

PO Box 19
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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – August 2024

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.net>
Official Address of FMNP - contactfmnp@gmail.com
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Welcome to this month's newsletter.

For the activity we had Mike, Cathy, Gordon, Ken, Matt, Jay, Beryl and Darren. We had apologies from Caitilin and Tamara.

The group met in the Junction Road car park on a cold but dry morning. Around the table a discussion was held. The new signage was discussed and over the multiple panels there will be a full park map along with details of some of the plants and animals found in the park. There will also be information about the Friends of Morwell National Park. Beryl had drafted some text which highlights the origin of the park and the Friends group and describes what the Friends group does. The group were happy with this text.

With the post storm park repair works - the Foster's Gully section of the park is scheduled to be completed first. Three contractors have quoted for the replacement of the barbeque, picnic tables and fencing in the picnic area and to work on the bridge across to Stringybark Track. One has been selected and conditional on the insurers OK, these works can occur any time from late September.

For the repairs in the Billy's Creek section of the park, an environmental assessment has been completed and contractors' quotes have been sort for a track realignment where the creek is undercutting the track. The track will need to be widened (cut further in the bank) to allow the machinery in to replace the last bridge closest to Billys' Weir. After the track has been realigned, soil testing will be completed, the engineering drawings will be updated and then more contractor quotes will be sort for the replacement of the three missing (and broken) bridges across Billy's creek.

The subcommittee that was looking into the steps required to become a charity reported back that they had determined there were seven steps the group would need to work through. Most these tasks will need to be completed after the AGM.

This year's AGM will on Sunday 4th August and Mike and Cathy B have invited us to have the AGM in Boolarra. This year's AGM will be held at 13 Limonite Road, Boolarra. It will be so much better to have the meeting inside rather than out in the cold shed. Please bring a seat and a plate to share after the meeting.

Matt had collected three pots of paint (primer, sealer and topcoat) from Latrobe City for the painting of the new nesting boxes collected from the Council. This will be another task to be completed at a later activity.

Friends of Morwell National Park Inc: PO Box 19, Churchill, 3842, <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.net>.

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President: Ken Harris

Vice-President: Caitilin Punshon

Secretary & Public Officer: Beryl Nelson

Treasurer: Mike Beamish

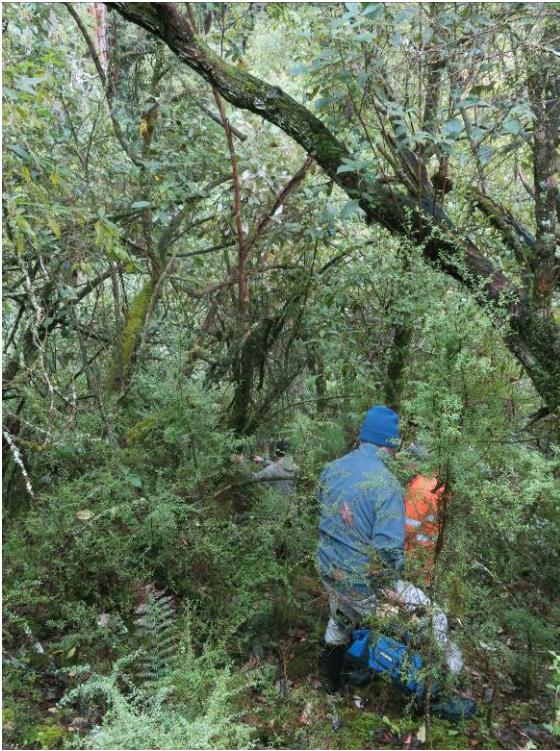
Publicity: Tamara Leitch

Newsletter Editor: Darren Hodgson, darren.hodgson@education.vic.gov.au

Other members: Melina Bath, Cathy Beamish, Eulalie Brewster, Graeme Busch, Matt & Kerry Campbell, Joelle Champert, Wendy Davies, Gordon Duncan, Jay Duncan, Jackson & Tony Lea, Rose Mildenhall, Anjali Pal, Anita Pither, Grant Pengelly, Wayne Pengelly, Chris Sikkema, Joan Sikkema, David Stickney, Wendy Steenbergen, Hayley Stone & Mike Williams.

After the meeting everybody needed to move to warm up and everybody then travelled to the Kerry Road car park. The day's main task was the placing of the remaining star pickets at the corners of the last three Butterfly Orchid survey plots. The group walked to the Fosters Gully Track and counted the steps to the third plot. This time we had the details of the plot locations so it probably 5% easier to find the plots.

The third plot was difficult to find, so difficult we had to give up after 15 minutes and move onto the fourth plot. While Gordon and Mike scrambled up and down the bank putting new post markers on the fourth plot, Matt returned back to the third plot to eventually find the original post markers. It was where the group was originally looking but sometimes you can look and look and not see what is front of you.

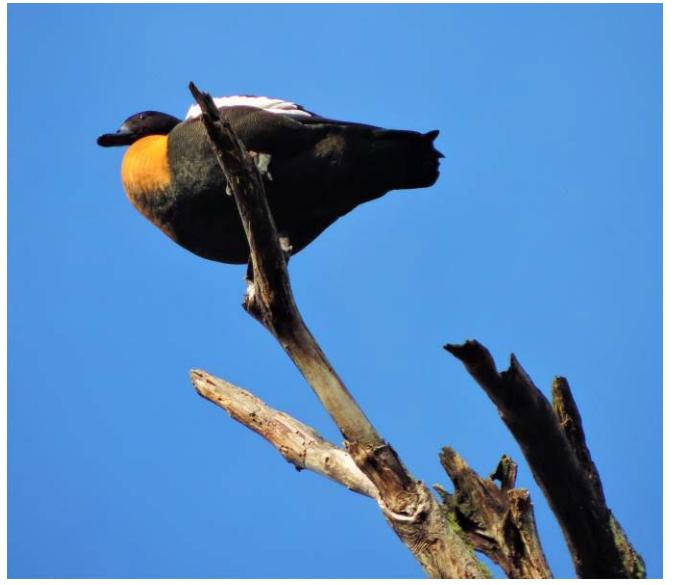


Each of these plots were difficult to access being down steep creek banks which have changed since the plots were first created. After the two plots were marked the group returned back to the track to locate the last plot. This plot was also down a steep gully and was only found because of Matt's memories of certain trees and rushes in the plot and a small waterfall nearby.

While the boys were working on the Butterfly Orchid plots Beryl and Cathy were looking at orchids and wildlife along the Foster's Gully Track. Cathy found some impressive orchids (one in early flower and some with seed pods) and they are shown below:



Butterfly or Gunn's Tree Orchid *Sarcochilus Australis* (Gunnii)



Veined Helmet Orchid *Corybas diemenicus*

Australian (Mountain) Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides*

The two groups met up again on the main track. The groups returned back to the picnic area to have lunch. After lunch we got to go home.

At the beginning of August we will have our Annual General Meeting. It is hoped that all members can attend. Included is the membership form to complete if you are unable to come to the Annual General Meeting.

Friends of Morwell National Park

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 4th August

1.30pm

13 Limonite Road Boolarra (corner of Fairmont St)

Please bring a seat and a plate to share.

Subs for the new financial year are also due and payable.

A committee meeting will follow the Annual General Meeting

A

To: Treasurer, Friends of Morwell National Park, PO Box 19, Churchill, 3842

Please find enclosed the amount of \$ _____ (\$10 per person, \$15 per family/group) being for membership 2024/2025.

Name:.....Telephone:.....

Address:.....

Email:

August Activity

Sunday 18th August 10am

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