

PO Box 19  
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3842



# **Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.**

## *Newsletter – November 2014*

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

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter.

Over the last month we have had good news. Mike has applied for and received a Local Landscape Enhancement Grant for the construction of a bridge across Billys Creek. Congratulations to Mike for a great submission. The plan is for this bridge to be used for access from the Baniff's Road entrance, removing the need to use Pipeline track. The grant is for \$5,000 and this grant has been confirmed by Russell North's office. We now need Craig to contact the contractor to organize the construction of the bridge.

We have had communication with Traralgon College and they have said that they no longer can make nesting boxes for us. Matt has contacted the Sale Men's Shed to see whether they can construct nesting boxes for us (like the original plans), but he has yet to hear back from them. John has contacts within the Churchill Men's Shed, so he will communicate with them to see whether they can make boxes for us.

Traralgon College recently have erected some motion detection cameras in the Park. Matt has also reported that after a successful trial, our motion detection cameras are now located in the Park recording animal movements.

The Latrobe Friends and Volunteers BBQ Dinner will on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November (the same day as our next activity). Details for the barbeque are on the last page of the newsletter.

There will be more Green Walks throughout the rest of this year. Details for these walks will be in the Latrobe Valley Express.

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

**President:** Ken Harris

**Vice-President:** Matt Campbell

**Secretary:** Beryl Nelson

**Treasurer:** John Barker

**Publicity:** Brenda Chetham

**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, Margaret Barker, Mike and Cathy Beamish, Eulalie Brewster, Kerry Campbell, Wendy McDonald, Joan Sikkema, Neil Slater, Wendy Steenbergen, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

## John's Jottings

John has continued with his historical collecting and this month his snippet is on the formation of the Park, which was lifted from an article: THE MORWELL NATIONAL PARK by Dr. L.H. Smith, M.Sc., D.Ph. (Oxon), F.R.A.C.I. Director of the National Parks Authority of Victoria.



*Continued from last month .....*

**Acquisition.** The key to the solution of this problem was still finance. However, following negotiation in which the Shire Council, the Authority and the Minister of Lands all played a part, on 9th. December 1965, the Treasurer approved a grant of \$10,500 to the Shire to meet half the cost of purchase, provided that the Council agreed to surrender the land to the Crown for dedication as a national park, and to provide the public access. As only Parliament may declare an area of land to be a national park, obviously these arrangements were subject to the approval of that body; hence the need for the legislation to ensure that the land having been purchased by the Government and Shire Council in collaboration would in fact become a national park. At the date of writing, the land transfer is proceeding, and is expected to be registered during the next few weeks.

**Description of Area.** The land in question consists of Allotments 22 and 23, Section A, Parish of Yinnar, and contains 341 acres and 3 roads. The area consists of a number of steep sloping ridges with a creek running in a small channel 30 to 40 feet deep. The slopes are well timbered, although they show the scars of the early years of settlement and of the 1939 fire. The main gully, which is in fact a tributary of Middle Creek which in turn is a tributary of the Morwell River, is the principal feature for national parks purposes. This is a truly beautiful area with magnificent Blue Gums and Grey Gums. The gully has developed a plant community of Pittosporum, Blackwood, Blanket-leaf, Austral Mulberry, Musk and Christmas Bush."

*To be continued next month .....*

## October Activity Report

This month we had two activities. The first was a morning Orchid Walk while the second was the annual Koala Count. At the first activity we had John, Matt, Tamara, Beryl, Brenda, Darren and Ranger Mark. Joining us were 13 people from the community keen to come along and discover the orchids to be found. The walk was very well promoted in the Latrobe Valley Express and this helped us to have a large and interested group searching for orchids. The group was given the choice of walks and selected to try the longer Stringybark Track which promised the larger selection of orchids.

Matt guided the walk and identified the prize orchids along the way. A range of diverse orchids were located at different stages of the walk. Once the group had stopped to investigate an orchid a range of other flowers would also be located. The youngest walker had the keenest eyes and she spotted some of the rarer orchids. A few walkers commented that although they enjoy the wider environment, it was great to have their attention drawn of the smaller details and to take in the beauty of these small flowers. These small details are often overlooked.





In the second activity for the day we had Matt, Tamara, Beryl, Darren and Ranger Mark for the Koala Count. We were joined by 10 keen community members, two of which had stayed from the earlier Orchid Walk. We had enough walkers to survey three walks.

Matt and Mark took one of the walkers up the Jumbuk Road fire trail and located 3 koalas. These koalas were located on the top of the ridge and one was found very close to the ground. Beryl and Tamara took a couple of walkers along Stringybark Track and located one adult koala with a baby cub. This was the same koala located earlier in the day on the Orchid Walk. At least on this return trip to this walk it was possible to identify that there were two koalas not one.

Darren took the larger group around Foster's Gully. This keen group did not locate any koalas in the first half of the walk but we saw an Agile Antechinus (which one the children was able to touch) and a lyrebird. Later in the walk we located three koalas relatively close together. That brought the total koalas located during the day to eight.

### **November Activities**

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November

The group will meet at 10.00am in the Kerry Road car park. The group will work upon two tasks – the Butterfly Orchid survey and track maintenance around the Kerry Road section of the Park. You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable 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 2014.

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 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2014** 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 13<sup>th</sup> November 2014**.

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

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

I / we will be attending the Friends & Volunteers BBQ Dinner on 16 Nov 2014

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