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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – March 2018

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.net>
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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. It seems that the group had problems with Ranger allocation way back then. The newsletter is quite long but interesting, so I have split it – to be continued next month.

"February 28th, 1989.
Dear Friends,

Well, we are back into it and heading into 1989, it could prove to be a busy year one way or another. 13 people gathered at Fosters Gully for the first meeting of the year, before setting off up the walking track to attack the thistles, we started with a General meeting. A warm welcome was extended to Rob (Howell) a relieving ranger over from Yarram to watch over the park for the weekend. Robyn has returned to Buchan and Craig Campbell from Tarra-Bulga N.P is filling in on a full time basis until Ian is officially replaced. It is all getting very complicated but hopefully a couple of months will see it all finalized and settled. Thank you Robyn for your time & effort during your short stay.

The business arising in the meeting was as follows:-

- Concern expressed over the apparent lack of activity in Billie's Creek. I have since rung Neil Ward at Yarram and there are plans to begin the spraying of weeds in the very near future. Some of the other work will depend on when in the area. Region has received the full amount promised of the \$92,000 and has returned \$15,000 on a deferred basis until next year. They are none the wiser as to whether the next 2 years allocation will be as promised and in some ways this is limiting the works program.
- Debra Burke sent me a very well presented report on her progress with the management plan - unfortunately it arrived on Monday. Of interest is the purchase of the narrow strip of land along Jumbuk Road; a pamphlet requesting the general public's say, 'The commencement of a Botanist' and survey work to be done by a GIAE student. Debra is hopeful of having the proposed plan ready for public comment by September.
- Geoff Galvin reported the appeal was only very slowly collecting donations although hundreds of letters had been sent out to businesses in the whole valley area. Many thanks to Wendy for addressing and enveloping all of the Moe area - 250 envelopes in all. A display in Mid Valley is planned."



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February Activity Report

At this activity we had Matt, Tamara, Wayne, Rose, Peter, John and Mike. We had two new comers - Rachel and Jo along for their first activity. We had apologies from Ken and Chris. Darren came to the activity later.

The morning started in the car park where discussion was had about Parks interest in installing interpretative signage around Foster's Gully. It is great to have their interest in a project we started a few years ago. A submission may be required and we will find out more over the coming months. Interpretative signs will greatly improve the walk around Foster's Gully.

First activity for the day was to make repairs to the nesting boxes. The group moved in from the car park and made repairs to eight of the nesting boxes. Some needed the lids or bases replaced or reattached. Others needed to be reattached (with new strapping) to the trees. It was found that three boxes were so badly damaged that they need total replacement. We will try to source six new boxes from the Churchill Men's Shed. They did an excellent job with the last set of boxes, so want to continue using them as other supplier of nesting boxes.

In two of the boxes where repairs were made, gliders were found. In one box, three sugar gliders climbed the tree and glided away, while the lid was replaced. At another box which was hanging off the tree, the sugar gliders (with attached young) came out while the box was being repaired.

After the boxes were repaired the group stopped for lunch. Darren joined the group during lunch. After lunch the group used the chainsaw to clear a few trees and branches down across two different tracks. The first branch was a wattle down near the Braniff's Road entrance.



A smaller group then moved to the Kerry Road section of the park to work around Stringybark Track. Two large trees had fallen across the Stringybark Track. The chainsaw worked hard to remove these two big trees. In removing these two trees we played leap frog with a pair of walkers.



Over the day many groups of walkers regularly travelled pasted, out enjoying the lovely day.

March Activity

Sunday 18th March

Activity 1 – 10.00am - Junction Road Carpark

We will meet in the Junction Road carpark to decide upon the track maintenance and/or weeding we will undertake.

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

Activity 2 – 5.30pm - Kerry Road Picnic Area

The group will meet in the Kerry Road picnic area for a BBQ, spot light walk and moth survey. You will need to bring clothing and footwear suitable for the evening outdoors and the weather conditions. For the BBQ; a seat, torch, cutlery, plates, drink, etc. would be very useful.

You can come for one or both activities.

