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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – December 2025

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

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

The group met in the picnic area and caught up on what had happened over the previous month. On 6th November there was a weeding activity with rangers Yani and Mark removing weeds along the Weir Track. Beryl, Graeme and Peter worked with the rangers to remove a huge number of thistles and other weeds. There are lots more weeds to remove and a second weeding day will occur on Thursday 27 November. Please email admin@friendsofmorwellnp.com.au to register your interest and for further details.

With the construction of the bridges along Billys Creek due to commence next month, Parks Victoria has decided to close the Junction Road part of the park from December 2025 to February 2026. The Park will remain closed to the public for this entire time; however, we will be allowed access on Sunday 18 January 2026 to conduct the nest box survey.

Congratulations to all FoMNP members whose photographs were displayed and commended at the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club exhibition. Friends of Morwell National Park had an information stand at the exhibition to showcase our activities and publications. The exhibition continues until Thursday 13 November at the Greek Orthodox Church Hall, 44–46 Elgin St, Morwell. It is open from 10am to 4pm.

Parks Victoria are holding an end-of-year volunteer celebration at 4pm on Wednesday 3 December at Burt Thompson Reserve, Traralgon. Light refreshments will be provided. All FoMNP members are welcome to attend.

Planning for our 40th anniversary is going well. We are seeking to get in touch with past members of FoMNP so they can join us in celebrating in May next year.

Calling all past members of FoMNP

In May 2026, Friends of Morwell National Park will be celebrating our 40th anniversary. If you have ever been a member of our group or you are in contact with someone who was, please send us a message at contact@friendsofmorwellnp.com.au so we can add you to the guest list.

Friends of Morwell National Park Inc: PO Box 19, Churchill, 3842, <https://friendsofmorwellnp.com.au/>

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

President: Caitilin Punshon

Vice-President: Anita Pither

Secretary & Public Officer: Cathy Beamish

Treasurer: Mike Beamish

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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.

The *Birds of Morwell National Park* celebrates one year since its publication. It's been incredible to see our wonderful community—and so many others—enjoying the book over the past year.

Closure of Billys Creek section of Morwell National Park

Over the coming months, Parks Victoria will be replacing and repairing four bridges damaged by storms along Billys Creek. The area of Morwell National Park accessible from entrances at Braniffs Road, Junction Road, Tebb Terrace, Jumbuk Road and Morans Road will be closed to the public from **Monday 1 December to late February 2026**. This includes Weir Track, Billys Creek Track, But But Track, Zig Zag Track, Clematis Track, Lodge Track and Blue Gum Hill Track.

The Fosters Gully area of the Park, accessible from Kerry Road and Brewsters Road entrances, remains open.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation in avoiding the construction area as these important works are completed.

For more information, contact renee.simpson@parks.vic.gov.au.



For the day's activities there were three different tasks to complete.

Firstly, there was the Butterfly Orchid survey. Matt, Tamara and Graeme completed the survey of the five survey plots. They found that the numbers of orchids within each of the survey plots remains similar to the number of previous years. It was good that in a plot where all orchids had gone when a large landslide occurred, a few butterfly orchids have now returned. Along Fosters Gully Track there were many large health plants.



The second group of Peter, Caitilin and Darren completed track maintenance around Fosters Gully Track. Over the previous week several trees had fallen across the track. These were removed along some foliage that was encroaching upon the track. This group were happy to overlap with two groups of walkers out enjoying the day. Some of Caitilin's photos follow:



Trees down on Fosters Gully Nature Walk



Clearing the track



Milkmaids (*Burchardia umbellata*)



Common Fringe Lily (*Thysanotus tuberosus*)

The last group undertook the first pollinators survey in the park. Cathy, Mike, Jay, Joelle and Ken did the pollinator survey around the beginning of Fosters Gully Track. Plants with flowers were located and observed for two minutes. Any pollinators observed were recorded. With it being cool and overcast there were few pollinators about. Among the few pollinators hover flies were the most common pollinators seen during the morning.

Mike and Cathy collected many wonderful photos of the plants, pollinators and animals seen during the morning. Thanks go to them for these wonderful photos:



Black Pasture Fly *Hydrellia tritici* on Forest Starwort *Stellaria flaccida*.



Ichneumonid Wasp, possibly *Xanthocryptus* sp.



Metallic Shield Bug *Scutiphora pedicellata* on White Elderberry.



Fruit-tree Root Weevil *Leptopius robustus* on Muttonwood.



Common Halfband Hoverfly *Melangyna viridiceps* on Forest Starwort.



Long-legged Fly, possibly *Heteropsilopus* sp. on White Elderberry.



Lauxaniid Fly *Depressa* sp. on White Elderberry.



Orbweaver Spider, possibly *Poecilopachys australasia* complex.



Bronzewing on nest *Phaps chalcoptera*.



Red-browed Finches *Neochmia temporalis* subsp. *temporalis*.

When each of the three groups had finished their tasks, they returned to the picnic area for lunch. The best outcome from the day was that all groups finished before the afternoon rain came.

December Activities

Sunday 21st December

Activity 1 – 10.00am

The group will meet in the Kerry Road car park to complete track maintenance. You will need to bring clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

Activity 2 – The **Christmas BBQ** will begin around 1.00pm. Meet at the Kerry Road Picnic Area.

Friends of Morwell National Park Christmas BBQ



Come along and enjoy in a BBQ lunch to celebrate and reflect upon our year in Morwell National Park

When: Sunday 21st December

Time: 1.00pm

Meet at: Kerry Road picnic area

What to bring: BYO plate, cutlery, cup/glass, drink, folding seat and bring either a salad or a sweet.