlings for us. This could be useful we us planning to complete some tree planting in 2014.

After the December activity the group was able to get together to celebrate the good year at the Christmas BBQ. After the December activity, Margaret brought meat, furniture, cooking utensils and other condiments to the Kerry Road picnic area. The group appreciated the great work put in my Margaret. The people from the December activity along with Margaret and Faye enjoyed the BBQ lunch cooked by John. After lunch the group viewed the video recordings made from the nesting box survey. The recordings showed the many sugar gliders located during the survey. The recordings were also shown to other interested groups using the park.

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, [hodgson.darren.d@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:hodgson.darren.d@edumail.vic.gov.au)

**Other members:** Wendy Steenbergen, Margaret Barker, Cathy Beamish, Eulalie Brewster, Wendy McDonald, Joan Sikkema, Matt and Kerry Campbell, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

## December Activity report

### Nesting box survey

At this activity we had Mike, Cathy, John, Matt, Peter, Wendy McD, Ken, and Darren. Wendy came late and joined the group after they had started. Ranger Craig was away on holidays, overseas. After meeting in the Junction Road car park and discussing the news from over the last month, the group entered via the main track in three vehicles. Peter, John and Darren took chainsaws to Potato Flat to clean up a tree which had fallen across the original track requiring a new track to be made. Mike, Cathy, Matt, Wendy McD, Ken and Wendy undertook the nesting box survey.

John, Peter and Darren had the opportunity to see the works on the new bridge across Billy's Creek. In the week preceding the activity, a work crew had removed the old bridge which had had its footings washed out by floods. The new bridge has new concrete footings and the bridge is made from a two steel spans across the creek. Work had also been done to improve the grade of the creek crossing. The old bridge has been moved to near the Baniffs Road crossing of the creek. The hope is that the old bridge can be located across the creek there. The group will need to look into grants available to complete this work.





John, Peter and Darren had the opportunity to use the group's new chainsaw to cut up the top of the larger gum which had fallen across the uphill track at Potato Flat. The fallen tree had required a new track up the hill which was steeper and slippery when wet. Cleaning up this timber now means the original track can be used. After cleaning the area up the group moved to a track between But But Track and Zig Zag Track which had a number of trees across it. These were removed and then a wattle tree across the main track finished the day for this group.



The nesting box survey was completed upon 38 nesting boxes. The new pole mounted camera worked well and was used in all boxes except the bat boxes. It even fitted into the boxes with 1" holes. The camera both showed and stored the video footage from each box. The footage could be viewed real time and watched later, which it was during lunch.

During the survey, 35 sugar gliders were located along with 2 Agile Antechinus. This is a good total since a total of 35 sugar gliders were located in the whole 2012/13 survey, so in this survey we should have more than last year. The rest of nesting box survey will be completed next month. One worrying observation during the survey was that much ivy was located on the forest floor under the nesting boxes. This will be difficult to remove since ivy will regrow from any remaining piece.

During the day, along with animals found in the nesting boxes, we saw a few mobs of kangaroos, wallabies, a koala, cockatoos and crimson rosellas.

### **January Activity**

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January

The group will meet at 10.00am the Junction Road car park to complete the nesting box survey started in December. Part of the group will check the nesting boxes while the remainder will complete repairs upon the boxes. **Craig** - we will need the extension ladder for the nesting box repairs. Both groups will look to also removing weeds from the nesting boxes understory. You will need to bring clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## Calendar 2014

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 19	Nesting boxes survey	Junction Rd, 10.00am
February 16	Weed Removal	Junction Rd, 10.00am
March 16	Weed Removal	Junction Rd, 10.00am
April 20	Weed Removal	Junction Rd, 10.00am
May 18	Track Maintenance	Kerry Road, 10.00am
June 15	Track Maintenance	Kerry Road, 10.00am
July 20	Tree Planting	Junction Rd, 10.00am
August 3	AGM	To be advised, 1.30pm
August 17	Tree Planting	Junction Rd, 10.00am
September 21	Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
October 19	Orchid Survey Koala Count	Kerry Road, 10.00am & Kerry Road, 1.30pm
November 16	Butterfly Orchid Survey/Odd jobs	Junction Rd, 10.00am
December 21	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.