

PO Box 19
Churchill
3842



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – December 2016

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

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. Over the last month Matt has met with Ranger Shane and discussed an approach that Shane had from a local primary school who wants to construct nesting boxes to be sited in the Park. Six new boxes can be used to replace some of the old boxes. Shane has also heard from a man who wants to do some re-vegetation, so we will suggest to him areas for re-vegetation could be either Blue Gum Hill or the Reidy's Road area.

John's Jottings

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

November 11. 1987.

Dear Friends,

The next meeting is our last for the year and it would be lovely to see everyone. We plan to follow up on the orchid survey and plant out some Blue Gum seedlings with a barbeque tea in the evening. The barbeque will be an opportunity for us all to mix socially.

With space to spare I thought I would take this opportunity to fill you in with a little of the history of the park.

Most national parks are areas of Crown land, but the land that makes up Morwell National Park was originally private property, owned by the Quigley family. In 1964 Mr. Ray Quigley asked the Morwell Shire Council about the possibility of buying his land and ensuring its preservation as a national park. The significance of the area for flora and fauna had already been established by the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club and the Bird Observers' Club. The then National Parks Authority expressed interest and the government agreed to provide half of the purchase cost of the land (138 hectares or 341 acres) if the Shire Council would provide the other half. This arrangement was agreed to and the park was declared in 1967.

Since then two additional lots of land have been added to the original piece. The first one in 1981, is the western area up as far as Vaggs Track which was original owned by the A.P.M. An agreement between the relevant government departments and the company saw a swap of land that benefited both organizations. The latest purchase is from the original southern boundary through to Brewsters Road. Mr. Frank Peel when establishing a new residential subdivision reserved an area of natural bush and offered it to the Department of Conservation Forests and Lands for purchase. The option was taken up and the 9.3 hectares (23 acres) was added to the park area during this year. The total area of the park at present is 293 hectares (724 acres) with all our hopes on an expansion towards Billys Creek. For those that can count, they will have already worked out that the Park celebrates its 21st birthday next year; how about a party?

We thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely, Yvonne Aplin.



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

November Activity Report

At this activity we had Matt, Peter, John, Mike, Cathy, Beryl (briefly), Tamara, Ken, Graeme and Darren. The group met in the car park and caught up on the happenings from over the last month. This month we had a new member Graeme (a local) who was keen to help out. We welcomed back Cathy and Mike after many months away, travelling the Red Centre, Kimberleys and Western Australia. They looked both happy and healthier.

We have been nominated for the Kookaburra Environmental Awards. The award ceremony will be in early December, Beryl and Tamara will attend the award ceremony for us. We will write a letter to Parks management and relevant State Ministers about the ongoing problems of no Parks support of our activities. Action to fix problems around the Park are more difficult, with few staff available to complete maintenance and access jobs. Last month, Matt and Kerry had to go out before the activity and clear tracks so that the walking groups could make their way around the tracks. Parks were told about the problems, a week before the activity and the trees were not cleared.

Green Walks will now run three monthly, and any future walks are being organized in the hope that it will attract some new walkers and some new people to our group.

The local Orchid group has photographed and published a photo of green and brown Spider Orchid, providing much interest amongst the group.

Since it has been a wet November, it was too wet to navigate the Grand Strzelecki Track (without destroying it), so it was decided to complete some track maintenance around Stringybark Track. With the wet November, the Butterfly Orchids are flowering late this year, so the Butterfly Orchid survey was also not completed.

Recent winds had brought down a few branches and number of Vanish Wattles had snapped to block Stringybark Track in many locations. Matt and Mike drove in and collected the gear while the remainder walked to the start of the track. Matt while collecting the gear noted that somebody from Parks (the only people besides us, who have keys to the shed) had been into the shed and taken the protective chaps, and fuel so we could not use them for today's activity. Having safety gear taken is providing a range of potential risks to our equipment users.

The groups looped around the different tracks and cross-tracks clearing large and smaller obstructions. The groups travelled back to the Kerry Road picnic area for lunch. After lunch Matt, Peter, Tamara, Graeme and Darren walked around Foster's Gully track and found none of the problems that Stringybark had developed over the month.



The calendar of activities for 2017 is attached at the end of the newsletter.

December Activity

Sunday 18th December

Activity 1 – 9am Junction Road Car Park: Nesting box survey.

We will use the pole-mounted camera to view the animals in the different boxes.

While one group completes the nesting box survey, another will travel the Grand Strzelecki Track to undertake some simple track maintenance and establish whether further work on this track will be needed. For these activities you will need to bring clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

Note: the early start time (9am) so that all boxes can be surveyed before lunch.

Activity 2 – The Christmas BBQ celebration will celebrate the year and start at about 1.00pm.

You can come of one or both activities.



Friends of Morwell National Park Christmas BBQ

Come along and enjoy in a BBQ lunch to celebrate another successful year of activities for the Friends of Morwell National Park

When: Sunday 18th December

Time: 1.00pm

Where: Kerry Road picnic area

What to bring: BYO plate, cutlery, cup/glass and bring either a salad or sweet.

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Calendar 2017

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Activities are scheduled for the third Sunday of each month, with extra days scheduled as required.

Date:	Activity:	Venue and Time:
January 15	GST Track Monitoring	Junction Rd, 10.00am
February 19	Weeding/Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
March 19	Weeding/Track Maintenance BBQ & Spot light walk/Moth survey	Junction Rd, 10.00am & Kerry Road, 5.30pm
April 16	Weeding/Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
May 21	Weeding/Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
June 18	Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
July 16	Nesting box survey	Junction Rd, 9.00am
August 6	AGM	To be advised, 1.30pm
August 20	Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
September 17	GST Track Monitoring	Junction Rd, 10.00am
October 15	Orchid Walk Koala Count	Kerry Road, 10.00am & Kerry Road, 1.30pm
November 19	Orchid Survey	Kerry Rd, 10.00am
December 17	Nesting box survey/ Christmas Function	Junction Rd, 9.00am & Kerry Road 1.00pm

For all activities, it is BYO food, drinks, suitable clothing and footwear, and other personal items, unless otherwise indicated in the newsletter. Up to date details of each forthcoming activity are provided in the monthly newsletter, which is emailed to members and available to the public on the website.