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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter – February 2017*

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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter.

### John's Jottings

I have been led astray, and I must apologise to all. As you will be aware from my constant statements of 'sourcing' information, my reference to all of my recent "snippets" has been the early minutes by the Friends of the Morwell National Park.

In our Newsletter December 2016, the sourcing was from the minutes dated November 11, 1987 which stated -

" For those that can count, they will have already worked out that the Park celebrates its 21<sup>st</sup> birthday next year; how about a party?

We thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely, Yvonne Aplin."

ie. the Park was 20 in 1987, and will be 50 in 2017.



On this basis, I have been spreading the word to all our current members that we should organise some special activity to celebrate Morwell National Park's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday this year (2017), and hopefully include Parks.

**BUT**.....on being asked by our current President, Matt Campbell, to find out more regarding the date of declaration, I find – with reference to a publication "Morwell National Park November 1998 Management Plan" –

### **'1.4 Creation of the Park**

Morwell National Park (138 ha) was originally declared on 26 November 1966 as a result of the *Morwell National Park Act 1966 (Vic.)*.

Subsequent additions in 1969, 1981 and 1989 increased the Park size to 396 hectares. The Park is included in Schedule 2 of the National Parks Act. '

**SO**.....thanks to incorrect information from my information source, we have missed out on this very important occasion. It's strange that Parks missed it as well, although considering the turmoil Parks is in at the moment, maybe not so strange!

Maybe it's not too late to still celebrate this fabulous mile-stone. What do you think?

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Official Address of FMNP - [contactfmnp@gmail.com](mailto:contactfmnp@gmail.com)

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Other members: 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).

### **VALE: Mary Austin**

**Mary was an inaugural member of Friends of Morwell National Park, joining at its inception in 1988, and retaining her membership over the last 26 years.**

**She was a very active member in the early days and was very proud of retaining her “top of the list” position in the membership list which occurred with the moving of the Aplin family (as she reminded me just last year).**

**In the later years, she kept a low profile in the Club but was a well-respected and appreciated member even though age and agility kept her from ‘manual labour’ in her latter years. A lovely lady, she will be remembered and missed by all.**

## **January Activity Report**

At this activity we had Matt, Peter, Grant, Darren and Ranger Shane. We had apologies from Ken, Tamara, John, Margaret, Wendy, Beryl and Rose. Mike, Cathy and Ranger Craig also joined us for the meeting in the carpark but not the activity. Over the last month, the Park’s boundaries and track have been slashed. It is great now that most parts of the park are now accessible. The Grand Strzelecki Track has also been slashed within the park.

Over the last month, Parks have run their new Minibeasts program at Billy’s Creek. 15 kids and parents investigated the little ‘beasts’ that inhabit Billy’s Creek. It was a successful school holiday program with more being planned. Shane is keen to put together a tourism plan for the park which encourages people to come to discover and use the park. The park is a wonderful space that many people in the Latrobe Valley do not know about. Many people are unaware of a nation park in the Latrobe Valley.

After meeting in the car park the small group travelled in my vehicle past Billy’s Weir. The task for the day was to slash the Blue Gum Hill spur track. This track was not slashed along with the other tracks since it is too steep. The track was lost under the undergrowth, with the signage also not visible. Grant and Matt slashed the track with brush cutters while Peter cleared up with the hedge trimmer. They worked up the track while Darren checked how overgrown the beginning of Blue Gum Hill track was. The slasher had not been there so this track will need work next month.



After clearing the track the group rejoined to drive along the Grand Strzelecki Track. We surveyed the track seeing that it was clear and walkable. The track is surrounded by a large collection of advanced weeds. Many thistle, Tutsan, blackberry and foxgloves could be seen. On the way back to lunch at Billy's Weir, a Rock Shrink was found. Over the day we had seen a koala (in the car park), kangaroos, wallabies, goshawk and a variety of birds. It was great day for viewing the wildlife.



Over lunch at the weir, the group tried to determine what the concrete structures on each side of the weir were for, and what their original purpose was. This is something that may need some research.

## **February Activity**

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February

We will travel the Blue Gum Hill track to complete some track maintenance. The track is very overgrown and slashing will made this track walkable.

For these activities you will need to bring clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

