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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – October 2026

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

For the activity we had Caitilin, Ken, Duncan, Anita, Matt, Peter, Gordon & Darren. We also had Mirboo North local Cathy along for a walk. We had apologies from Mike, Beryl, Graeme, Tamara, Cathy, Jay and Joelle.

The day's activity was to have a plant ID walk around Fosters Gully. Caitilin welcomed the group and gave the safety reminders. She commented positively upon all of the new members who have joined the group over the last year. In sad news a group has broken into the shed and undertaken some redecoration in the shed. A sheet of iron has been ripped off the side of the shed (to provide access), and a back door remains open. This will need to be reported to Parks.

The group split with Matt, Anita, Duncan and Peter travelling up to the Blue Gum Hill Track. A few months back the group had cleared this track up to a large tree which had fallen across the track across a few of the zig zags near the top of the hill. The group inspected the blocked track and concluded that the tree is too large to remove from the track, but it would be possible to divert the track around the tree if a few steps were constructed. A few of this group were able to divert around the tree and make it to the top of Blue Gum Hill.

Caitilin, Ken, Gordon, Cathy and Darren completed the plant ID walk around Fosters Gully. Before the beginning of the Fosters Gully track a koala was seen. The koala started warming in the sunshine and then moved into the shady side of the tree.

During the walk many birds were seen and lyrebirds were heard calling.



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President: Caitilin Punshon

Vice-President: Gordon Duncan

Secretary & Public Officer: Anita Pither

Treasurer: Mike Beamish

Publicity: Tamara Leitch

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Other members: John Arkinstall, Cathy Beamish, Beasley family, Graeme Busch, Matt & Kerry Campbell, Misja Carbo, Olga van Cauwenberghe, Joelle Champert, Wendy Davies, Dodd family, 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.

Over the walk many plants were observed and some of these are shown below:



Hop Goodenia (*Goodenia ovata*)



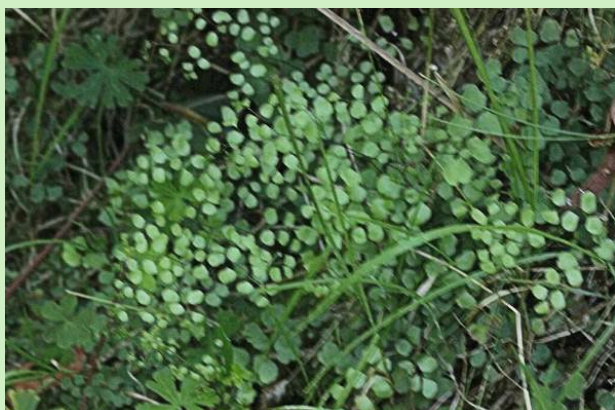
Forrest Clematis (*Clematis glycinoides*)



Australian Cheesewood (*Pittosporum undulatum*)



Love Creeper (*Comesperma volubile*)



Common Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum aethiopicum*)



Wonga Vine (*Pandorea pandorana*)



Hound's Tongue Fern (*Microsorium pustulatum*)



Wattle Mat-Rush (*Lomandra filiformis*)



Bush-Peas (*Genus Pultenaea*)



Mother Shield-Fern (*Polystichum proliferum*)



Small Poranthera (*Poranthera microphylla*)



Yellow Admiral (*Vanessa itea*)

During the Plant ID walk Gordon and Darren led to Lyndon's Clearing looking for both plants and birds. Caitlin, Cathy and Ken investigated more closely. The group reformed at Lyndon's Clearing and after checking the side creek completed the loop back to the picnic area. The whole group reformed at the picnic area, with each group returning at different times.

We were not the only walkers out in the Park on this Sunday. Many family groups overlapped us on our walks. It was a lovely spring day to be out walking in the National Park.

Thanks go to Ken, Caitlin and Gordon who shared their photos from the day.

October Activity
Sunday 18th October

Activity 1 - Koala Count

10.00am

The Friends of Morwell National Park will be carrying out the annual 'Koala Count in the Park'. Willing participants are requested to meet at the Kerry Road - Fosters Gully car park at 10.00am to commence the Koala count.

The 'Koala Count in the Park' event is part of the long-term strategy to document the numbers and measure the general health of the koalas within Morwell National Park.

Bring your family and friends and enjoy a pleasant stroll in the park while simultaneously helping the team by spotting the resident koalas that can be found in the park.

Participants are advised to bring suitable clothing and footwear applicable for the weather conditions, and if possible, bring a pair of binoculars as it certainly makes it easier to spot the koalas.

If you are staying for the orchid walk you will need to bring your lunch, which can be eaten in the Kerry Road picnic area between the activities.

Activity 2 – Orchid Walk

1.30pm

The second activity will be a walk of around Fosters Gully or Stringybark Track to search for the orchids which can be found at this time of the year. You will need to bring clothing suitable for the weather conditions on the day.