

PO Box 19
Churchill
3842



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – September 2025

Website: <https://friendsofmorwellnp.com.au/>
Official contact of FMNP - contact@friendsofmorwellnp.com.au
A0016319X

August Activity Report

For this activity we had Caitilin, Mike, Cathy, Ken, Tamara, Peter and Darren. We had apologies from Graeme, Gordon, Rose, Anita, Matt, Olga, Jay and Joelle.

The group met in the picnic area avoiding the campers with their campervan parked across the car park sitting around their fire. There was not much to discuss since we had caught up on most of the news at a meeting the previous week. Caitilin will have a meeting with Renee and Parks to discuss what is required to be allowed to work at heights safely. If we are to make any repairs to nesting boxes or want to erect any new boxes, we will need to work at heights to work upon these boxes. The minutes from this meeting will be shared separately to committee members.

Ken has written and published a book about the Lacewings of Victoria, and it will be launched in the coming week. If you would like a copy of the book, it will be available from Ken for \$20.

The day's project was to complete some track maintenance around Fosters Gully. Track maintenance around Stringybark Track was not needed since Matt had told us that a Parks contractor had recently gone around Stringybark Track.



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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.

As we moved around the track, we met several other walkers enjoying the cool but dry morning. After Lyndon's Landing, Ken left the group and headed up the hill. It took the rest of the group a good while to catch him. It was good to see that there were few obstructions so only a little work was required, and we got to enjoy the walk around. Caitilin captured some great photos, and they follow:



Australian King Parrot (*Alisterus scapularis*)



Veined Helmet-orchid (*Corybas diemenicus*)



As the group returned to the picnic area, it was a great time for lunch. Ken had completed the full circuit of Fosters Gully, so his lunch was very well earned. We sat around one of the new tables and enjoyed our lunches while the little finches danced around us. In the distance a few koalas could be heard calling and responding to the calls of the other koalas. After lunch the need to start another walk was not strong, so we got to finish for the day.

Also included at the end of this newsletter are:

- The minutes from the AGM, held on 10th August, including the President's report.
- The minutes from the Committee meeting, held on 10th August.
- 2026 Calendar of activities

September Activity

Sunday 21st September 10.00pm

The group will meet at the Kerry Road picnic area to undertake a plant ID walk. You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Annual General Meeting Minutes

10 August 2025 at 1.30pm
Beamish residence, 13 Limonite Rd, Boolarra

Present: Tamara Leitch, Darren Hodgson, Mike Beamish, Anita Pither, Caitilin Punshon, Beryl Nelson, Ken Harris, Cathy Beamish, Jay Duncan, Matt Campbell, Joelle Champert, Graham Busch

Apologies: Olga van Cauwenberghe, Rose Mildenhall, Gordon Duncan, Peter Earl

Confirmation of previous AGM Minutes: The Minutes of the 2024 AGM were read.

Motion: to accept the Minutes of the previous AGM as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Caitilin Seconded: Beryl Carried.

Business arising from previous AGM: Nil

Correspondence: All correspondence was dealt with as it arrived.

Correspondence to be saved on webmail for anyone who asks to look at it.

Business arising from Correspondence: Nil

Reports:

- President's Report: presented, read and added below.

Motion: to accept the President's Report (Moved: Caitilin, Seconded: Jay, Carried.)

- Treasurer's Report: presented and explained.

Motion: to accept the Treasurer's Report. (Moved: Mike, Seconded: Caitilin, Carried.)

As the group now comes under the banner of Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission, we no longer report to Consumer Affairs Victoria. The ACNC will advise CAV of our Annual Information Statement. Caitilin to confirm exact procedures.

The Executive recommends no change to FMNP Membership fees.

Election of Office Bearers:

The President declared all positions vacant. The election of President was conducted by Jay, who declared no current interest in the position. As no nominations were received prior to the meeting, all nominations were received from the floor unopposed.

President: Caitilin Moved: Ken Seconded: Matt Carried.

The President accepted the chair and continued with the election of office bearers.

Vice President: Anita	Moved: Caitilin	Seconded: Cathy	Carried.
Secretary: Cathy	Moved: Caitilin	Seconded: Joelle	Carried.
Treasurer: Mike	Moved: Caitilin	Seconded: Anita	Carried.
Editor: Darren	Moved: Caitilin	Seconded: Ken	Carried.
Publicity: Tamara	Moved: Caitilin	Seconded: Matt	Carried.
Ordinary Member: Beryl	Moved: Caitilin	Seconded: Anita	Carried.

General Business:

Proposed Resolutions:

1. That the Friends of Morwell National Park Code of Conduct be accepted

Moved: Joelle Seconded: Jay Carried.

2. That the Friends of Morwell National Park Safeguarding Vulnerable People Policy be accepted

Moved: Beryl Seconded: Caitilin Carried.

The meeting was closed at 2.14pm.

Friends of Morwell National Park President's report 2025

It's been an eventful year for Friends of Morwell National Park, with several accomplishments beyond our usual program of activities.

November saw the launch of our newest publication, *Birds of Morwell National Park*. The event was very well attended, and all those who were present enjoyed hearing from our guest speaker, Sean Dooley. The many months of dedicated effort by the editorial committee resulted in a high-quality book that has been selling well and garnering lots of positive feedback.

In April, after working through an involved application process, we successfully registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission. Many thanks to all members who assisted with this, especially those on the committee.

In June, Victorian Parliamentary Secretary for Outdoor Recreation, Luba Grigorovitch, made an official visit to the Park. A series of scheduling issues meant that only two members of our group were able to meet Ms Grigorovitch, along with a few staff from Parks Victoria. She was gifted a copy of *Birds of Morwell National Park* and posted about her visit on her Facebook page.

Throughout the year, we have been working closely with Parks Victoria on a number of projects, most notably the insurance work arising from damage from the June 2021 storms. These are at last underway and have resulted in the rebuilding of the Fosters Gully bridge, with other bridges along Billys Creek still awaiting construction. Another part of these works is the creation of informative signs that we hope to see installed at Park entrances soon.

The realignment of a section of Billys Creek Track has enabled us to undertake our first planting project for some years, with 135 plants of various species now gracing the disused part of the track. Many of these plants are currently guarded to protect them from being eaten, and we look forward to seeing them grow.

Our monthly activities saw us continue with our ongoing track maintenance and weeding, as well as our annual surveys of nesting boxing, koalas and Butterfly Orchids. We held two evening walks and nothing activities, with the latter adding to the ever-increasing list of butterflies, moths and lacewings recorded in the Park. The latest count is an impressive 840 species.

It was great to see so many members of the public attend and enjoy our bird walks in September and November, our orchid walk and koala count in October, the nocturnal bird and bat walk in May, and the fungi and lichen walk in June. Through some of these activities and through our presence online and on ParkConnect, we welcomed several new members to the group. We appreciate the efforts they have made so far in caring for the Park and its inhabitants.

Indeed, as president, I am grateful to all members for your work over the past year. The contributions you make to the group and to the Park are truly appreciated. I am especially grateful to our wonderful committee members, some of whom are new to their positions, and some of whom have served admirably in their roles over many, many years. I appreciate the support you've given me, and I am pleased to continue working with you.

I also give thanks to Beryl and Ken, who attended copious meetings with Parks Victoria over the signs and insurance works. The outcomes we have achieved through these meetings are immeasurably better as a result of your involvement.

Area Chief Ranger, Renee Simpson, has been a great ally to Friends of Morwell National Park this year, and we hope to continue working constructively with her and all the Parks Victoria rangers who help take care of the Park. The weeding activity in December, initiated by Graeme and conducted jointly with Parks Victoria staff, was a great success that we hope to repeat, as invasive species—both flora and fauna—remain a serious environmental problem. With two of our members having recently completed their Agricultural Chemical Users Permits, we will have more ability to tackle weeds in the Park.

The year ahead promises to be an interesting one as we celebrate our 40th anniversary. It is a true testament to the generosity of time, expertise, effort and spirit of our members that the group has endured and has been making a positive difference in Morwell National Park over such a long time. I am pleased and proud of everything we've accomplished, and I look forward to continuing our valuable work.

Thank you.

Caitilin Punshon



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc. Committee Meeting Minutes

August 10, 1.30pm, 2025

Held at: 13 Limonite Rd, Boolarra

Present: Tamara Leitch, Darren Hodgson, Mike Beamish, Anita Pither, Caitilin Punshon, Beryl Nelson, Ken Harris, Cathy Beamish, Jay Duncan, Matt Campbell, Joelle Champert, Graham Busch

Apologies: Olga van Cauwenberghe, Rose Mildenhall, Gordon Duncan, Peter Earl

Minutes of previous meeting read:

Motion: to accept the previous meeting Minutes as a true and accurate record.

(Moved: Caitilin, Seconded: Anita, Carried.)

Business arising for previous minutes:

- New website to be looked into by Caitilin. Jay agreed to assist.
- Jay getting nowhere with seed bank. Open to ideas on how to progress it.
- Beryl still not on CommBiz. Mike to follow up.
- Mike to investigate a term deposit.

General Business:

1. 2026 Calendar

- Jan – Nest box survey & weeding, Junction Road, 18th Jan
- Feb – Track maintenance, 15th Feb
- Mar – BYO picnic & spotlight walk and moth survey, Kerry Rd 14th Mar
- Apr – Bird Walk, Junction Rd, 19th Apr
- May – 40th Anniversary, 16th or 17th May
- Jun – Fungi and lichen walk, Kerry Rd, 21st Jun
- Jul – Track maintenance, Junction Rd, 19th Jul
- Aug – AGM 16th Aug
- Sep – Plant ID Kerry Rd, 20th Sept
- Oct – Orchid Walk and koala count, Kerry Road, 18th Oct
- Nov – Orchid survey, nature walk/Pollinator survey, Kerry Rd, 15th Nov
- Dec – Christmas function and track maintenance, Kerry Rd, 20th Dec

2. Potential meeting room for future indoor meetings

The Rose Garden meeting room is available. Latrobe City has now made room bookings available online. The room would meet our requirements. A room at The Hub in Churchill may be available.

If these venues require insurance, we will need to purchase it for the meeting as we are not insured by Parks Victoria for activities not conducted on Parks Victoria property.

3. 40th Anniversary

A sub-committee of Caitilin, Anita, Beryl & Cathy was formed.

4. Restoring banksias

Silver Banksias that were on West Boundary Track were taken out by bulldozers after fire. Talk was

had on procuring seed and growing plants to revegetate the area.

5. Stringybark Track

Lucas from PV has been in to Park and repaired a seat and cleaned up Stringybark Track and left to no trace of his movements through Matt's property, which was much appreciated.

6. Nest Boxes

Gordon and Caitilin are working with Parks Victoria to find a way that will enable us to continue installing new nest boxes and repairing old nest boxes at heights. Matt's solution is to buy a platform ladder. We will wait to see what results from the meetings with Parks Victoria before doing anything.

Meeting closed: 3.30pm

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Calendar 2026

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Activities are scheduled for the third Sunday of each month, with extra days scheduled as required.

Date:	Activity:	Venue and Time:
January 18	Nesting box survey & weeding	Junction Rd, 10.00am
February 15	Track maintenance & weeding	Kerry Road, 10.00am
(Sat) March 14	BYO Picnic & Spot light walk & Moth survey	Kerry Road, 6.30pm
April 19	Bird walk	Kerry Road, 10.00am
(Sat) May 16	FMNP 40 th Anniversary dinner	Venue and time TBD
June 21	Fungi & Lichen walk & Track Maintenance	Kerry Road, 10.00am
July 19	Track Maintenance	Junction Rd, 10.00am
August 16	AGM	To be determined, 1.30pm
September 20	Plant ID walk	Kerry Road, 10.00am
October 18	Koala Count Orchid Walk	Kerry Road, 10.00am & Kerry Road, 1.00pm
November 15	Orchid Survey & Pollinators survey & nature walk	Kerry Road, 10.00am
December 20	Track Maintenance Christmas Function	Kerry Road, 10.00am & Kerry Road 1.00pm

For all activities, it is BYO food, drinks, suitable clothing and footwear, and other personal items, unless otherwise indicated in the newsletter. Up to date details of each forthcoming activity are provided in the monthly newsletter, which is emailed to members and available to the public on the website.