

PO Box 19  
Churchill  
3842



# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter – October 2016*

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.net>  
Official Address of FMNP - [contactfmnp@gmail.com](mailto:contactfmnp@gmail.com)  
A0016319X

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. Over the last month we have received emails about nominations for the Kookaburra Awards, a Friends Net survey and an invitation to take part in Parks Victoria community consultation. When people get time, these will need to be followed up and anybody can contribute to the Parks Victoria community consultation.

After the September activity the Morwell National Park sign at the Junction Road car park was repaired with new posts. A great improvement.

### John's Jottings

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

"16th August, 1987.

Dear Friends,

The weather wasn't terrific for our meeting on the 9th August but at least it didn't rain.

Two significant things have happened. Firstly:- the Land Conservation Council has seen fit, in its proposed recommendations for the Latrobe Valley Special Investigation, to recommend that the SECV land (6ha) at the end of Tebb Terrace should be managed by C.F. & L, it is not final as yet, but looks promising.

Secondly: - at present the Minister for C.F. & L. Joan Kirner is considering a proposal to initially fund totally the Billy's creek land purchase with the proviso that the community undertakes some responsibility for future development funding. This also looks promising, however we will have to wait and see!

After all that, the walk didn't start until fairly late, about 2.30pm when we headed off up the main firebreak. Ian had in mind that we might cut and pull some pines out as we went. But when we reached Jumbuk Rd at the top of the break the large numbers and large size of some pines kept us busy for the rest of the afternoon.

Special thanks to Ian Leversha for making his time available to us and also addressing the group.

Next month we are back to Koala surveying, this should be interesting as our statistics will be starting to take shape, and also to compare with some other survey work being undertaken by a student from GIAE.

Look forward to seeing you all next month.

Yours most sincerely,

MARGARET LOUGHOROUGH CO-ORDINATOR.



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**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](mailto: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).

## September Activity Report

At this activity we had Beryl, Matt, John, Rose, Tamara, Peter, Wendy Mc and Darren; and apologies from Wendy S, Margaret and Ken. The group meet in the Junction Road car park where John showed a sample for track markers for the Foster's Gully track. He had constructed a timber insert to be filled and bolted to a star picket. This is a great solution to the rotting track markers currently in Foster's Gully. The group was very happy with John's solution and he can now collect the materials and made the markers to be put out at a later activity. This will need to be coordinated with updating the Foster's Gully map with the new track markers.

The group discussed where to work and decided against the Grand Strzelecki track because the of the high creek flows. We will try to do track maintenance on the Grand Strzelecki track in our November activity. The group travelled to Clematis and Lodge tracks with Matt and Tamara travelling in via the Billy's Creek track while the rest travelled via car thru the Baniff's Road entrance. They walked to the beginning of the track.

They walked up Clematis track clearing the undergrowth with the brush cutter and hedge trimmer. While clearing the track, Matt and Tamara sited the two motion detection cameras. The groups rejoined at the top of the Clematis track and then in light rain worked down Lodge track. At the base of the hill, the group turned to clear the beginning of the Blue Gum Hill track, where there were many stinging nettles to be cleared from the track. Another month and this track would have been overgrown.

On the way to Billy's Weir two koalas were observed fighting in a tree. As they fought they moved to the end of a branch which broke. They both fell over thirty meters, landing solidly but safely. Koalas when they fall can inflate their stomach to lessen the impact of a fall. One koala wanted to continue the fight and stopped after discovering our presence. At Billy's Weir, a wet lunch was eaten. As the rain increased the group left for the day.



## **October Activity**

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October

### **Activity 1 – Orchid Walk**

**10.00am**

The first activity will be a walk of around Fosters Gully to seek out the orchids which can be found at this time of the year. You will need to bring clothing suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

If you are staying for the koala count you will need to bring your lunch, which can be eaten in the Kerry Road picnic area between the activities.

### **Activity 2 - Koala Count**

**1.30pm**

The Friends of Morwell National Park will be carrying out the annual 'Koala Count in the Park'. Willing participants are requested to meet at the Kerry Road - Fosters Gully car park at 1.30pm to commence the Koala count.

The 'Koala Count in the Park' event is part of the long term strategy to document the numbers and health of the koalas within Morwell National Park.

Bring your family and friends and enjoy a pleasant stroll in the park while simultaneously helping the team in spotting the resident koalas that may be found in the park.

Participants are advised to bring suitable clothing and footwear applicable for the weather conditions, and if possible, bring a pair of binoculars as it certainly makes it easier to spot the koalas.

