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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter – November 2024*

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Welcome to this month's newsletter.

For the activity we had Ken, Caitilin, Anita, Mike, Cathy, Tamara, Gordon and Darren. Joelle called in for the meeting only. We had apologies from Matt, Jay, Rose, Beryl and Graeme. We also had a few community members along for the orchid walk and later koala count.

In news over the last month, Parks Victoria have advised that the removal of dangerous hanging branches in the Billy Creek section of the park will be included in a variation to the insurance claim already in place for that area. The Billy Creek/Junction Road section of the park is still closed while arborists clear the remaining sections of track. There are still quite a few dangerous limbs hanging over track sections, however they've been making progress.

Works on the Kerry Road car park area and the bridge to Stringybark Ridge Track have not yet commenced, but we remain hopeful they will be completed this calendar year.

Two quotes for the realignment of Billys Creek Track were received and are being assessed. A contractor is expected to be appointed by the end of the year.

Drafts of the signs that will be placed at the Braniffs Road, Junction Road and Kerry Road entrances to the park were shown before a planned meeting with Parks. There were many errors so the meeting was delayed until these errors can be dealt with.

There was much joy to say that the *Birds of Morwell National Park* will go to the printers this week. Huge thanks to Caitilin, Matt, Jay, Ken and Anita for all their hard work on this book. Thanks also to Tamara for providing a thorough scientific review of the content.

For the group, online banking is now set up and working.

Recently there have been three groups of walkers in the park. Ken and Gordon showed the Entomology Society of Victoria around the Park on a walk, and they held an evening moth activity. Mike and Cathy took two different groups from the Australian Plant Society on walks around the park.

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For the day there were two activities. Firstly, for the orchid walk the group travelled over to Stringybark Track. The family group could not maintain their enthusiasm so they at different stages turned around and returned to the picnic area. But the rest of group were hardier, and they completed the circuit. Below are some of the orchids Caitilin captured.



Common Bird Orchid (*Chiloglottis valid*)



Pink Fingers (*Caladenia carnea*)

The walking group returned to picnic area for lunch and awaited the Koala Count.

For the Koala Count we had enough walkers to cover the three main survey tracks.

Tamara and Anita were delivered to the top of the park to walk back (with a little bush bashing) along the Jumbuk Road Track. Mike, Caitilin and Darren went back to the Stringybark Track while Cathy, Ken, Gordon and two community members walked along the Fosters Gully Track.

The walks happened in good conditions with the sky overcast and with little risk of rain. The good conditions helped (along with many observant eyes) to locate many koalas. Two were seen from the picnic area and a total of five could be seen between the picnic area and beginning of the Fosters Gully Track.





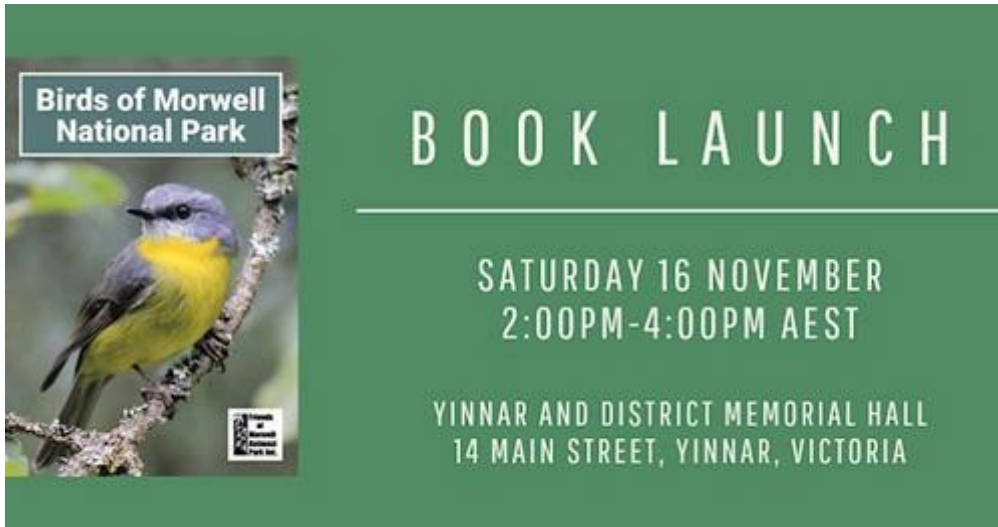
Caitilin captured some great photos of a few koalas seen during the count. Over the count a total of 17 koalas were sighted.

Track	Number of koalas
<b>Fosters Gully</b>	7 koalas seen and six heard
<b>Stringybark Track</b>	6 koalas seen and two heard
<b>Jumbuk Road Track</b>	4 koalas
<b>Total</b>	17 koalas and eight additional koalas heard

A successful day was had, and we look forward to seeing everybody at the bird launch and bird walks next month.

## November Activities

### **Activity 1 – Saturday 16th November - Birds of Morwell National Park book launch**



#### **BOOK LAUNCH: BIRDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK**

Friends of Morwell National Park invite you to help celebrate the launch of their new bird book. The family friendly event, with special guest Sean Dooley from BirdLife Australia, will take place on Saturday 16 November. Bookings for this free event are essential and can be made via the Eventbrite link, which also has all the details of the event.

Books will be available for \$10 at the launch and the walks. Payment by cash or transfer only. Please note not all phone carriers have reception in the park so cash may be the best option if you are planning on purchasing a copy on the Sunday.

Friends of Morwell National Park gratefully acknowledges financial support for this project from the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, the FRRR, the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation, and Latrobe City Council.

### **Activity 2 – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November - Bird walks & Orchid Survey Kerry Road Picnic Area**

Friends of Morwell National Park will be continuing the celebrations on Sunday 17 November with guided bird walks in Morwell National Park. Groups of walkers will leave from the Kerry Road Picnic Area on the hour, commencing at 8 a.m. The last walk will depart at 12 noon. Bookings are not required for the walk, but you can express your interest via our Facebook events to assist us with planning.