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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter – November 2025*

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

Official contact of FMNP - [contact@friendsofmorwellnp.com.au](mailto:contact@friendsofmorwellnp.com.au)

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### October Activity Report

For this month we had two activities. The first was the annual Koala Count. For this activity we had Caitilin, Ken, Gordon, Tamara, Olga, Peter and Darren. We had apologies from Graeme, Anita, Beryl, Mike, Cathy, Joelle and Jay.

Our group was joined by ten community members keen to find koalas. As the group met in the Kerry Road picnic area, Caitilin welcomed everybody and provided the necessary safety information. The walkers were asked to make decisions about which track they wanted to undertake.

Peter drove Tamara and Caitilin to Jumbuk Road so they could do some bush bashing along the Jumbuk Road track. Gordon, Darren and two community members walked around Stringybark track while Ken, Olga and the other eight community members walked around Fosters Gully Track. Some walkers went towards Fosters Gully so that they could complete two different walks over the day.

The first group to return to the picnic area was the group from Stringybark Track. They had seen three koalas and heard another and spotted another two koalas from the picnic area while waiting for the other groups to return. Tamara and Caitilin returned next from their scramble down the hill. They saw 3 adult koalas with one koala holding a baby joey.

The last group to return was the Foster Gully group who made slow and careful progress while Ken gave them many tales about the plants and animals observed around Fosters Gully.

The overall koala count across the three tracks was:

Track	Number of koalas
Fosters Gully	5 koalas
Stringybark Track	3 koalas
Jumbuk Road Track	4 koalas
<b>Total</b>	12 koalas and three additional koalas heard

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Sleepy koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)

Over lunch the group caught up on the news from over the last month.

The long-awaited information signs have been produced, but an installation date is yet to be set. Hopefully it will be before Christmas. This year.

With the bridge replacements and repairs along Billys Creek, the contractors have been appointed and a timeline established. The Junction Road car park will be resurfaced, and more rocks will be put into the creek crossings to improve vehicle access.

Works will commence on Friday 28 November and conclude on Thursday 26 February. During this time, the Billys Creek part of the park will be closed. It's not clear at this stage if the park will reopen from late December to mid-January when the contractors are on a break.

Two weeding days have been scheduled with Parks Victoria staff on Thursday 6 November and Thursday 27 November. These are replacement days for our planned weeding activities in December and January when the Billys Creek area of the park will be closed.

Latrobe City Council are seeking community feedback to help shape their upcoming Nature Plan. For more information and to participate in their survey, go to: <https://yoursay.latrobe.vic.gov.au/nature-plan>.

As part of their 65th anniversary celebrations, the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club are holding a photographic exhibition from 7 to 13 November at the Greek Orthodox Church Hall in Elgin St, Morwell. An official opening will be held on Saturday 8 November from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Ranger Gabby will not be available to us locally since she has received a two-year secondment to work out of the Grampians.

After a quick lunch for some of the walkers it was time to undertake an orchid walk around Stringybark Track. For the orchid walk we had Tamara, Caitilin and Darren along with eight community walkers. Five of these doubled up after the morning walk and three people came in just for this afternoon walk.

The list of the orchid species we saw during our Orchid Walk was:

Mountain Greenhood (*Pterostylis alpina*)

Maroonhood (*Pterostylis pedunculata*)

Common Bird Orchid (*Chiloglottis valida*)

Waxlip Orchid (*Glossodia major*)  
Eastern Bronze Caladenia (*Caladenia transitoria*)  
Pink Fingers (*Caladenia carnea*)  
Large Duck Orchids (*Caleana major*) in bud  
Sun-orchids (*Thelymitra* sp.) in bud  
Helmet Orchid (*Corybas* sp.) leaves

Photos of some of the orchids are below:



Common Bird Orchid



Eastern Bronze Caladenia



Mountain Greenhood



Waxlip Orchid



Waxlip Orchid



Pink Fingers

Following are some photos of Twining Fringe-lily (*Thysanotus patersonii*), Twining Glycine (*Glycine clandestina*) and an interesting paropsine beetle that Caitilin spotted during the Koala Count.



Twining Glycine



Unidentified Paropsine beetle



Twining Fringe-lily

Thank you to Tamara and Caitilin for the photos and orchid list included in this newsletter.

## **November Activity**

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 10.00am

The group will meet in the Kerry Road car park to undertake a pollinators survey & nature walk and separately a few will complete the Butterfly Orchid Survey. You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.