

PO Box 19
Churchill
3842



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – July 2016

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.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 we hope will host the meeting for us.

Friends of Morwell National Park Annual General Meeting

Sunday 7nd 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 2016/2017.

Name: Telephone:

Address:

Email:

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

President: Matt Campbell

Vice-President: Ken Harris

Secretary: Beryl Nelson

Treasurer: John Barker

Publicity: Peter McDonald

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, Brenda Chetham, Tamara Leitch, Wendy McDonald, Joan Sikkema, Neil Slater, Wendy Steenberg, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

John's Jottings

This snippet on the activities of the Friends of Morwell National Park was sourced from early Newsletter files.

"10th November. 1986.

Dear Friends,

It was a small, but very pleasant gathering of the friends group for an enjoyable Stringybark walk. The group helped with locating points of interest to form a text to accompany a photo or sketch which will be placed along the Stringybark Ridge track. We thank everyone who came along for their assistance

While walking the track, Neil Grigg, Haley and Daniel Close spotted a 5ft Goanna, which promptly ran up the nearest tree just high enough for Yvonne to grab a couple of snaps. A beautiful specimen he was too.

Over our billy tea we discussed some issues. Firstly, Ian Leversha (Assistant Regional Manager at Yarram) has informed us that the L.C.C. recommendations to downgrade the park have not been accepted as yet by the government, which means the pressure is off for now and I underline for now. It doesn't mean it won't come up again in the future, so we'll have to keep on our toes!

The Billy's creek concept plan, which was completed by Jim Waayers, was not accepted by the Yarram Regional Manager and has now been revised. Hopefully, it will be available in the near future.

We were informed by Mr. Barry Murphy, M.L.C. that the Minister Ms Joan Kirner may pay the park a visit at a later date to enable Mr Murphy to organize a little reception in the order or press coverage etc. We will certainly keep you informed of her intended arrival.

Adrian Walker and Mrs. Brewster have very kindly provided us with historical photos to be copied and enlarged for display in the new information shelter, so our thanks goes to you both for your interest.

Now, on to our last meeting for 1986, which will be in the form of a family get together for a B.B.Q. tea starting at 5.30pm on Sunday 14th December. We ask that you bring your own meat with perhaps one salad and a desert, that way we can arrange it on the tables for all to share. The friends group will provide billy tea as usual with the added bonus of some damper for the kids to cook in the barbie. Ian will take us on a spotlight walk around 8.30pm for those who feel energetic enough! It should be a great end to a very successful first year of our friends group, so don't miss out on all the fun and games.

Yours sincerely, Gail Roche."

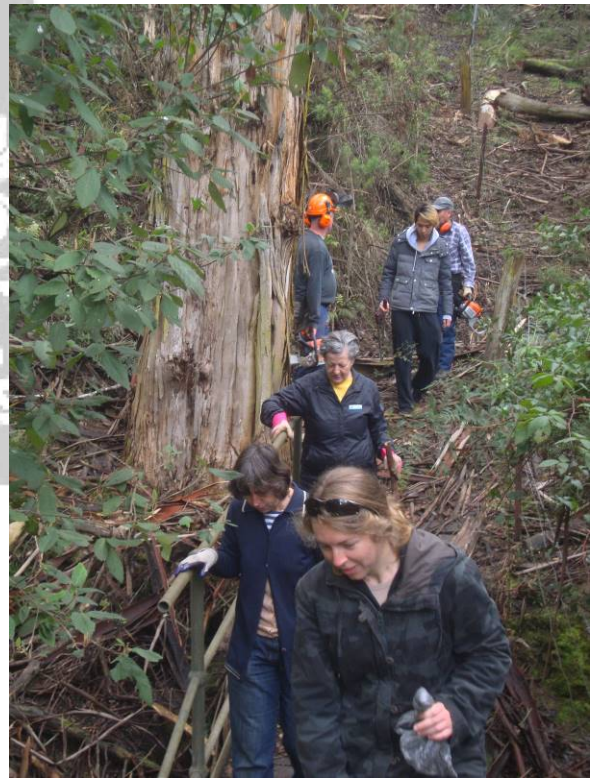
June Activity Report

At this month's activity we had Matt, Tamara, Ken, Peter, Beryl, Yuto, Rose and Darren. We had apologies from Mike, Cathy, Wendy, John and Margaret. The group met in the car park to talk to Grant and his brother Wayne about European Wasp nest removal. Grant for many years has been locating and killing Wasp nests around the park and more recently in the Park. Wasps are a large problem to our native insect species which they target as food sources and are a problem for visitors to the park. Up to now Grant has been using his own equipment and buying the sprays and powders required. Our group will support him to continue with this important job (which we don't have the skills or equipment to complete), by annually purchasing the sprays and powders he uses. He already has a number of wasp nest sites located along Billy's Creek. The group wishes to greatly thank Grant for undertaking this work.

Matt has over the last month finally received the brush cutter and whipper sniper. It was a long and difficult process but now we have the equipment. Matt told the group about the animals seen on the motion detection cameras over the last month. Caught on the camera was a large number of wombats, some wallabies and sadly a cat. That makes a few cats that been caught on camera in the park. Another wallaby has been found shot through the head on the Grand Strzelecki Track. It is very sad that a native animal has been killed by a hunter, in the park.

The group travelled via car to Silvertop Hill. Matt, Tamara and Rose collected the chainsaw from the shed and met the rest of the group at Brewster's Road. When travelling in a large collection of branches was found down across the track. The group used the chainsaw to clear this obstruction. We travelled on to the side boundary and then on foot made our way down the hill (clearing as we went) down to Muttonwood Track. A number of trees and some undergrowth needed to be cleared from this track. The group completed the loop, clearing as we went, back towards the vehicles.

A collection of wire was uncovered and still remains at the beginning of Muttonwood Track. The group then travelled back to the Kerry Road picnic area for lunch. Over and after lunch four koalas were observed near the picnic area. We finished after lunch and it was a good decision with rain starting 15 minutes after we ended.



July Activity

Sunday 17th July 10am

The group will meet in the Junction Road car park to complete our mid-year nesting box survey. You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.