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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – October 2025

Website: <https://friendsofmorwellnp.com.au/>
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September Activity Report

For this activity we had Caitilin, Ken, Gordon, Beryl, Tamara, Olga, Jay, Joelle and Darren. We had apologies from Graeme, Anita, Mike, Cathy, Matt and Peter. For this activity we were joined by seven community members keen to explore to find the plants and animals of the park.

When the group arrived in the car park, we found it full of cars since a local walking group had organized a walk at the same time. Many cars needed to park alongside Kerry Road since the car park was full, and many other cars had parked on the grassy banks. The Walking on Sunshine Gippsland walking group left to walk Fosters Gully Track in reverse and then Stringybark Track.

When it had quieted down the group met. Work continues upon the new entrance signage. The signs have finally been approved and are in production. The sites for the signs have been selected with at Kerry Road the sign going between the entrance gate and picnic area, at Junction Road inside the gate on the left near the Grand Strzecki Track signage on the right and at Baniff Road the sign will go inside the gate beside the track on the left.

Meetings with Parks about working at heights have resolved that Parks Vic will employ contractors with appropriate equipment and training to undertake nest box installation and repairs, in consultation with FoMNP and with oversight by Parks Victoria. We can continue doing our nest box surveys as usual, and members of FoMNP are invited to be on site when the contractors do the nest box repairs. This decision was made on the basis of the risk assessment created by Parks Vic's senior safety officer and Parks Vic's Safe Work Procedure for nest box installation, inspection and removal.

Parks Vic is reviewing its volunteer governance with the aim of implementing simpler processes and reducing the administrative burden for Parks Vic volunteers.

Ranger Yani has arranged for students from TAFE Gippsland to do a weeding activity in Morwell National Park from 10am to 2pm on Wednesday 8 October. We have been asked if any FoMNP members would like to be involved. Please note that our attendance is not required at this event, but if anyone from the group wants to join in, it will be listed on ParkConnect. All FoMNP members who wish to attend must be registered on ParkConnect and have a valid Working with Children Check.

The first planning meeting for our 40th anniversary celebrations has been held. We are looking at hosting a catered lunch at a local hall on Sunday 17 May 2026 with a possible planting project to be held in July 2026.

Parks Vic has offered to provide name badges for volunteers. If you are interested in having a Parks Vic

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name badge, please let Caitilin know.

The activity for the day was a plant ID walk. The whole group moved toward the beginning of the Fosters Gully and Stringybark Tracks looking at the variety of plants beside the track. At the division of the tracks, we met the Walking on Sunshine walkers as they finished the Fosters Gully circuit, and they regrouped before moving towards Stringybark Track. A koala was spotted high up a tree. Another koala has spotted from the picnic area.

The group separated with Ken, Beryl, Olga and Darren walking around Fosters Gully. The rest of the group moved towards Stringybark Track. They divided with Tamara and Gordon going across the bridge while Jay, Joelle and most of community walkers diverted via the side track. The sidetrack contained many unique plants.

Across the two tracks a variety of plants were identified. When your focus is transferred to observing the plant species a wide variety of plants are to be discovered within park. Over the morning many groups of walkers overlapped with our walking groups; these groups were enjoying the good weather before the expected rain later in the day.

Around Fosters Gully we looked for Butterfly Orchids and early in the walk only found small plants. Happily, healthy orchids were found later in the walk. Some of fauna seen around Fosters Gully are shown below:





October Activity

Sunday 19th October 10.00pm

Activity 1 - Koala Count

10.00am

The Friends of Morwell National Park will be carrying out the annual 'Koala Count in the Park'. Willing participants are requested to meet at the Kerry Road - Fosters Gully car park at 10.00am to commence the Koala count.

The 'Koala Count in the Park' event is part of the long-term strategy to document the numbers and measure the general health of the koalas within Morwell National Park.

Bring your family and friends and enjoy a pleasant stroll in the park while simultaneously helping the team by spotting the resident koalas that can be found in the park.

Participants are advised to bring suitable clothing and footwear applicable for the weather conditions, and if possible, bring a pair of binoculars as it certainly makes it easier to spot the koalas.

If you are staying for the orchid walk you will need to bring your lunch, which can be eaten in the Kerry Road picnic area between the activities.

Activity 2 – Orchid Walk

1.30pm

The second activity will be a walk of around Fosters Gully or Stringybark Track to search for the orchids which can be found at this time of the year. You will need to bring clothing suitable for the weather conditions on the day.