

PO Box 19  
Churchill  
3842



# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter – October 2024*

Website: <https://friendsofmorwellnp.com.au/>

Official contact of FMNP - [contact@friendsofmorwellnp.com.au](mailto:contact@friendsofmorwellnp.com.au)

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Welcome to this month's newsletter.

For the activity we had Ken, Caitilin, Anita, Mike, Gordon and Darren. We had apologies from Matt, Cathy, Tamara, Jay, Joelle, Rose, Beryl and Graeme. We also had community members Rachel, Sharon and Miriam along for the bird walk.

Over the last week there was meeting with Parks about the signage and the planned works for repairs to the park. Works on Kerry Road section of the park is in progress. There will at least four weeks of planning time for inductions, collected of equipment and materials and then another four weeks to complete the works. So there still will be a few months before the repairs and replacement of missing equipment will occur.

The bird book is now with the designer. After she has put together the whole publication it will return to the group for a few rounds of proof reading. The launch of the book is now less than two months away.

Storms in the weeks before the activity have resulted in the Billy's Creek section of the park being closed. Several trees had come down in the carpark resulting in the car park also being closed to the public.

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**President:** Caitilin Punshon

**Vice-President:** Anita Pither

**Secretary & Public Officer:** Cathy Beamish

**Treasurer:** Mike Beamish

**Publicity:** Tamara Leitch

**Newsletter Editor:** Darren Hodgson, [darren.hodgson@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:darren.hodgson@education.vic.gov.au)

**Other members:** Melina Bath, Eulalie Brewster, Graeme Busch, Matt & Kerry Campbell, Joelle Champert, Wendy Davies, Gordon Duncan, Jay Duncan, Ken Harris, 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.



For the day's activity the group were to complete a bird survey. The group split into two groups so that two tracks could be surveyed. The first group of Mike, Caitilin, Anita and Rachel walked around Stringybark Track from the Western Boundary to the first crossing and then they completed the remainder of the loop. The other group of Ken, Sharon and Miriam travelled down Foster's Gully Track to Landon Landing and return.

Gordon and Darren also walked around the Foster's Gully Track to remove track obstructions. Anita had walked the track a few days before the activity and found many branches and some trees across the track. They cleared the branches and used the chainsaw to remove a larger tree from across the track.

The Stringybark Track walkers found a few trees down across the track that will need to be handled in the future.





For the bird spotting groups they had a successful morning. Over the day, 33 species of birds were recorded along with 7 koalas and 2 tiger snakes. Not bad for a morning of observation in our local National Park.



Eastern Yellow Robin (*Eopsaltria australis*)



Eastern Rosella (*Platycercus eximius*)



Golden Bush-pea (*Pultenaea gunnii*)

The birds recorded by the two groups were:

*Sighted (29)*

- Crimson Rosella
- Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
- Grey Shrike-thrush
- Wedge-tail Eagle
- Striated Thornbill
- Australian Shelduck
- Australian Raven
- Eastern Yellow Robin
- Grey Fantail
- Laughing Kookaburra
- Brown Thornbill

- Large-billed Scrubwren
- Striated Pardalote
- Rose Robin
- Superb Lyrebird
- New Holland Honeyeater
- Crescent Honeyeater
- Brown Gerygone
- Magpie
- Golden Whistler
- Pied Currawong
- Western Rosella
- Swamp Harrier

- Gang-gang Cockatoo
- Yellow-faced Honeyeater
- White-naped Honeyeater
- Red-browed Finch
- White-throated Treecreeper
- White-browed Scrubwren

*Heard (4)*

- Shining Bronze-cuckoo
- Fantail Cuckoo
- Spotted Pardalote
- Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo

The three groups returned to the picnic area at slightly different times. They each got to have lunch before getting to head home.

## **October Activity**

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October

### **Activity 1 – Orchid Walk**

**10.00am**

The first activity will be a walk of around Fosters Gully or Stringybark Track to search for the orchids which can be found at this time of the year. You will need to bring clothing suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

If you are staying for the koala count you will need to bring your lunch and a seat, which can be eaten in the Kerry Road picnic area between the activities.

### **Activity 2 - Koala Count**

**1.30pm**

The Friends of Morwell National Park will be carrying out the annual 'Koala Count in the Park'. Willing participants are requested to meet at the Kerry Road - Fosters Gully car park at 1.30pm to commence the Koala count.

The 'Koala Count in the Park' event is part of the long-term strategy to document the numbers and measure the general health of the koalas within Morwell National Park.

Bring your family and friends and enjoy a pleasant stroll in the park while simultaneously helping the team in spotting the resident koalas that may be found in the park.

Participants are advised to bring suitable clothing and footwear applicable for the weather conditions, and if possible, bring a pair of binoculars as it certainly makes it easier to spot the koalas.