

PO Box 19
Churchill
3842



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – January 2015

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

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. We have reached the end of another year. 2014 has been a good year in the park and we hope that this will continue into 2015. Let hope that everybody had a merry Christmas and will have a happy and safe new year.

Over the month, we received the news that Rob Howell has now retired. Rob for many years was ranger in charge of Morwell National Park and over the years he has looked after, maintained and developed the Park. He has been a great advocate for the Park and his knowledge of the Park is still extensive. We all wish him a great retirement.

There is a new program of Green Walks planned for the first half of 2015. Green Walks aim to get more people walking, more often, in local parks, state parks and bushland reserves. The next Green Walks planned in Morwell National Park are:

Monday 19 th January 10am	Foster's Gully Walk (meet at Kerry Rd)
Thursday 26 th February 10am	Billy's Weir Walk (starting from Baniff's Rd)
Thursday 19 th March 10am	Foster's Gully Walk (meet at Kerry Rd)

The exact dates can change so check the Latrobe Valley Express closer to each walk for exact times.

After the December activity the group was able to get together to celebrate the productive year at our Christmas BBQ celebration. The people from the two December activities along with Faye enjoyed a BBQ lunch, ably cooked by John. Along with the BBQ goods organized by John, there were a range of yummy salads and sweets (thanks to Beryl and Brenda) to be consumed. Ken spoke to the group, congratulating us upon the great year we have had.

After the BBQ, a quick meeting was held. During 2014 there has been much discussion about getting more nesting boxes. Earlier in the year Community Volunteers Australia wanted to install nesting boxes to be constructed by the Sale Men's Shed. This plan fell thru because of sponsorship problems. Then the CLIC program at Traralgon College wanted to make the boxes as part of their community based projects and after receiving plans they said that they could not do it. Matt and John then communicated with the Morwell and Churchill Men's Sheds about them constructing some new boxes. Discussion was had about whether we wanted new boxes and who to get them from. The decision was made to get 6 nesting boxes from Morwell Men's Shed and to get John to construct 6 boxes. The six boxes from the Morwell Men's Shed will be received early autumn in 2015 while the six from John will be ready to install in our January activity.

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

President: Ken Harris

Vice-President: Matt Campbell

Secretary: Beryl Nelson

Treasurer: John Barker

Publicity: Brenda Chetham

Public Officer: Beryl Nelson

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Other members: Mary Austin, Margaret Barker, Mike and Cathy Beamish, Eulalie Brewster, Kerry Campbell, Peter and Wendy McDonald, Joan Sikkema, Neil Slater, Wendy Steenbergen, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

There is a current government initiative to plant two million trees, so we will put together an application for a grant to replant Blue Gum Hill. Our previous applications for this project have failed because over-subscription. Ranger Giselle will work with Mike to put together this application. Related to this Ken was worried about our stock of Blue Gum seed and how viable our current stock is. To solve this problem a mini-activity will be run on the 10th January to collect some new Blue Gum seed.

If you would like a copy of the new lichens brochure of Morwell National Park, they are available from Ken for \$2.00 each.

It is good to see over the week before Christmas that the tracks and Park boundaries have been slashed. This makes for a better and safer walking experience.

At the end of this newsletter there is a copy of the 2015 calendar of activities.

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

The Name. The name 'Morwell National Park' was not chosen without careful consideration by the Place Names Committee and by the Authority, and ultimately by Parliament. "Morwell" is a very old name in the history of the district, although the early spelling appears to have been variable. Seemingly, Count Paul Strzelecki in April 1840 was the first white man to see Morwell River and his route took him only a few miles from the park.

The first known record of the name 'Morwell' is by C. J. Tyers, Crown Lands Commissioner for Gippsland, in his journal for 7th February 1844. Under the circumstances, the name 'Morwell National Park' seems very appropriate and there is no doubt that in the years to come this park will play its part in providing for the healthy out-door recreation of present and future generations and preserving a little more of our vanishing bushland."



December Activity Report

At this month's activity we had Beryl, Wendy S, Matt, Ken, Peter, Wendy Mc, John, Margaret, Mike, Cathy, Tamara, Darren, Joelle, Jay and Ranger Giselle. Joelle and Jay are from the Yinnar Landcare Group and have been involved in many local improvement programs. One of these projects was the replanting of the reserve opposite the Junction Road car park. This park is now looking excellent compared to the overgrown Willow dominated site that it was in the past. The council has future plans to remove more willow downstream in Billy's Creek and revegetate this creek area.

There were two activities running at the same time, with a Green Walk occurring at Foster's Gully while the nesting box survey was conducted along Billy's Creek. Matt and Brenda met the walkers at Foster's Gully while Beryl, Margaret and Wendy S also joined this walking group. 17 walkers joined them for the walk around Foster's Gully. Matt noted that the Green Walks have been successful with a range of walkers (elderly, families and experienced walkers), some of whom have returned to complete other walks in the Park, while each group has been of new walkers.

The rest of the work crew worked on the nesting box survey. Two boxes were found to have come off their trees, these will be replaced at the next activity. A few other boxes will need maintenance to stop them from coming off their trees and this will also be done next month. During the morning we surveyed all of the boxes in Sections A, B and C. This leaves Sections D and E to be completed next month with a total of 13 boxes to be surveyed.



Ken noted that the mammal population using these boxes is remaining static with the numbers of animals remaining the same over the last two years. The number of boxes over this period has also not changed and most boxes showed the evidence of being used. The totals from the day were:

	Dec 2014
Agile Antechinus	6
Sugar Glider	34



January Activities

Mini activity – Saturday 10th January 10.30 Junction Road Car Park: This activity will travel to the Reidy’s Road entrance for Blue Gum seed collection.

Main Activity – Sunday 18th January 10am Junction Road Car Park: The group will work on a few different activities. Some will work upon completing the nesting box survey, while others will complete some repairs to some of the boxes and erect some new boxes in the Baniff’s Road part of the Park.

For either activity you will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

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Calendar 2015

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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 18	Nesting box survey	Junction Rd, 10.00am
February 15	Weed Removal	Junction Rd, 10.00am
March 15	Weed Removal	Junction Rd, 10.00am
April 19	BBQ & Spot light walk/Moth survey	Kerry Road, 6.00pm
May 17	Weed Removal	Junction Rd, 10.00am
June 21	Track Maintenance	Kerry Road, 10.00am
July 19	Nesting box survey	Junction Rd, 10.00am
August 2	AGM	To be advised, 1.30pm
August 16	Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
September 20	Track Maintenance	Kerry Road, 10.00am
October 18	Orchid Walk Koala Count	Kerry Road, 10.00am & Kerry Road, 1.30pm
November 15	Orchid Survey/Odd jobs	Junction Rd, 10.00am
December 20	Nesting box 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.