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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – February 2025

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

Official contact of FMNP - contact@friendsofmorwellnp.com.au

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Happy new year.

January Activity Report

For the first activity of the year, we had Gordon, Mike, Cathy, Tamara, Matt, Ken, Joelle, Caitilin, Peter, Graeme, Rose, Beryl, Wayne and Darren. We had apologies from Jay and Anita.

Earlier in the month the FMNP committee met and made decisions upon a few issues. The main decisions of the committee were:

- The group will register as a charity (for tax exemption) and put together the paperwork for the application by the end of March. Some of the work has been done, but there are still a few matters to follow up. Finishing by the end of March will give some time to make revisions before the end of the financial year.
- In the shop on the new website, we will add the capability for people to order and pay via credit cards. A third-party credit card processor will be used for a small fee per transaction.
- Our group will register with the Container Deposit Scheme so people can nominate this group to donate towards.
- A set of social media guidelines will be created.
- A possible upgrade of the pole mounted cameras (used for nesting box surveys) to wireless cameras was investigated and it was decided to continue working with the cameras we have and replace them with these cameras when or if they break down.
- What is in the shed is often a mystery, so soon a small group will go thru the shed and inventory what it contains. Beryl, Caitilin, Gordon and Matt will investigate this.
- A dropbox will be set up for the electronic storage of past and important documents and photos. We will need to include photos of the assets of the park.

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

Over the last week work has begun upon the new bridge to Stringybark Track. The contractors are working by hand to erect the metal bridge. It is great that the work is being done by hand to help protect the environment around the site.



All our activities for the year have been entered onto Parks Connect. This will be another source of information about upcoming activities. Since nobody from parks had signed off on this day's activity, we were limited in what we could do.

For the day's activity we went in to remove some of the many weeds in this part of the park.

Rose, Joelle and Wayne left after the meeting while the rest of the group travelled down the Braniff Road track. Two vehicles came in while one group started on the many weeds beside this track. This the same area handled by cutting and dabbing poisons activity with Parks last month, but many new weeds had raised their heads. Another group headed down closer to the creek crossing to work on weeds there. Ragwort, thistles, tutsan and teasel were the worse weeds. Blackberries are also bad since they have yet to be sprayed this year.

Some travelled across the creek via the vehicles while the rest cleaned up the Pipeline Track which still has a few large trees across it which will require a chainsaw. Now a walker can scramble along this track to access the main part of the park.

The groups leapfrogged along the track removing many weeds close to the track. The weeds seem to be spread along the track by the vehicles, walkers and animals using the main track. The creek is also bad, but that would need to be left until later.

The groups gathered at Billy's Weir and had lunch. A koala watched us while we had our break. Caitilin's photos (which follow) show what it is like around the weir.



After the lunch break, the groups continued removing weeds. Two large Inkweeds were removed from the creek banks, along with some patches of Spearmint.

It was a very productive day and many weeds were removed.

The nesting box survey which was meant to be done in this month will be delayed until March when hopefully we will have access to the whole area the boxes are in.

February Activity

Sunday 16th February 6.30pm

The group will meet in the Junction Road car park for a spotlight walk and moth survey.

The evening will start with a BYO dinner. This will be followed by an evening walk and the setting up of moth sheets.

You will need to bring your own food and drink for the picnic (folding chairs would also be useful) and wear clothing and footwear suitable for the conditions on the evening. Torches and spotlights will also be useful for the evening walk.

If you want to come just for the spotlight walk or moth survey, these activities will occur when it starts to get dark.

Anyone who is curious about the night life or insect life in Morwell National Park is welcome to join us for these activities.