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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – November 2015

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

The upcoming Green Walks planned for Morwell National Park are:

Tuesday 3rd November (Melbourne Cup day) 10am Billy's Weir Walk (meet at Baniff's Rd car park)

Wednesday 2nd December 10am Foster's Gully Walk (meet at Kerry Rd car park)

For registration and program updates go to www.heartfoundation.org.au/greenwalks or call 1300 362 787.

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.....

"5.1 The Park visitor

Morwell National Park has been a popular visitor destination for people from the Latrobe Valley for many years. Major activities undertaken by visitors to the Park are picnicking, bushwalking, nature study and appreciation and bird watching.

The Park attracts almost 35 000 visitors annually. Visitor numbers are fairly evenly distributed throughout the year, although slightly higher in the summer. Trends over the last few years indicate that the visitor numbers will continue to increase.

The Park is part of Tourism Victoria's Gippsland Natural Discovery product region, which also includes Wilsons Promontory National Park, Tarra-Bulga National Park, Holey Plains State Park and various State forests.

Providing for the visitor

Morwell National Park will continue to provide visitors with an opportunity to relax in a natural setting.

Park management will work to facilitate good quality visitor experiences while at the same time conserving and protecting the Park's natural environment. Future development of recreational and visitor facilities within the planning area will be concentrated in the Billy's Creek area (section 5.2.2).

Significant strategies include:

- development of a day visitor area within the Billy's Creek Valley, incorporating a car park,
- picnic area and toilets;
- creation of new walking tracks accompanied by trail interpretation or self-guiding walking information;
- ongoing monitoring of visitor numbers and uses;
- preparation of high quality information on the Park's natural values."

To be continued next month.....



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

President: Matt Campbell

Vice-President: Ken Harris

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

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, Margaret, Matt, Tamara, Beryl, Brenda, Mike, Cathy and Grant. The group met in the car park and discussed the responses to letters we had sent about the very restricted access we have to rangers at our weekend activities. The letters were acknowledged and it was identified that the work of these groups was important and Parks want to support these groups but changes in rosters to make Parks rangers more available for activities was not going to happen.

Matt discussed the hard drive used to store images, videos and other important files which is not a portable hard drive. The group agreed that Matt should get a portable hard drive for portable file storage. Matt had investigated some recent and past orchid pictures and found that some that were thought to be the same are different. On investigation it has been found that some images were of a new variety of orchid.

The group walked the Stringybark Track to discover what orchids were to be seen. A range of diverse orchids were located at different stages of the walk. The following orchids were is flower:

- Caladenia Moschata (Musk Caladenia)
- Chiloglottis Valida (Common Bird Orchid)
- Caladenia Camea (Pink Fingers)
- Glossodria Major (Waxlip)
- Caladenia Transitona (Eastern Bronze Caladenia)

The following orchids were found in bud:

- Thelymitra Media (Tall Sun Orchid)
- Thelymitra Pauciflora (Small Sun Orchid)
- Sarcochilus Australis (Butterfly Orchid)
- Caleana Major (Flying Duck Orchid)

At the second activity for the day we had Matt, Tamara, Beryl, Mike, Cathy, Peter, Ken, Darren and Grant for the Koala Count. We were also joined by a group of keen community members. We had enough walkers to survey three different walks.



Ken, Grant and Beryl walked the Jumbuk Road fire trail and located 1 koala. This koala was located at the beginning of the walk at the top of the ridge. Peter and Darren took a four other walkers along the Stringybark Track and located two adult koalas, one with a baby cub.

Matt, Tamara, Mike and Cathy took the larger group around Foster's Gully. This group included a reporter from ABC radio who saw her first koala. This group had the most success locating eight koalas. The photo above shows a group of three koalas (2 adults and 1 cub) located early in the walk.

That brought the total koalas located during the day to twelve. More than last year!

November Activities

Sunday 15th 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 a Koala scat survey. You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

