

FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK  
INCORPORATED  
PO Box 19,  
Churchill 3842

4th September, 1988

Dear Friends,

Whew! You'll be receiving this, rather late,  
but then I wanted you all to have the most up-to-date news  
possible. But to start at the beginning...

August 14th saw a small but enthusiastic group of Morwell  
Friends being hosted by the Friends of Warrandyte State  
Park at the Friends Exchange we had had organized for  
some time. It was a bit strange being lectured by Ian  
Roche about a different Park, but then he has spent quite  
some time there. Following an introductory talk, we ambled  
along the banks of the Yarra River observing some of the  
results of different projects - willow clearing, Koala  
releases, Disabled walking track and Interpretation signs.  
Most informative. The Tunnel was certainly something to see!

After a pleasant BBQ lunch, we then drove in convoy over to another  
section of the Park, near where the first gold was found. Ecologically  
different, but the historical influence of people through the area  
was quite noticeable with old shafts, tunnels, dwellings etc. A real  
eye-opener even for alocal boy!!

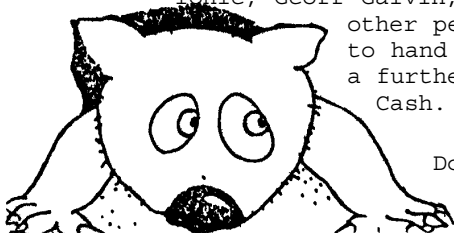
Many thanks to the Friends of Warrandyte for their hospitality and  
insights into the Warrandyte area. A return visit will be happening at  
some future time.

The following Sunday saw 16 people gathered at the SES Office for our  
first-ever Annual General Meeting. Presidential and Treasury Reports  
were given, and are enclosed for your benefit. We especially welcomed  
Robyn Calnin, who is seconded from Buchan Caves in place of Ian Roche,  
And presented her with her first formal task - receiving officer at  
the elections for Office-bearers. The 1988/1989 committee is as follows:

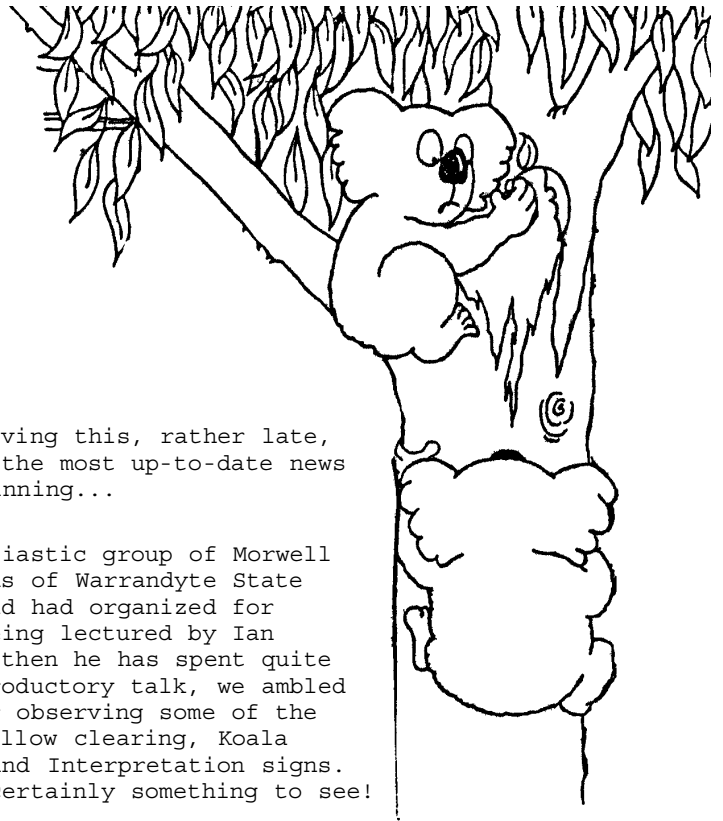
President - Yvonne Aplin	} Executive
VP/Activities Orgahiser - Neil Grigg	
Secretary - Peter Bryant	
Treasurer - Johanna Aziz	
Non-portfolio - Geoff Galvin & Ken Harris	

Special thanks to Judy Lambert and Margaret Loughborough for their  
help, wisdom & support on the Inaugural Committee. Tribute was especially  
given to Margaret who is leaving in 2 weeks time to "retire" in Tasmania,  
with her husband. Safe moving and we will miss your support.

As announced at the AGM and in the "Express", Tuesday 30th August saw  
the official launching of the Billy's Creek Appeal following a Public  
Meeting at the Shire of Morwell Offices chaired by Cr. Keith Hamilton.  
A small group attended, but we formally launched the "Morwell National  
Park Development Fund". The fund committee includes Cr. Gloria Auchter-  
lonie, Geoff Galvin, Ray Massaro & Lyn French, with the support of many  
other people. As a Friends group we were especially glad  
to hand over \$1,011.20 in donations already received, and  
a further cheque for \$200 to the Fund Committee for Petty  
Cash.



Don't forget: THIS SUNDAY AT 1.30pm WE MEET FOR OUR  
SEPTEMBER MEETING & KOALA SURVEY. PLEASE BE THERE



FOR THIS IMPORTANT ANNUAL PART OF OUR PROGRAMME. WE DO NEED AS MANY EYES AS POSSIBLE TO CHECK OUT THE KOALAS FOR THE FURTHEREST PARTS OF THE PARK

Other added bonuses for coming are:

- \*\*Hear the latest figure on our Budget Grant from the State Government for Park development.
- \*\*Preliminary judging of the entries for the Logo Competition will be known
- \*\*Arrangments for the Official "Morwell National Park Development Fund" launch can be finalized
- \*\*Many other points of interest, too. So, don't miss out - there's so much going on we'll have to be writing a book for each months' happenings!

See you on Sunday at the Foster's Gully Picnic area, at 1.30pm. Don't forget your cup and a little afternoon tea.

*Peter Byrnes*

TREASURERS REPORT

Statement of Receipts and Payments to 31/7/88

Opening Balance	NIL	
Membership Fees	\$350.00	
Billy's Creek Donations	\$231.20	
Catering	\$830.00	
Bank Interest	\$6.92	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,418.12</b>	<b>1,418.12</b>
Less Payments		
Catering Expenses	\$280.00	
Advertising	\$19.80	
Petty Cash	\$20.00	
Incorporation costs	\$72.00	
Bank Charges	\$0.79	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$392.59</b>	<b>392.59</b>
<b>BALANCE in Bank 31/7/88</b>		<b>\$1,025.53</b>

MEMBERSHIP

We are glad to Welcome the new Members listed Below, who have Officially joined Us since our last Newsletter:

Sue & David Cowie,  
And family  
Cr. Tom Lawless  
Steven Walker

We hope you find your time with the Friends enjoyable and rewarding.

RAGWORT ACTION COMMITTEES

Cr Tom Lawless spoke to us at our AGM about his involvement with Ragwort Action Committees. I include a summary of his brief talk for your benefit. If you know of anyone who may be interested in heading up a group in the area near the Park/Jumbuk Rd could contact Tom on 66-1388 before 9am any day. (A pamphlet is also included)

Ragwort Action Committees are set up in small, but well-defined areas of a local community (eg 60 properties) for the purpose of eradicating Ragwort from the area. This is done by developing a sense of community responsibility for the problem, and peer group operations to make it effective in the area. A paid co-ordinator is the key person, who is paid by CF&L for 15 hours/month, as a liaison between the Dept & locals. Furthermore, CF&L provide physical help too. Spot Spraying is the main method used. Many localities have these Committees now, and one is nearly going in the Park area, although a person with local knowledge and with a friendly, communicative approach is needed to head up the committee in the paid co-ordinator's position. This whole approach is working in other areas, so please pass the word around to get this pest cleared from our area, too!

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

AUGUST 21st, 1988.

I have found the past six months have been a challenge after the very easy going organisation that existed before we became a formal organization. However I feel that along with incorporation it was correct and inevitable. Please accept my apology if I have offended anyone through enthusiasm.

Many of our Sundays have understandably concentrated on the Billys Creek area. Perhaps the day that gave us the greatest sense of beginning on a new and very important project was the bridge rebuild. The Yinnar South Fair was a very busy day but worth while both financially and publicity wise, thankyou again for all those who assisted. Our social visit to Warrandyte State Park was enjoyed by those that travelled down. For most of us this area was new, so listening to Ranger Ian Roche speak on the park, its highlights and its problems was a learning experience. Later this year our important on going surveys of the butterfly orchids and our koala population will be carried out.

Our greatest on going project in the whole history of the Friends is undoubtedly the launching of a committee to head an appeal to raise funds for the development of Billys Creek. Much work has been done by many people working to this end. Ian spent many hours and kilometers compiling an information booklet that was presented to people we thought may be interested in becoming involved in the project. Dick, Margaret, Gail & Peter approached these people and it is only through their hard work and time spent that we have a public meeting being called by the Shire for August 30th. This meeting will be the official launch of the appeal and for the next twelve months will work towards raising \$125,000. I must thank Geoff Galvin for volunteering to be our representative on this committee and help coordinate our efforts. Mention must also go to Gloria Auchterlonie who has supported us all a long and devoted much time to this end. I wish the committee all the best and trust that all the friends will be right behind them in this difficult task.

The fire in Billys Creek on April 25<sup>th</sup>; the visit of the Victorian National Parks Advisory Committee May 13<sup>th</sup>; an inspection by a representative of the C.F.L. Landscape Department have been highlights in my term as president. Meeting with and discussing many aspects of the park with these groups has increased my understanding and knowledge considerably. On a sadder note I also had the hard task of farwelling Frank Carter and the Roche family with the Loughborough's to move soon. All these were foundation members who came along to the first meeting convened in May 1986 and have put many hours into achieving our aims. I greatly appreciate their support and total reliability not only in these months but all along. Ian Roche's acceptance of a six months secondment to Warrandyte State Park came as quite a shock to the group at this stage of development, but we wish him well. In his absence we welcome Robyn Calnin to Morwell National Park and trust she will enjoy the area and we invite her to participate in our activities.

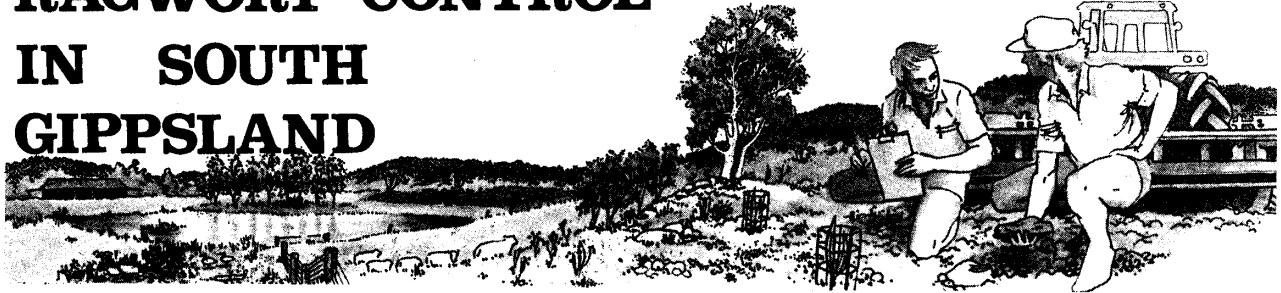
The most important task for me is to express my heart felt thanks to all our members for their help and support, plus to make known those that have helped in special ways. Some I have already mentioned but for many reasons I may repeat. The committee - Margaret, Frank, Neil & Ken. Judy our treasurer, starting from scratch is never easy. Gail for always being there, it was when she wasn't that we really took notice. Ian our Ranger plus many other C.F.L. staff for their warm support and energetic help. Peter our secretary, kept till last to give me more time to think of the correct things to say; patience, tireless energetic, enthusiast and walking dictionary. He has done a wonderful job for the group and has been a delight to work with. If I may, there is one more - Brian my husband he has put up with a lot and not just the extra large telephone bills either.

I wish the new committee all the best and trust that the next financial year will see the Friends of Morwell National Park go on to achieve their goals and set even greater ones.

Yvonne Aplin.



# RAGWORT CONTROL IN SOUTH GIPPSLAND



## DESCRIPTION

**Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea* L)** is a perennial weed. Leaves are deeply-cut, wrinkled, mid-green above and downy light green underneath. First leaves are a rosette 20-40 cm wide. The plant then often forms a "cabbage" stage with a ball of foliage 30-50 cm diameter. A flowering stem then forms carrying dense heads of bright yellow daisy-like flowers. At flowering, the whole plant may be up to 1½ metres high. Ragwort competes vigorously with pasture plants and may completely occupy a site if not controlled.

## LIFE CYCLE

Seed germination generally occurs in autumn, but may occur at any time of the year if conditions are suitable. Young plants form a rosette which may then give rise to a flowering stem in late summer. Most remain a rosette through summer and autumn, and produce a "cabbage" through the winter and spring. Flowering then occurs in late spring with seeding in the summer and autumn. Seed dispersal is by: wind, water, attached to mud carried by humans, animals, vehicles etc, and also in cut hay and hay bags. Seed is known to remain viable in the ground for at least seven years. Plants may also regenerate vegetatively from pieces of cut root or crown.

## CONTROL METHODS

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. SPRAYING WITH HERBICIDE | Most effective.  |
| 2. GRAZING WITH SHEEP      | Effective for stopping flowering and seed dispersal.   |
| 3. CULTIVATION             | Effective only if continuous.                          |
| 4. SLASHING                | Effective only if followed by spraying and/or grazing. |
| 5. PULLING                 | Effective for temporary removal of scattered plants.   |

## CAUTIONS

1. ALWAYS WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING WHEN USING HERBICIDES AND OBSERVE SAFE HANDLING PROCEDURES AS OUTLINED ON THE CONTAINER.
2. CONTINUOUS CULTIVATION CAN GIVE RISE TO EROSION PROBLEMS.

