

PO Box 19
Churchill
3842



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – February 2026

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

January Activity Report

For the activity we had Caitilin, Ken, Mike, Cathy, Tamara, Peter and Darren. We were also joined by David, Toby, Sam and Lilly. For the activity we had apologies from Jay, Joelle, Anita, Graeme, Gordon, Matt & Beryl.

The activity for the day was the annual nesting box survey. The original plan for the day was to split the group across two activities, but with the smaller group it was decided to just focus upon the nesting box survey and leave working on Muttonwood Track until another time.

Over the last month work has begun on the new bridges across Billys Creek. The Billys Creek section of the park will remain closed until the work finishes near the end of February. We had permission to enter this part of the park to work upon the nesting box survey and it was good to see the bridge construction progress.



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

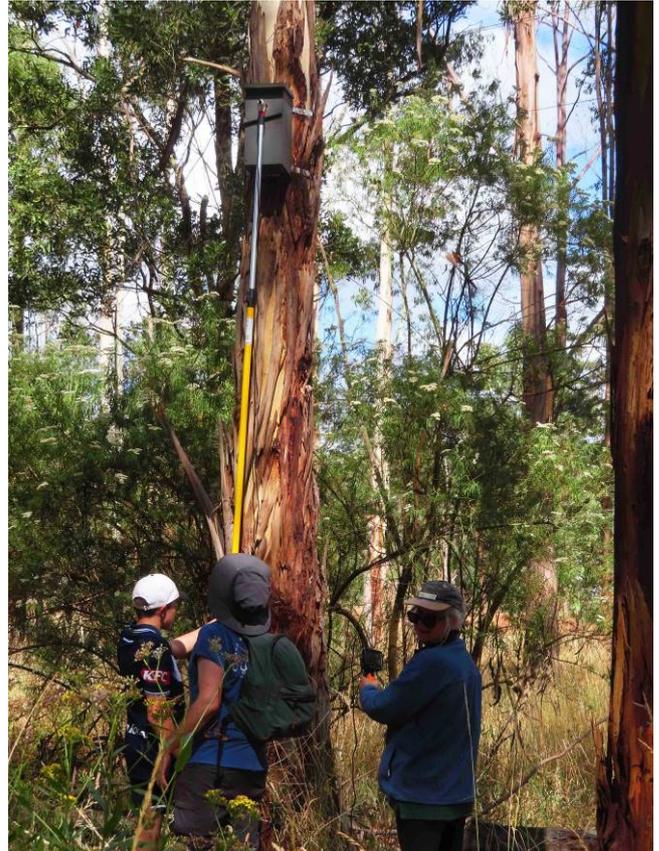
Treasurer: Mike Beamish

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.

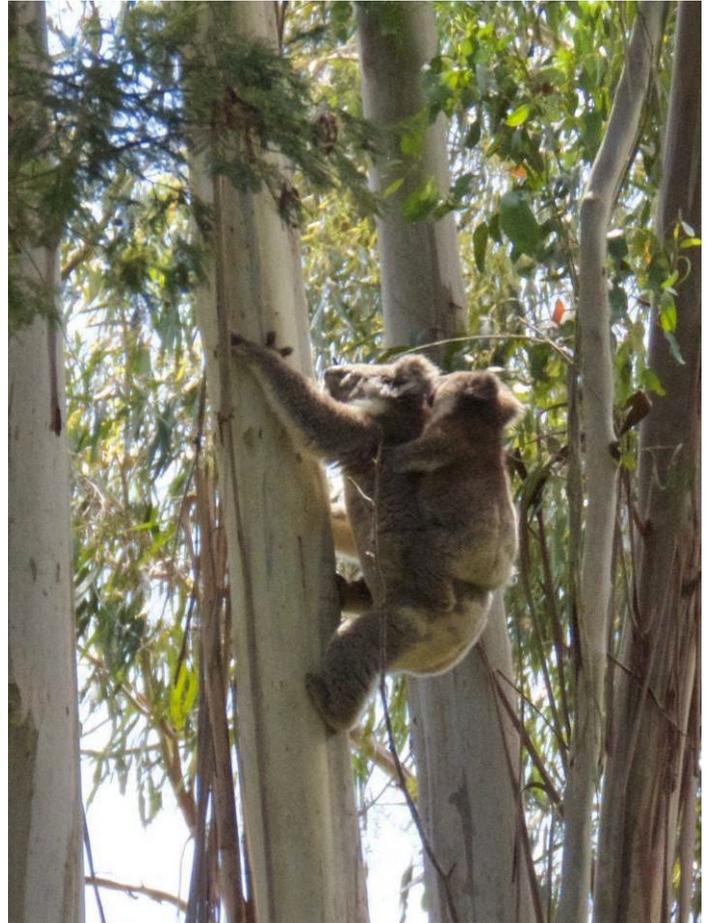
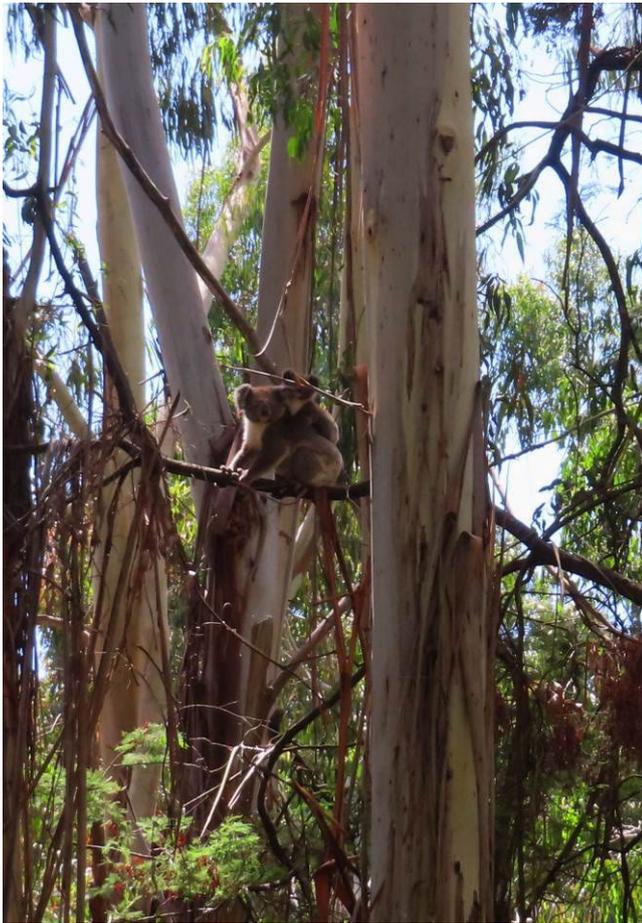
The group assembled the camera equipment and carried it into the first nesting box. The group split up and took on different roles. Tamara took upon record keeping while Darren and Mike scouted out the next boxes to survey. Cathy, Toby, Sam and Lilly managed the camera and recorded what was in each box.



Caitlin separately photographed each box and recorded its condition and whether future repairs were needed. We have found that when a resource is lost or broken within the park there is little evidence of those pieces and their condition. Now we will have a record of all of the nesting boxes.

As the group moved around from box to box, Peter completed some weeding. After completing about 40 boxes the group stopped for lunch. After lunch the search for boxes and sugar gliders continued.

We were fortunate to spot at least five koalas. The first was a mother koala with the joey on her back sitting in a Silver Wattle, and we watched her navigate over thin branches to a larger Eucalypt. There was much coaching, commentary and encouragement from our group. Another two koalas were at the top of two adjacent trees, while the last was sitting in a low fork unconcerned about us looking at it. It was ready for its Instagram moment!



Over the day, at least 42 sugar gliders were seen in the nesting boxes. A few of the boxes had a family group of at least five gliders. In these boxes you kept searching to locate more heads. When we go through the videos, more gliders may be located. It was good that in all boxes the gliders were alert but not scared by the camera. None of the gliders were scared out of the boxes by our activity.

February Activity

Sunday 15th February 10.00am

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