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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – April 2025

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March Activity Report

For this activity we had Gordon, Mike, Cathy, Tamara, Ken, Joelle, Jay, Caitilin, Peter, Beryl, Anita, Darren and Ranger Yanni. We had an apology from Graeme. The group were joined by another 5 people despite the wet day. The day started wet and the forecast was for rain throughout the day, so it was good to see so many people turn up for the activity.

The group introduced themselves around the circle, so everybody knew who some of the old and new faces were. Over the last month while the Billy's Creek section of the park remained closed, work has been done on and adjacent to the main track. More pruning of trees close to track has occurred to widening the track all the way to the weir. In one section the track has been remade to avoid where the creek is under washing the track. The track would soon have been lost into the creek. A new culvert was installed under the new track to direct water from the hill into the creek.



New track is on the right and original track is on the left.



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This track enhancements will improve access and allow contractors and vehicles into the bridges that need replacement. The next stage for the bridge replacement process is soil testing, which should occur soon. The tender for the bridge replacements should be released soon. With the tree pruning and track realignment completed, it is hoped that the Billy's Creek part of the park should soon be reopened to the public.

In other news the signage to go up at the three main entrances to the park is still being worked upon. The signs are now up to the final edits (there are still a few errors), so hopefully they could be completed and up in the park by Easter. The paperwork required to become a registered charity continues. Thanks goes Jay with the acquitting of grants related to the bird book. The Birds of Morwell National Park Bird Book continues to sell with some of the more recent sales coming through the web site. It was decided to move all nighttime activities to Saturday nights instead of Sundays. The next nighttime activity will be in May.

Since it was wet and more rain was forecast for the rest of the day, the Nesting Box survey was not completed. The camera and connectors do not operate when wet, so it was wisest to leave the nesting box survey to the activity next month.

Although the Billy's Creek track is currently closed, we had Parks Victoria approval for our activity in that area. We split into two groups with one group heading off to check upon the track realignment and the second group taking a slower pace to see what birds they could find.



The track in places was slippery where rain fell on the recent track works. With the soil being dry the water held on the surface rather than being absorbed, so the walkers needed to be careful with their footing. Beyond the track realignment it was good to see that shrub clearing had been done at the site for each of the new bridges. Each site had been cleared ready for the contractors to erect new bridges. The old shelter just before the first bridge had also been removed.



Despite the rain, it was an enjoyable day. It was good to get out into this part of the park which has been closed for a while. When people had finished their walk, they took the opportunity to head home where they could dry off and have lunch.

April Activity

Sunday 20th April 10am (Easter Sunday)

Location: Junction Road (different to the 2025 calendar of events)

The group will meet in the Junction Road car park for two different activities. One group will complete the annual survey of the nesting boxes (delayed from January and March), while the other will conduct some track maintenance. You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.