

PO Box 19
Churchill
3842



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – August 2015

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

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 will host the meeting for us.

Friends of Morwell National Park Annual General Meeting

Sunday 2nd 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

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.....

"3.5 Cultural heritage

Morwell National Park and the surrounding area is of significance to the Woollum Woollum Clan, one of the Kurnai group of Gippsland. Archaeological work at Buchan indicates that Aborigines were in Gippsland 18 000 years ago. Occupation of the south and east Gippsland area by the Kurnai began at least 6000 years ago. Woollum Woollum people are said to have frequently visited the area seeking possums, for food and especially for their skins.

Large numbers of artefacts have been found in surrounding areas such as Jumbuk and Driffield. An archaeological survey of the Park has not yet been undertaken.

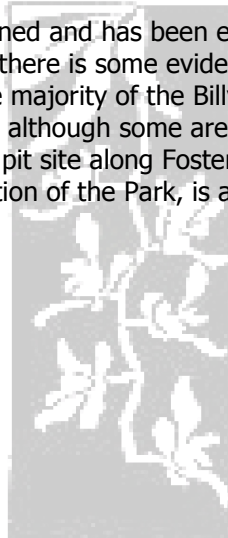
All Aboriginal sites and relics are protected under the Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972 (Vic.) and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 (Cwlth). The Central Gippsland Aboriginal Health and Housing Co-operative Ltd is the relevant authority for cultural heritage in the Park. An application for a native title determination was lodged with the Native Title Tribunal in 1997 covering, among other areas, Morwell National Park.

Strzelecki Ranges was one of the most inhospitable areas in southern Australia. The area of land which now forms Morwell National Park was first settled by Europeans in the 1840s following the explorations of Paul Edward de Strzelecki in 1830.

Much of the Park was formerly privately owned and has been exploited at some stage since European settlement. Within the area of the original Park, there is some evidence of prior land use, e.g. a 1930s timber sawmill, a gravel pit (1929) and a mine shaft (1946). The majority of the Billy's Creek Valley was cleared grazing land.

These sites are often not obvious to visitors although some are identified as points of interest along walking tracks (e.g. Lyndons Clearing and the old gravel pit site along Fosters Gully Nature Walk).

The weir at Billy's Creek, in the eastern section of the Park, is a significant historic site for the LaTrobe Valley."
To be continued next month.....



June Activity Report

At this activity we had Ken, Matt, John, Peter, Mike, Cathy, Darren and Beryl. The day of the activity was very cold but dry. The group was eager to start since it was very cold standing in the car park.

During the activity the group completed the nesting box survey of all of the boxes, both old and new. The count started slowly with very few sugar gliders seen in the earliest boxes. Most boxes had fresh leaf litter in them indicating recent use. In most boxes the leaves were organized into a round cocoon ready for an animal or group of animals to nestling into. Some were so well organized that a possum could be hiding at the bottom of the nest of leaves and we could not see them. A closer investigation of the videos may locate a few more hidden gliders.

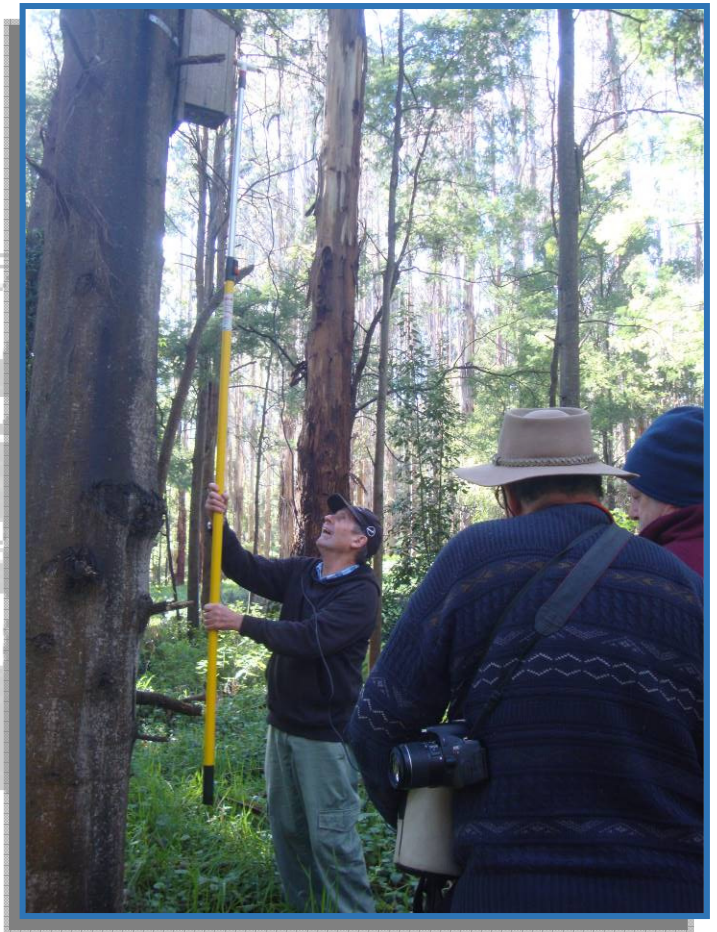
On the cold day the sugar gliders were tightly wrapped up or snuggled together. More gliders were located in the middle sections of the count. One box had at least six sugar gliders huddled together. It was difficult to clearly see where one animal started and the next began. A closer look at the videos will confirm the total number of animals observed.

Over the day the only animal seen in the boxes were sugar gliders. We found a similar number of sugar gliders to the previous summer and winter surveys. No ringtail possums or agile antechinus were seen.

One box was difficult to locate since a tree had fallen across the box, knocking it off its tree. This box was repositioned back onto its original tree.

The new boxes were also surveyed and not surprisingly these boxes were empty. These will need to weather more before the animals will seek them out. Box numbers were added to the six boxes mounted last January.

Matt positioned the two motion activated cameras to observe what animals will be seen in this part of the park. We may collect some footage of the deer that we sometimes see the tracks of.



August Activity Sunday 16th August

The group will meet at 10.00am in the Junction Road car park. The group will undertake the track maintenance. You will need to bring your lunch along with warm clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.