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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – December 2024

Website: <https://friendsofmorwellnp.com.au/>
Official contact of FMNP - contact@friendsofmorwellnp.com.au
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Welcome to this month's newsletter. This month we had two events to share.

On the Saturday of the activity weekend, we had the launch of the new 'Birds of Morwell National Park' book and on the Sunday the activity was five birds walks across the morning.

On Saturday afternoon the launch of 'Birds of Morwell National Park' was held. It was held at Yinnar Memorial Hall on a warm afternoon. Over one hundred people attended the launch including representatives from many supporting community groups and the newly elected local Latrobe Council councillor - Leanne Potter.

Caitilin as MC welcomed everybody, and Christine Johnston drew the important cultural links between people, the environment and birds via the Welcome to Country. Jay spoke about the two-year process of creating the book and spoke about the many groups who have supported the book's creation. The images in the books came from 24 local photographers who have each taken prized photos of birds in the park.

Matt introduced the guest speaker for the day Sean Dooley, the editor of Australian Birdlife magazine and author of The Big Twitch. Sean shared his experiences bird watching and the important connections people can make with nature in the environment. He spoke about how observing birds and recording their numbers and behaviors can help to protect bird environments. Where you carry your binoculars is very important when bird watching.

Caitilin thanked the book committee of Matt, Ken, Jay, Anita and herself and everyone else who contributed to the publication and the success of the launch. A number of books were sold over the day and book is now available from the following local stockists:

- Boolarra Post Office - 7 Tarwin St, Boolarra
- Boolarra Store - 9 Tarwin St, Boolarra
- Churchill Newsagency - Shop 2, Hazelwood Village Shopping Centre, Churchill
- Mirboo North and District Community Foundation - 96 Ridgeway, Mirboo North
- Tarra-Bulga National Park Visitor Centre - 1885 Grand Ridge Rd, Balook
- The Wrens Nest - 90 Ridgeway, Mirboo North
- Yinnar Hardware - 58 Main St, Yinnar
- Yinnar Post Office - 42 Main St, Yinnar

Later it will also be available via the Friends groups' website.

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Caitilin



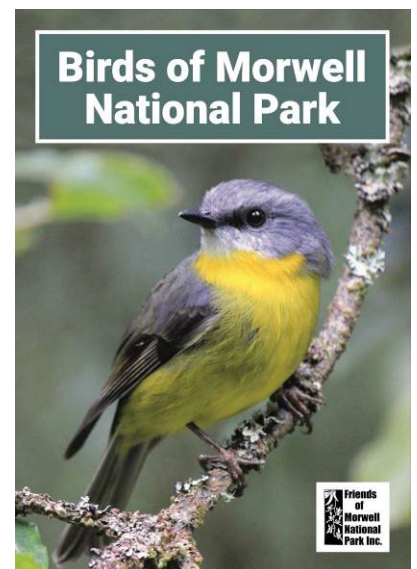
Jay



Matt



Sean Dooley



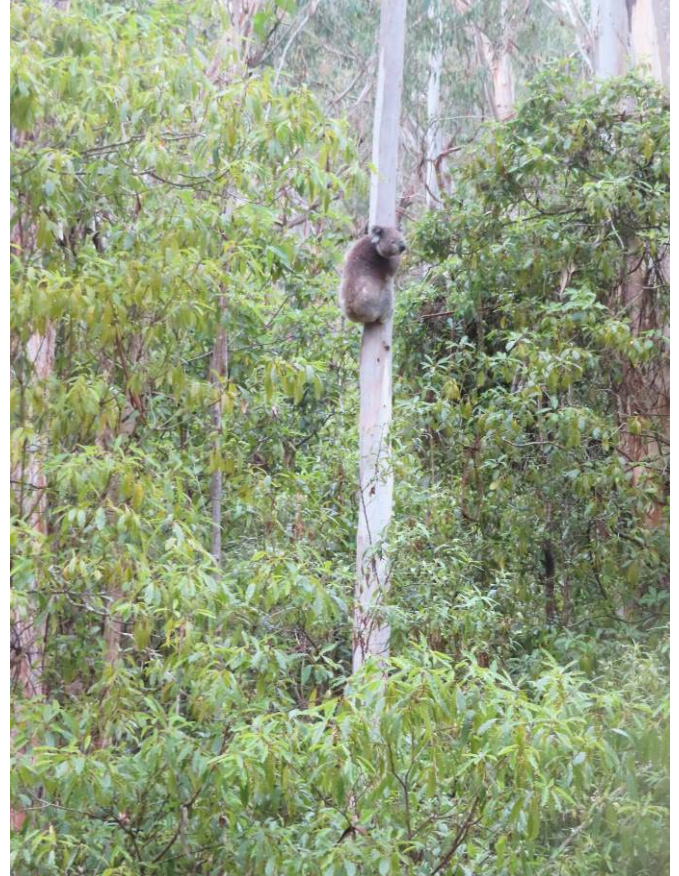
At the end of the launch an afternoon tea was served. Thanks goes to Wendy and her kitchen team.

On the Sunday we had five bird walks, and we had Gordon, Caitilin, Matt, Anita, Ken, Rose, Joelle, Jay, Beryl and Darren. We had apologies from Mike and Cathy. We noticed that improvements had been made around the picnic area. The gate has been repaired with the hinging post replaced. The fences had all been repaired, sections of the car park resealed and the barriers around the carpark replaced.



For the first walk of the day leaving at 8am, Matt took another four people around Fosters Gully.

At 9am, Joelle and Jay took two groups (with a total of 17 people) around Fosters Gully and Stringybark Track for those who wanted a longer walk. Another project in the Foster Gully section of the park was the replacement of the bridge across to Stringybark Track. The old bridge has now been removed ready for the new bridge. From the picnic area a koala was sighted in a nearby tree. A wallaby, wombat and many birds were also sighted over the day.



Between the second and third walks the weather turned wet. So, in light rain it was good to see nine keen walkers join Tamara and Anita for a walk around Fosters Gully. The first group of walkers returned a little wet but happy about their walk and opportunity to see many birds.

As the rain continued Matt took another five walkers around Fosters Gully. More of the earlier groups returned wetter than when they started, but they were happy about what they had seen.

As the rain got heavier the last group of the day (Wendy and Miriam) took a damp walk around Fosters Gully.

The next bird walk will occur on Sunday 16 March 2025, so if people missed out on this opportunity there will be another opportunity next year. The Junction Road car park and entrance to the Billy's Creek section of the park continues to remain closed while dangerous trees are removed.

The Orchid survey that is completed each November was postponed for a week since this could not be completed along with the bird walks.

December Activities

Sunday 15th December

Activity 1 – 10.00am

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

Activity 2 – The Christmas BBQ will begin around 1.00pm. Meet at the Kerry Road Picnic Area.

Friends of Morwell National Park Christmas BBQ

Come along and enjoy in a BBQ lunch to celebrate and reflect upon our year in Morwell National Park

When: Sunday 15th December

Time: 1.00pm

Meet at: Kerry Road picnic area

What to bring: BYO plate, cutlery, cup/glass, drink, folding seat and bring either a salad or a sweet.

