

PO Box 19  
Churchill  
3842



# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter – July 2015*

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaean.net>  
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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter.

At the beginning of August we will have our Annual General Meeting. This hoped that all members can attend. Included is the membership form to complete if you are unable to come to the Annual General Meeting. Thanks goes to Margaret and John who again, have offered to host the meeting for us.

### Friends of Morwell National Park Annual General Meeting

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August  
1.30pm

10 Walker Parade, Churchill

A committee meeting will follow the Annual General Meeting

At the conclusion of both meetings we will have Afternoon Tea – Bring a plate

To: Treasurer, Friends of Morwell National Park, PO Box 19, Churchill, 3842

Please find enclosed the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$10 per person, \$15 per family/group) being for membership 2015/2016.

Name:..... Telephone:.....

Address:.....

Email: .....

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

**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, Peter and Wendy McDonald, Joan Sikkema, Neil Slater, Wendy Steenbergen, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

## John's Jottings

This month I am providing ongoing snippets lifted from the Morwell National Park Management Plan (1998) which I'm sure will make interesting reading for you too.



*Management Plan continued from last month.....*

### **"3.3 Fauna**

The planning area's remnant vegetation contains a diverse range of fauna. Generally wildlife management can be achieved by maintaining and improving the overall quality and diversity of vegetation, and in particular through the protection of native vegetation, re-establishment of natural habitat (section 4.3) and control of pest plants and animals, especially foxes and cats (section 4.2).

Only limited information is available on the fauna of the Park as no detailed survey has been undertaken. Very little is known about the Park's amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates. To date 129 native fauna species have been recorded for the Park including two threatened species.

Nineteen species of native mammals have been recorded in the Park. Of the arboreal mammals, Feathertail Gliders, Sugar Gliders and Greater Gliders are found in the Park along with the Mountain Brushtail Possum, which is usually abundant in tall open and closed forests. Forest-dwelling bats include the Lesser Longeared Bat and Gould's Long-eared Bat. Smaller ground-dwelling mammals recorded include the White-footed Dunnart, Long-nosed Bandicoot and Dusky Antechinus.

Birds are particularly well represented, 96 species being recorded. The endangered Powerful Owl has been sighted infrequently in Fosters Gully and the Superb Lyrebird is common in the fern gullies of the Park.

Three species of amphibians and 11 species of reptiles have been recorded in the Park (CNR 1995). The Eastern Water Skink is threatened in Victoria (NRE 1998).

Until 1956 timber harvesting was undertaken in the Park. This resulted in a depletion of mature trees in the Park, reducing the availability of hollows and habitat. The plant communities are relatively young (approximately 40 years old).

Annual Koala counts are undertaken by the Morwell National Park Friends group. At present there are no visible signs of the disease *Chlamydia*. Young Koalas have been sighted, indicating that the population is successfully breeding in the Park."

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



## June Activity Report

At this activity we had Ken, Matt, John, Peter, Mike, Cathy, Tamara, Darren and Ranger John. This was Ranger John's first activity with us. The day started off slowly with most of the group drifting in after 10am. Ken is normally the last to arrive but today he was the first member in. At 10 we thought we would have a small work crew, but this increased as we caught up about what has happened over the last month. John was only with us briefly since he could not work with us today. Tamara arrived later. The morning was cold, but the sky was clear allowing it to warm up during the day.

The group split with Peter and Darren walking around Foster's Gully and removing the small debris from the track and working on a section where a few holes had been dug by animals. At one stage they stopped for a pair of lyrebirds to cross the track while another performed a chorus of bird calls including magpies, cockatoos, whip birds and many more.

The rest of the work crew loaded the two vehicles with brush cutter, hedge trimmer and chain saw and drove to the Stringybark Track. They worked along the track in sections clearing the undergrowth away from the track and making necessary repairs.

When Tamara arrived she firstly went to seek the pair working around Foster's Gully but managed to miss them, so she then joined the crew working around Stringybark. The Foster's Gully pair finished quicker than the Stringybark crew. They had lunch and awaited the return of the other work group. While waiting they had the opportunity to clean up the car park area. In the few hours in the car park five groups came to walk around the park.



## July Activity Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July

The group will meet at 10.00am in the Junction Road car park. The group will undertake the winter nesting box survey. While most of the group will complete the survey, a few will work upon repairs and painting numbers on some of the new boxes.

You will need to bring your lunch along with warm clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.