

PO Box 19
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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – August 2026

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

Official contact of FMNP - contact@friendsofmorwellnp.com.au
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July Activity Report

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

In sad news, our longtime member Eulalie Brewster OAM died on 1 July. Along with Ellen Lyndon and members of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club, Eulie was an early campaigner for the creation of Morwell National Park. Her fascination for the natural world encompassed everything from flora and fauna to fossils, and she was active in several conservation, historical and community groups.

Eulie remained interested in Friends of Morwell National Park and our activities throughout her life. She leaves behind an impressive legacy of curiosity, care, advocacy and action for the natural world. Our sympathies are with her family and friends and the communities she devoted so much energy to.

Gordon and Caitilin attended Cultural Awareness Training presented by Jillian West, a proud Palawa woman from the Islands of Bass Strait and a proud Bunurong woman from Point Nepean. The session was organised by West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and was very engaging and informative. Anyone who has the opportunity to attend one of Jillian's trainings are encouraged to do so.

On 22 July, Ken, Matt and Caitilin guided groups of employees from the local Environment Protection Authority office around Fosters Gully as part of a staff wellness day. Two koalas were spotted by one group, and someone in another group managed to photograph a lyrebird. Everyone enjoyed the walk and left with new knowledge and appreciation of the flora and fauna in this part of the park.

Our annual general meeting is coming up on Sunday 16 August. Please send any agenda items you have for the AGM or the general/committee meeting that will follow it to Caitilin at contact@friendsofmorwellnp.com.au. Please also consider whether you would like to join the FoMNP committee. We are seeking a new secretary, but you can nominate for any role you like.

For the day's activity we planted 40 trees in celebration of our recent 40th anniversary as a friend's group. The area planted was the cleared area near the junction of Weir, Billys Creek and But But Tracks. A mixture of plant varieties, indigenous to the area, were planted.

The group either rode in one of the four vehicles or walked (it was good to get the blood moving on the cold morning) into the work site. Peter had organised and provided all the equipment needed. The wire guards and stakes were recycled from another planting project. The plants were propagated by Peter and grown on by Caitilin and Peter.

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: John Arkinstall, Beasley family, Graeme Busch, Matt & Kerry Campbell, Misja Carbo, Olga van Cauwenberghe, Joelle Champert, Wendy Davies, Dodd family, Gordon Duncan, Jay Duncan, Peter Earl, Ken Harris, Kuan-Yu Lin, Tom Mabin, Rose Mildenhall, Beryl Nelson, Wayne Pengelly, Alex Raymond, Chris Sikkema, Joan Sikkema, Holli Smith & Sandra Walker.

The group generally worked in pairs, siting the new plant, clearing the site of undergrowth, digging a hole, planting the seedling, surrounding it by the tree guard and driving in two stakes to hold the tree guard. The groups leaped frogged around the hill side.



During the activity, we also checked on last year's revegetation project on the disused section of Billys Creek Track. It is pleasing to see that most of the 135 plants have survived, with some now standing at more than a metre tall. Many guards were removed, although some were left in place around smaller plants and those that have been browsed by deer or kangaroos. Some weeding was done in the area, including the removal

of few big thistles. We will continue to check on both planting sites over the coming months.



After the bulk of the planting the group stopped for lunch. Either a dry perch or a folding chair was located and people caught up while lunch was eaten.

Planting finished up soon after lunch and the group was happy in the knowledge that we are adding back to the park. It was enjoyable to spend a cool, dry winter's day in the Park.

Thank you to Caitilin for most of the day's photos.

August Activity

Sunday 16th August 1.30pm

In August we will have our Annual General Meeting. It is hoped that all members can attend. There will be no activity in the morning. Included is the membership form to complete if you are unable to come to the Annual General Meeting.

Friends of Morwell National Park

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 10th August

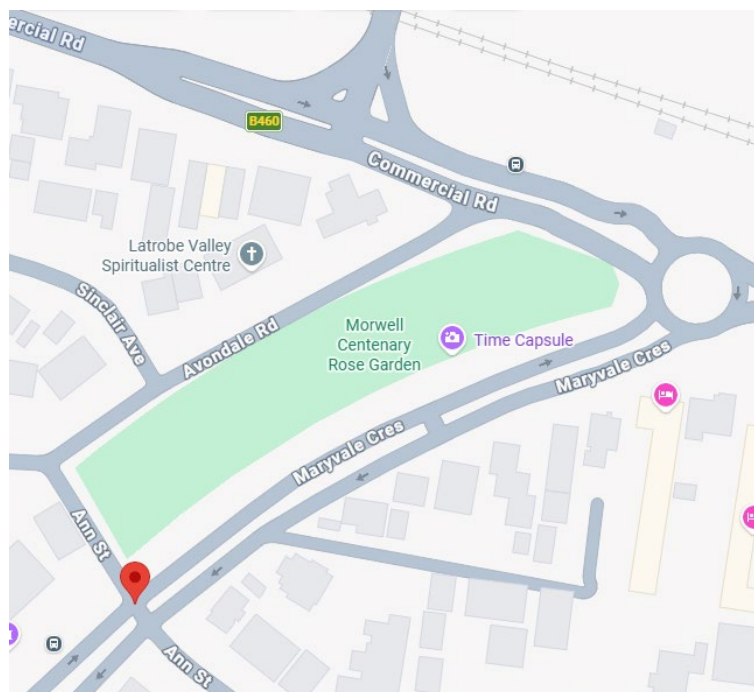
1.30pm

Rose Garden Wing Room (corner of Maryvale Crescent and Ann Street) Morwell.

Please a plate to share.

Subs for the new financial year are also due and can be paid for at our next full activity.

A committee meeting will follow the Annual General Meeting



To: Treasurer, Friends of Morwell National Park, PO Box 19, Churchill, 3842

Please find enclosed the amount of \$ _____ (\$10 per person, \$15 per family/group) being for membership 2026/2027.

Name: Telephone:

Address:

Email: