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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – April 2026

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

March Activity Report

For the activity we had Caitilin, Anita, Mike & Cathy, Ken, Matt, Jay, Joelle, Graeme, Rose, Tamara, Peter, Gordon, Sharon, Rachel & Darren. We had an apology from Beryl. The large group was also joined by two others keen for the evening walk.

The group met on a Saturday evening to undertake a spotlight walk and complete a moth survey. The new tables in the picnic area were appreciated as we all ate our dinners as twilight approached. Fruit like apricots, plum and quinces from home gardens were shared.

Caitilin called a quick meeting, first welcoming everyone and thanking them for coming out in the evening. Now that the Billys Creek part of the park is fully open (the whole park is now open) we may need to schedule an extra activity there to clean up this part of the park. With this part of the park closed for three months there could be areas needing work. At the next activity we will run a split activity so that some of the group can go to work in this area.

Discussion was had about whether we continue with the mailbox in Churchill. Little mail comes to the mailbox so upon that factor, it is not needed. For official forms etc. a contact address is sometimes needed. The decision was made to not renew our mailbox and transfer our mailing address to Park Victoria Gippsland. This will save us about \$80 a year.

Latrobe City Libraries want to encourage and support citizen science. As part of this they are happy to partner with us on next month's Bird Walk. So, they will promote our upcoming Bird Walk and loan out kits of bird identification books, pamphlets and equipment. Our Birds of Morwell National Park will be included in the kits and be available to each kid who attends the bird walk.

With the 40th Anniversary of the Friend of Morwell National Park coming up in May, we are looking for photos from park over the past 40 years. If you want to send in past digital photos of the park, you can send them to admin@friendsofmorwellnp.com.au. They will be part of photo display during the evening.

After the meeting, Gordon, Matt and Mike each set up a mothing sheet. On the cool evening it was hoped that many moths and insects would come into one of the three locations near and within the picnic area. Some red-light torches were handed out since these have a smaller impact upon the nighttime animals.

When the evening had become dark, Tamara led the spotlight walk around Fosters Gully. Eight other walkers joined in two groups to look and listen to what could be seen and heard in the dark. One group completed the whole Foster Gully circuit while the other group travelled to Landon's Landing and returned

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back from there. On the walks the groups saw multiple wallabies, a koala, two greater gliders, two possums and a boobook. Also heard were sugar gliders, koalas, wallabies, an Australian owlet nightjar, and southern brown tree frogs.

On returning from the spotlight walk there was much activity around the three mothing sheets. A large number of moths and insects had come in, and they varied between each of the moth sheets.



April Activity

Sunday 19th April 10.00am

The group will meet in the Kerry Road car park to either conduct a bird walk or undertake some track maintenance along Billys Creek Track. The Bird Walk is an excellent opportunity to see what species of birds can be found in the park. You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.