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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – January 2025

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Official contact of FMNP - contact@friendsofmorwellnp.com.au
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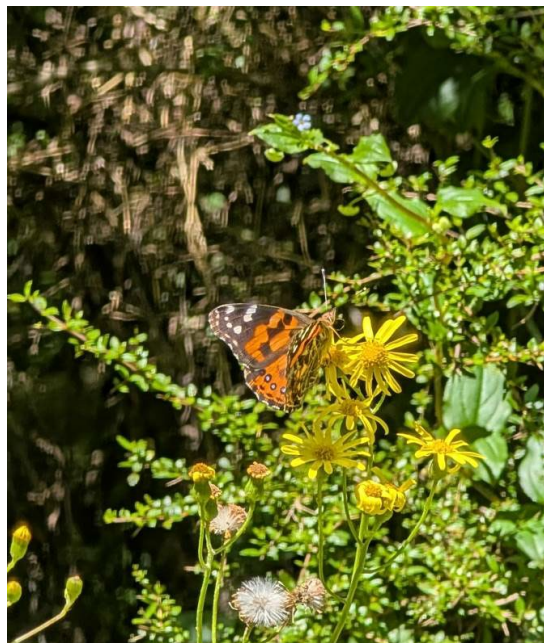
Welcome to this month's newsletter.

December Activity Report

For the morning activity, we had Gordon, Mike, Cathy, Tamara, Jay, Joelle, Caitilin, Peter, Anita, Rose, Beryl and Darren. It was welcome to see that the new barbeque had been installed in Kerry Road picnic area.

The day's activity was to do some track maintenance around Fosters Gully Track. Parks personnel had recently been around Stringybark Track and removed the trees down from across that track. Rangers have also slashed the steps down to the site of the new Stringybark bridge which will hopefully be installed in the new year.

To tackle Fosters Gully the group split with one group starting at the beginning of the track and other starting group starting from the opposite end. Both groups removed many small obstructions, and undergrowth that was encroaching upon the track. Peter (with Mike's assistance) removed a tree which had come down across the track.



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc: PO Box 19, Churchill, 3842, <https://friendsofmorwellnp.com.au/>

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Vice-President: Anita Pither

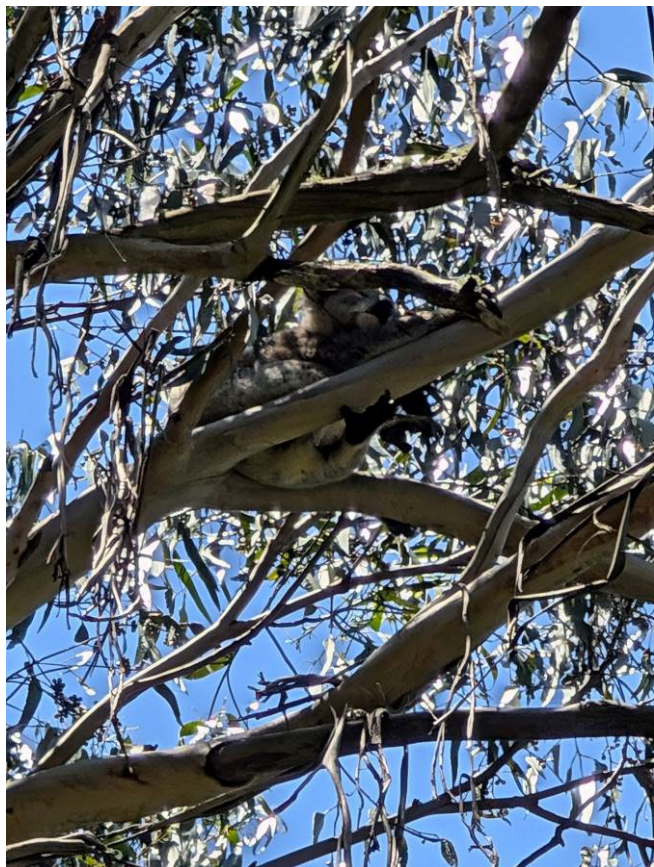
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During the walk several koalas (photos from Anita) and a lyre bird were spotted.

The walking groups made their way back to the picnic area to rest before lunch. For the lunch Ken, Fay and Matt joined the groups from earlier in the morning.

As Matt warmed up the barbeque and started cooking, Caitilin updated the group on happenings over the last month. A weeding activity was organised for the following Wednesday. Graeme was concerned about the large numbers of weeds that have grown the Billy's Creek section of the park, unattended. So, on that day three Parks staff will be coming in to spray some of these weeds. Up to three people can assist them since when working with chemicals, one volunteer to one person with a poisons certificate is the correct ratio.

Over 450 of the Birds of Morwell National Park books have been sold, since its launch a month ago.

Butterfly Orchid survey was completed late in November and each plot was surveyed with fewer orchids being found in each plot. The numbers of flowers on each orchid were also generally lower than observed in the previous years.

The group will put in a submission for a revegetation permit for some sections in the Billy's Creek area. The permits will request permission to collect seed, geminate and plant on seedlings for around Billy's Creek especially the areas disturbed by the planned works.

Related to the other works in the Park, the Billy's Creek entrance to the park remains closed while we await the removal of dangerous hanging branches. The earliest we could hope for this to be done will be in the new year. With the signage for each of the entrances they are now up to the final edits.

Damian Andrews – a local Youtube presenter recorded a Youtube interview with Caitilin, Ken and Anita talking about the National Park, our friends' group and our publications. The clip is located at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUifdXCuMFk>



Caitilin passed on her thanks to the whole group for all of the support she and the group has received though-out the busy year. The creation and launch of the bird book had required the support of many and its success goes down to the help of many.

After the meeting, lunch was had. Matt had cooked up a storm on the new BBQ. Many salads, and sweets were shared, and a restful lunch was enjoyed by all.

In koala news, the regular koala normally above the picnic area had relocated off into the distance so it was not seen in the morning. With the peace before lunch the koala was located along with two other koalas.

Wayne has posted on the Jeeralang Junction & district Facebook notice board that the Pipeline Track and Clematis Track are both very overgrown and have a few trees down across them. Pipeline Track is the main link between Baniff Road and the main park with the bridges missing. On Clematis Track the grass is shoulder height. It would be good to get this, and other tracks slashed by Parks Victoria for public safety and fire access.

January Activity

Sunday 19th January 10.00am

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

Note: change of location since the Junction Road carpark is likely to be closed.