

PO Box 19
Churchill
3842



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – December 2017

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

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter. With this being the last newsletter of the year, I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

John's Jottings

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

22nd November, 1988

Dear Friends,

We've had one of our busiest months on record, and I would like to thank all who helped out at the different activities.

JUNIOR RANGER DAY - NOVEMBER 6th

About 30 children with 10 adults joined us for our first-ever Junior Ranger Day. It was a good group to begin with, with children from many parts of the Valley coming in response to our letters to the Primary Schools. At the end of lunch we presented Rohan Jones and Trina Harris with their cheques for winning the Logo Competition – a proud moment. Robin did a terrific job with leading games for the children which taught them something about conservation and the role of the Ranger. Thank-you! Yvonne helped out with organising Damper and Billy Tea which proved most popular. Thanks to her and also the other Friends who attended, too.

NOVEMBER PROJECT DAY - NOVEMBER 13th

A group of 10 helped out on this important day in surveying Koalas and Orchids. Being an extremely hot day we were in for a few surprises!

We surprised many with our Koala results: 8 very lethargic koalas, several of which were quite low in the trees and 2 were even discovered in Pittosporum trees! Altogether, 5 were found in Foster's Gully, 2 in Stringybark and 1 along the East Boundary. Ken reported a 50% increase in the number of Orchid flowers from the four Study Sites, despite no real increase in the number of plants. About 5% of the plants had open flowers, but it is expected that they will all open in the next few weeks."

Signed Peter Bryant



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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

Other members: Margaret Barker, Mike and Cathy Beamish, Eulalie Brewster, Graeme Busch, Kerry Campbell, Joelle Champert, Chris Lange, Tamara Leitch, Wendy McDonald, Rose Mildenhall, Denis Nagle, Grant Pengelly, Wayne Pengelly, Joan Sikkema, Wendy Steenbergen, Australian Plant Society (Latrobe Valley).

November Activity Report

At this activity we had Ken, Matt, Tamara, Grant, Wayne, Graeme, Deb, Rose, Chris, Mike, Cathy, John, Darren and Ranger Mark. Beryl also joined us for the meeting before the activity but still is unable to walk freely after a fall at a previous activity.

The large group met in the Kerry Road carpark and we totally filled the carpark. The carpark contained our vehicles and along with the vehicles of other walkers enjoying the lovely morning. We had a Castle (Australian classic film) moment where a number of vehicles needed to be moved to get one out and for others to come in. It was also good to see Rob Howell (former ranger), in for one of his many walks around the park.

Matt, Ken and Tamara started early scouting out the Butterfly Orchid survey sites. Last year one site could be located, so this year from their collective knowledge they searched and found all five survey sites. While they started the rest of the group signed in and went through the JSA. The rest of the group were to clear fallen sticks and branches from the Foster's Gully and Stringybark tracks.

A few large branches had fallen so the chainsaws were required on each track. While most walked in the beginning of Foster's Gully track, Mark and Mike collected the chainsaw and safety gear from the shed. Graeme and Deb went orchid hunting while Rose, Wayne and Chris joined Mark who drove around Stringybark track. They stopped many times to remove many fallen branches. Mike, Cathy, John, Grant and Darren went around Foster's Gully where there a few fallen branches which needed cutting and removal.

With the large work crew, the tracks were quickly cleared and all groups returned to the Picnic area before 12. This provided an opportunity to finish early while the Butterfly Orchid survey crew finished a little later.



The Friends of Tyers Park have invited us to "Picnic at Petersons", an opportunity to catch up with other "Friends" from Central Gippsland and celebrate Christmas in the beautiful surroundings of Tyers Park. The location for the gathering will be Petersons Lookout, commencing 6 pm on Thursday 14th December. To get there, take the Tyers-Walhalla Road for 5 kilometers north of Tyers township and keep an eye out for the lookout sign on your LHS. Two kilometers from here, down W2 Track, is the Petersons Lookout carpark, the venue for our get-together. The track is unsurfaced and has the odd pothole but is fine for 2WD vehicles.

If you can make it, BYO everything (food, drinks, chairs). Some tables will be provided but bring one if you can.

We would love to see you there to swap tales and support our incredibly diverse and dedicated Friends network. There is no need to respond, just turn up if you can. Any enquiries to Jim Stranger 0400278939.

December Activities

Sunday 17th 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.

For this activity 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 17th December

Time: 1.00pm

Where: Kerry Road picnic area

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

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Calendar 2018

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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 21	Weeding/Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
February 18	Weeding/Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
March 18	Weeding/Track Maintenance BBQ & Spot light walk/Moth survey	Junction Rd, 10.00am & Kerry Road, 5.30pm
April 15	Nesting box survey	Junction Rd, 10.00am
May 20	Weeding/Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
June 17	Track Maintenance	Kerry Road, 10.00am
July 15	Weeding/Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 9.00am
August 5	AGM	To be advised, 1.30pm
August 19	Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
September 16	Nesting box survey	Junction Rd, 10.00am
October 21	Orchid Walk Koala Count	Kerry Road, 10.00am & Kerry Road, 1.30pm
November 18	Orchid Survey	Kerry Road, 10.00am
December 16	Nesting box survey/ Christmas Function	Junction Rd, 8.30am & 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.