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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – June 2025

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

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

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May Activity Report

For this activity we had Mike, Cathy, Tamara, Ken, Joelle, Jay, Matt, Peter, Rose, Kuan and Darren. Joining us we had Grace, Ross, Phil and Sharon along for the activity. We had apologies from Caitilin, Anita, Graeme, Olga and Beryl.

This was our second evening activity of the year. Where the first evening activity was in the middle of summer this one was to be a lot chillier with a cool evening expected. It was great to have a few people from outside of the main group interested in seeing what would be found when it was dark.

We had a quick meeting to welcome everybody and to catch up on news from over the last month. An aboriginal cultural assessment has been completed upon the Foster's Gully and Stringybark Track parts of park. We are now alright to complete activities that may disturb the soil like weeding. Peter and Beryl have started upon the chemical users' course, so soon (under their supervision) we will be able to use chemicals upon weed species.

A list of people who hold a working at heights certificate is being made so that when nesting box repairs are made these people will be the only ones to climb the ladders. The Parliamentary Secretary who planned to visit the Park did not come and the visit has been rescheduled for next month. The people who were organized to welcome them waited patiently not knowing of their changes. The Billy's Creek section of the park has been reopened to the public.

The hosting of web site and domain name has been paid for the continued use of both. Parks asked the group's opinion on native potassium and the group was strong in the opinion it should not be removed from areas like Foster's Gully where it is an important host for Butterfly Orchids. On the drier ridges it is less important, and removal is fine.

As we started losing daylight people ate the dinners they had brought. While dinner was being eaten Matt set up a mothing sheet to see what insects would be attracted after dark.

When it was dark, the group using many UV torches (which would not stun any wildlife that looked into the light) set off for a walk around Foster's Gully. As we started walking rain started to fall. The raindrops were clear in the torch lights but the tree canopy caught most of the rain.

Over the walk multiple koalas, mountain brushtail possums (bobucks) and ringtail possums were seen, while wallabies, wombats and owls were heard. Halfway around the walk to skies cleared and the stars were on display.

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These photos were not taken during the activity, but represent the types of animals seen on the nighttime walk.



When the group returned to the picnic area, they moved toward the light to see what had come onto the mothing sheet. A few moths and a spider had come to the mothing sheet but with it being a cold evening there were few insects around.



June Activity

Sunday 15th June 10.00pm

The group will meet at the Kerry Road to have a fungi and lichen walk. This will be a great opportunity to discover some the smaller and interesting plants (often overlooked), just off many of the walking tracks. A smaller group may complete some track maintenance (possibly the removal of some pine trees). You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day. A camera might be useful.