

PO Box 19
Churchill
3842



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – April 2025

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

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

A0016319X

April Activity Report

For this activity we had Gordon, Mike, Cathy, Tamara, Ken, Joelle, Graeme, Caitilin, Matt, Beryl, Anita and Darren. Also, with us we had Toby and Kuan along for the activity. We had an apology from Jay.

Over the last month we received the great news that the application for charity status has been approved. The Friends of Morwell National Park is now a registered charity. This means that we are now exempt from paying income tax. This has resulted in a few new policies and revisions to other existing policies. These policies have been approved by the committee and will be looked at the AGM later in the year. Many thanks go to the FoMNP committee for their help with this application, especially Caitilin, Tamara and Mike.

Next week the Latrobe Valley Camera Club, will be having a photography excursion within the park. They will meet at Kerry Road at 10am on Sunday 27 April. If you are available that day, you are welcome to guide these people around. Also, the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority has launched its annual photo competition with a theme of 'more than just water'. Entry is free and closes on 30 April. More details can be found at <https://wgcm.vic.gov.au/2025-e-water-photo-competition/>.

Next Month, on 16th May, the Victorian Parliamentary Secretary will make a visit to the park. It is hoped that the new signage will be completed and erected before this visit.

It is being organised for two people to undertake the Working with chemicals course so the group can use herbicides in future activities.

For the day's activity the nesting box survey was to be completed. This survey had been delayed twice because of wet weather. The forecast for the day was clear with the possibility of rain so we hoped to complete the survey this time.

The survey started on the boxes closest to the car park and two vehicles were used along the main track to carry our gear and lunches. To survey each nesting box, we used a pole mounted camera to put into each box so we could look upon an attached screen and then record what is inside each nesting box. While the first boxes were checked a few inkweeds were located and removed by a few others in the group. The early boxes contained leaf litter with only a few containing sugar gliders. As we moved through the boxes, a few more sugar gliders were found.

In one box, a sugar glider was active (out of the box upon the lid) while we approached the box. We were unable to look inside this box due to the sugar glider sitting on the top of the box.

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President: Caitilin Punshon

Vice-President: Anita Pither

Secretary & Public Officer: Cathy Beamish

Treasurer: Mike Beamish

Publicity: Tamara Leitch

Newsletter Editor: Darren Hodgson, darren.hodgson@education.vic.gov.au

Other members: 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, Alex Raymond, Chris Sikkema, Joan Sikkema, Wendy Steenbergen & Hayley Stone.



Around 12 noon, a little rain started to fall. This provided a good opportunity to stop for lunch and then wait and see what the weather was like after the lunch break. We lunched on the main track and were able to sit upon some trees cut down by the Parks contractors. Along the main track the track has been widened with the additional timber pushed off the side of the track.

After lunch the sky had brightened but the rain still threatened, so the group continued with the survey while watching the sky.





As we finished each section, we were happy the rain had not returned yet. We got to the Butt Butt hill and completed the six boxes scattered across this hill. That left us with just the boxes across the creek. Most of the group travel across the creek in one of the vehicles while a few balanced across upon a fallen tree trunk. As these last boxes were surveyed more inkweed was located and removed.

Over the day at least 45 sugar gliders were observed on the screen and this figure will improve when the footage is reviewed on a larger screen where more detail can be observed.

As everybody returned to the car park, the rain returned. We were happy to complete the survey and return home dry.

May Activity

Saturday 17th May 5.00pm

The group will meet in the Kerry Road picnic area for a nocturnal walk.

The evening will start with a BYO dinner. You will need to bring your own food and drink for the picnic (folding chairs would also be very useful) and wear clothing and footwear suitable for the conditions of the evening. Torches and spotlights will also be useful for the evening walk.

If you want to come just for the nighttime walk, this activity will occur when it starts to get dark.

Anyone who is curious about the nightlife or bat activity in Morwell National Park is welcome to join us for the activity.

(Note: The activity is on a Saturday night rather than the normal Sunday morning.)