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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – March 2024

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.net>
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A0016319X

Welcome to this month's newsletter.

On the Tuesday afternoon before the planned activity a violent storm ran across Victoria, especially affecting the Strzelecki Ranges. Mirboo North and Boolarra were badly hit. Power, Internet and phone systems were greatly disrupted and were out for many days after the storms. Many members of the group were without power and telecommunications as these were restored days later, bit by bit. You appreciate how important these services are when they are missing.

In the days following the storm, the group with limited communication established that the park was not safe for a twilight activity and messages were sent out that we were not going to run the activity.

On the Friday before the activity, Parks decided to close the park due to widespread damage.

In the following pages there are some photos of some of the damage around the park. Thanks goes to Matt, Wayne and Gabrielle who have shared photos.

The first group is from around the Kerry Road entrance. In the picnic area a fair section of the fence has been smashed but the one picnic table and the loo were spared.

A little further on there's trees and limbs down everywhere, including several hangers and large trees resting against others just waiting to come down. In a good bit of news, a tree somehow landed either side of one of the new signs!

Many trees are down across the bridge to Stringybark Track, but since the bridge has not been repaired and has been closed since the last big storm the impact may be minimal. A broken bridge is still a broken bridge.



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In the Billys Creek section of the park there are also trees down across track and some trees hanging from others. There are many trees down across the tracks and at one point the creek below is smothered by fallen branches.





In a quick update from Ranger Gabrielle that after a few days assessing the damage she has organised further assistance from the Fire and Emergency Team to clear Fosters Gully Track. On 20/2/2024 they had cleared most of Billy's Creek Track with just two more large trees to clear and the track will be reopened to the Weir.

March Activity

Sunday 17th March 10am

(Conditional upon the park being reopened by this date)

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