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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – February 2018

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Hello everyone and welcome to this month's newsletter.

Over the past month, Parks Victoria has run a range of Junior Ranger programs within Morwell National Park. Two Fauna Explorer tours travelled around Fosters Gully, to discover many species of birds, animals and common native plants. Two Minibeast Discovery tours investigated tiny critters, both insects and those found in the waters of Billy's Creek. Junior Ranger school holiday programs were for children aged 6-12.

John's Jottings

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

"January, 1989.

Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and safe New Year, with the hope that our group can go on to better things.

We start this year with some good and bad news! We congratulate Ian Roche on this appointment as Ranger-in charge of Warrandyte State Park. A big achievement for Ian, but we will miss him and the friendships built up over the last 3 years, with Ian, Gail, Carly and Daniel - we wish them all the best for the future. '

"The December project day was very successful due not only to the enthusiasm of the Friends, but also the knowledge, skill and assistance offered by Peter Leggett our relieving ranger. The Pussy Willows, big and small, were treated and cut out between the weir and the western boundary.

We welcome to the Billy's Creek Development team, Debra Burke, who is in the process of compiling the Management Plan for the Park incorporating Billy's Creek. She attended our December meeting, - good to meet you Debra.

January the 22nd, saw Ken and a small band-of Friends scouring the trees in Billies for seed. This seed will be suitably treated and scattered in areas, after the dreaded blackberries have been removed. On the whole the day was very successful, although too late for a couple of species."

"Yours Sincerely, Yvonne APLIN."



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January Activity Report

At this activity we had Ken, Matt, Tamara, Wayne, Rose, Peter, Wendy Mc, Beryl, Chris, John and Darren. We had an apology from an ill Grant.

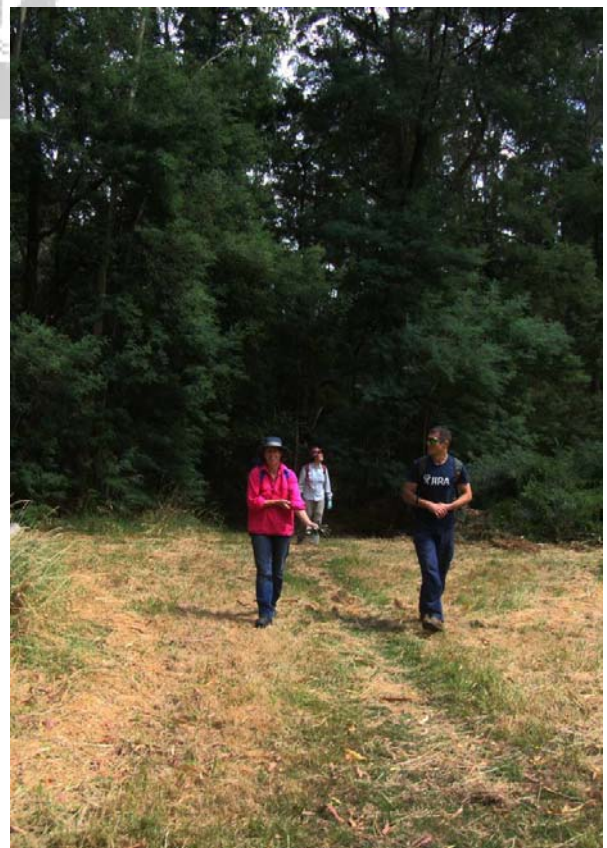
We met in the car park and determined our plan for the day. Over the last month slashing has occurred along the main tracks and around the park boundaries. Two new rangers have also been appointed to this region. Parks have mentioned that it may be possible to erect interpretive signage around Foster's Gully. It is hoped that this will complete the work we started on upgrading the signage of this track we started two years ago.

The JSA was read and signing in was completed. We decided to delay the nesting box maintenance until next month. The group split with Matt, Ken, Beryl, John and Tamara driving along the Grand Strzelecki Track to check that it is cleared to the park boundary. They found that it was cleared and spend some time investigating the animals of this area. They were excited by the possible discovery of a new species of frog for the park.

The rest travelled along the Billy's Creek track, clearing the track and removing weeds. We found that the Baniff's Road bridge across the creek needs some ground work. A large hole has developed just off the bridge and this needs to be repaired for public safety. A wombat hole has fallen in and hopefully Parks will be able to make this repair soon.

Many weeds were removed and there are many large patches of blackberries and thistles that need Parks to spray. Many jobs are just too large for us to handle.

Later the two groups met up and then returned to the Weir for lunch. After lunch the groups moved back to car park to finish up for the day. Wendy will be happy that we collected a few tree guards returning to the car park.



February Activity

Sunday 18th February 10am

The group will meet in the Junction Road car park to complete track maintenance, weeding and repairs to the nesting boxes. You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

