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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – July 2025

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June Activity Report

For this activity we had Anita, Gordon, Olga, Mike, Cathy, Ken, Joelle, Matt, Peter and Darren. We also had nine members of the public along for the fungi walk. A welcome to Olga, at her first activity, was made. We had apologies from Tamara, Caitlin and Kuan.

Anita welcomed the group and spoke about the plan for the day. We were greeted by a cool but dry day, so it was a great morning for a walk. With lots of new people, Anita got everybody to introduce themselves.

There was a quick catchup of news since the last activity.

The Parliamentary Secretary visit postponed in May was rescheduled to Monday 16th June. Ken and Gordon are to meet them and show them around the park. We still await the new signage to be erected at each of the main entrances.

We had AGL approach us asking whether we wanted any nesting boxes. The answer was yes please; can we have twenty? It is great to know that they will be constructed by the local Men's Sheds. As the boxes currently on the trees age and fall apart it will be great to have these boxes to replace the boxes currently in use. Thank you, goes to AGL and the Men's Sheds.



Peter and Beryl have completed their chemical use certificates. There is another meeting planned with Parks Victoria on 23rd June to discuss future park maintenance and repairs.

Peter and Darren left the group and travelled to Jumbuk Road where they planned to remove some pine

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trees which had reseeded after a group of pine trees were removed by Park contractors, a good while ago. Sadly, none of the pine trees were removed since a neighbor met with them onsite and stated that these trees could be removed. Discussion about park boundaries; fire dangers; people dumping, camping and hunting, HPV ownership and HPV planting these trees were some of the reasons given that these trees could not be removed. Since removing or working on these trees would have resulted in physical and mental distress to this neighbor, no work was completed. Sadly, it is difficult to follow up with the neighbor since she refused to give her name. The only way these trees will be removed will be for Parks staff themselves to come and cut them down. As time passes these trees will regerminate, get too large to remove safely and eliminate or hinder the growth of native trees.

The rest of the group had more success in the fungi and lichen walk.

The lichen and fungi walk followed the Fosters Gully track up to Lindon's Clearing and back. Some people who were walking at a quicker pace, walked the full Foster's Gully loop. Most people were more interested in the fungi so most of the observation and conversation was around this topic. Some species observed were: *Hypholoma fasciculare*, *Lepiota*, *Entoloma*, multiple *Mycena* varieties including *Mycena interrupta*, *Schizophyllum commune*, *Podoscypha petalodes* and *Tremella fuciformis*. Some of the lichen varieties observed included Dust Lichens, Fruticose, *Peltigera* and *Cladonia rigid*. A couple of Lyrebirds were spotted, and several Eastern Yellow Robins were active in the area.



Everybody enjoyed the walk around Fosters Gully. Most headed home at the completion of the walk, while others stayed and enjoyed their lunch in the picnic area.

Report from Ken about the moth activity held on 17th May follows at the end of the newsletter.

Soon after the Parliamentary Secretary's visit to the park, Parks Victoria posted on social media. Here is what they posted:

Fosters Gully Nature Walk is a special corner of Morwell National Park. A gentle trail winding beneath towering mountain grey gum and stringybark forests – where you may be lucky enough to spot a lyrebird hiding in the undergrowth, or a koala or wombat (or two).

It's also the perfect spot for a quiet picnic or BBQ. In this small but precious remnant of wet sclerophyll forest, a threatened landscape, [Friends of Morwell National Park](#) gathered to celebrate the completion of recovery works with Parks Victoria staff.

The area was hit by storms in 2021, 2022 and 2024 which caused widespread damage including landslides, fallen trees and damaged roads throughout the region. Heavy rains and falling trees destroyed or damaged many of the visitor facilities, including footbridges, barbecues and the carpark. As part of the recovery works, a bridge allowing visitors to access the Fosters Gully Nature Walk and Stringybark Ridge Track has been rebuilt. The Nature Walk is a cherished area known for its outstanding community of rare ferns and orchids, which will be flowering in August.

New barbecues and picnic tables make Fosters Gully the perfect place to have a snack after exploring the area, while improved parking make it more accessible for all visitors 🗺️♻️

📍 Fosters Gully Nature Walk is part of an Aboriginal cultural landscape in the traditional Country of the Gunaikurnai People.



Moth-trapping, 17th May 2025 by Ken Harris

Mid-May is late in autumn, and many fewer insects can be expected. In addition, it was a very cold evening and at the start we got some light rain. Fortunately, the rain stayed light and moved away quickly.

Despite the poor conditions quite a few insects of interest came to the light. At least 14 different moths were recorded and two species of lacewings, plus 1 beetle, 8 flies and one wasp.

Both lacewings were of particular interest. The first was misidentified at the time, but proved to be *Notherobius hastatus*, a species never recorded in the park before and despite my own expertise on lacewings, the first I have ever seen and photographed alive! The second is an unnamed species in the genus *Trichochrysa*, the first!



Notherobius hastatus



Triplochrysa sp.

Despite getting so few moths a several were of particular interest. An early arrival was an *Androchela* species. This moth is particularly interesting as the first ever found in Victoria was in the same location on 25th April 2009. Very few have been found outside Morwell National Park, although it was in fact first found in N.S.W. It has never yet been identified, but for a long time it has simply been called Nacophorini sp (5). I have just recently learned that it is now recognized as a member of the Genus

Androchela but still not named to species level. This one, a male was the fifth of the species found in the park, with both sexes found, interestingly all records are between April and June, so it seems to be on the wing in late Autumn, which is unusual among moths!

Surprisingly, despite already knowing 819 moth species in the park, two moths were new for the Park.



Smyriodes aplectaria (Geometridae)



Lecithocera imprudens (Lecithoceridae)

The greatest excitement was caused by a late arrival. One of the largest Victorian moths, the White-stemmed Gum Moth – *Chelepteryx chelepteryx* arrived at the sheet. It spent a long time fluttering around the sheets without settling and was still doing so when the spotlight walkers returned. I managed a few photos while it was fluttering, with the flash stopping all movement (1st picture below). Eventually it did settle on the side of my coat, where it was much photographed (2nd picture below), although I couldn't see it. This is only the fourth time this moth has been recorded in the Park.



White-stemmed Gum Moth - *Chelepteryx chelepteryx*

All photos taken by Ken Harris and Matt Campbell.

July Activity

Sunday 20th July 10.00pm

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