

PO Box 19  
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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter – April 2015*

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

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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter.

Over the month we have received a letter from Latrobe Council telling us that the application to remove native vegetation along Junction Road has been withdrawn. With this being a corridor for birds and animals to move out and into the park, it is a great outcome not to have this native vegetation removed.

The nesting boxes constructed by the Morwell Men's Shed have been received, so at the next activity we will erect these boxes. Our motion detection cameras are currently in the park. It will be interesting to see what they see. One of the local landowners has reported that they have seen a bandicoot on their property beside the national park.

At the February Green Walk there was a large group of interested walkers. It is great to see large groups discovering the park and returning later to complete their own walks. More Green Walks are scheduled for autumn. Each walk will be a 60 minute guided walks rated easy to moderate. Meeting time is 10.00 with the walks departing at 10.10 am. The next Green Walks planned in Morwell National Park are:

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Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April (Easter Mon)

**Billys Creek Weir**

*Meet at the Baniff's Road car park*

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Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May

**Foster's Gully Walk**

*Meet at Kerry Road picnic*

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Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

**Billys Creek Weir**

*Meet at the Baniff's Road car park*

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Registration is essential at [www.heartfoundation.org.au/active-living/walking/Pages/events-and-park-walks.aspx](http://www.heartfoundation.org.au/active-living/walking/Pages/events-and-park-walks.aspx) or call the Heart Foundation's Health Information Service on 1300 362 787

Local enquiries, contact Bonnie, Local Coordinator Heart Foundation Walking 1800 242 696

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

**President:** Ken Harris

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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).

## John's Jottings

Recently I have been reading the Morwell National Park Management Plan (1998) and found it interesting. The Park Management Plan applies to both the original area and the Billys Creek Annexure.

For the next few months I will provide snippets lifted from the plan. I'm sure they will make interesting reading for you too.



### "SUMMARY

Morwell National Park is an area of natural beauty, suitable for passive recreational activities, that is particularly valued by the people of the LaTrobe Valley.

The Park has regional significance as one of the few areas of remnant natural vegetation in the Strzelecki Ranges. This vegetation, predominantly Damp Sclerophyll Forest dominated by Blue Gums and marginal Warm Temperate Rainforest with narrow strips of Fern Gully, will be protected.

Rehabilitation of the Billy's Creek Valley, much of which has been cleared and used for grazing, will be undertaken as a priority. Re-establishment of the native forests and understorey on heavily modified sites will be continued, as will efforts to control the extensive infestations of introduced species.

Future developments in the Park will provide day visitor areas for picnicking and barbecues, and improved opportunities for bushwalking in more remote areas of the Park.

Major management directions for the Park are summarised below:

- Significant natural features, flora and fauna will be given special protection.
- Biological surveys to identify significant fauna will be encouraged.
- Co-operative efforts with adjoining landholders to control pest plants and animals will be undertaken.
- The revegetation program for degraded areas will be continued.
- Visitor enjoyment of the Park will be enhanced by developing Billy's Creek Valley for day visitor use, extending bushwalking opportunities and improving interpretation."

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

## March Activity Report

At this month's activity we had Beryl, Matt, Kerry, Darren, Rose, Japanese exchange student Yuto, and John briefly. Rose was along for her first activity, returning to the area after many years in WA where she had been involved in many similar groups. John came to get us started and catch us up on the news from the last month.

In the car park we met two Melbourne walkers who were walking to the Jumbuk rest area that day. Great to see walkers out walking the Grand Strzelecki Track. Matt and Kerry had been to the shed and collected the waders and other gear needed.

The group split at the beginning with Matt and Kerry driving off to remove a grove of Bella Donna Lilies at the base of Clematis Track, while the rest of us donned the waders and gumboots and walked in to where we finished last month. The lilies Matt and Kerry removed were very advanced with some being the size of a cantaloupe.



Beryl, Rose, Yuto and Darren entered the creek and removed a range of weeds. A few tree guards were also found, Wendy would be proud. Tutsan of all sizes were found. Matt and Kerry joined the group and they worked up to the Tebb Terrace entry to the park. Over the day a number of kangaroos were sighted along with a koala and a few crayfish.



**April Activity**  
**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April**

We will run two activities on the 19<sup>th</sup> April. You can come to one or two activities.

**Activity 1**

The group will meet at 10.00am the Junction Road car park to erect the six nesting boxes made for us by the Morwell Men's Shed. These six new boxes will be located into a new area, be numbered and have their GPS locations recorded. This should only be a short activity.

**Activity 2**

The group will meet at 6.00pm in the Kerry Road picnic area for a Spot light walk and moth survey. We will start with a BBQ before setting up for the Spot light walk and moth survey which will occur when dark.

The simple BBQ and salads will be provided by the group and organized by John. Bring your own snacks, drinks and chair. You will need to bring clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the evening.