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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – November 2016

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

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter.

John's Jottings

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

"21st September, 1987.

Dear Friends,

What a great turn out for our September meeting considering the damp conditions, we really didn't expect too many people to brave the elements, so 17 Adults & 9 Children was a surprising attendance. After a brief talk over business matters we divided up into four groups and headed off to do some spotting. In keeping with last years September survey we stuck to the main tracks through the park, however there were not enough people to do the Western boundary of the park, therefore we think we may drop this area from our future surveys. Koala statistics as follows:-

	Sept 1986	Oct 1986	Sept 1987
Fosters Gully	6	6	6
Nth & Eastern Boundary	4	-	6
Stringybark	4	1	5
Western Boundary	1	-	no survey
Southern Boundary	3	3	-
TOTAL	18	10	17



Our surveys now are starting to make some headway so our first aim will be to establish the viability of the Koala population within the park and then ultimately if the survey results indicate that the population is dwindling then the aim of our research will be to establish why and how to remedy the situation. Thank you to all those who attended because without your help this valuable information would not be possible.

Once our survey was complete we had a very pleasant afternoon tea around the fire which finished off the day on a high.

Bye for now.

Yours sincerely,

Gail Roche. CO-ORDINATOR.

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

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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).

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 Matt, Kerry, Beryl, Peter, Jessica, Rose and Darren (briefly). Other regular members were off in other exotic locations. We are joined by a large group of keen walkers from the Ben Cruachan Walking Club and the Field Naturalists.

Before the activity, Matt and Kerry collected the chainsaw and cleared a tree from across the Stringybark Track. Matt had told Parks about the tree earlier in the week, but they had not been able to clear it, so Matt needed to clear it before the Orchid Walk.



The overcast conditions were great for walking. 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 observed on the walk:

- *Chiloglottis Valida* (Common Bird Orchid)
- *Glossodria Major* (Waxlip)
- *Caladenia Transitona* (Eastern Bronze Caladenia)
- *Caleana Major* (Flying Duck Orchid)
- five other species of *Caladenia*

At the end of the walk lunch was had in the Kerry Road picnic area. Over lunch most of walkers left with a group of new walkers coming in for the Koala count.

At the second activity for the day we had Matt, Kerry, Beryl, Peter, Jessica and Darren for the Koala Count. We were joined by a few locals and a few International students from the University and the local High School. We had enough walkers to survey three different tracks.

Matt and Kerry drove up Jumbuk Road to traverse the Jumbuk file trail. At the top of hill they located two koalas a few hundred metres apart and then no more koalas. This is common for this trail.

Peter and Jessica took a group around Stringybark Track. A few of the walkers had not seen koalas in the wild before and they were rewarded in seeing nine (seven on the Stringybark Track). Beryl and Darren took their group around Foster's Gully and found four koalas.

This brought the number of koalas located to 13. All koalas (some were mums and cubs) looked healthy. The numbers of koalas located have remained solid over the last five years.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Foster's Gully	2	4	3	8	4
Stringybark Track	6	3	2	3	7
Jumbuk fire trail	2	4	3	1	2
Totals	10	11	8	12	13

November Activity

Sunday 20th 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 if conditions permit track clearing along the Grand Strzelecki Track. You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day. If we tackle the Grand Strzelecki waterproof boots, gumboots or waders could be useful.

