

Rohan's design



FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK INC.

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Trina's design



14th October, 1988

Dear Friends,

This month I would like to present you with a series of "snapshots" of the happenings of the past month, and a quick peek at the weeks ahead!

Thursday 22nd September is another day that will go down in the history of the development of Morwell National Park. The (then) Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, Mrs Joan Kirner, visited Morwell to give two very important announcements regarding the Park. Firstly, the r-clinister announced the allocation of \$92,000 to Morwell National Park for:

Morwell National Park

\$92,000

Construction of an interpretation shelter. Development of a management plan to ensure that, with public participation, planning decisions are made about the future uses and developments of the expanded park. Encouragement of community participation through provision of support to the Fund Raising Committee and the Friends of Morwell National Park. Maintenance works to ensure that major environmental issues affecting the long-term viability of the park are being tackled as a priority -in particular problems with blackberries and other weeds, and fire protection.

Mrs Kirner also outlined grants for other conservation projects in the Latrobe Valley at the same time.

Secondly, the Minister confirmed the committment of her self and the State Government to the protection of important conservation areas, reforestation programs, and the costly and big task of protecting whole ecosystems. This was especially the case at Morwell National Park where visitors had increased eleven-fold over 10 years, and there was urgent need to control weeds, protect from fires, preserve natural bush and provide recreational facilities for the growing Latrobe area. Thanks was expressed for the hard work of the Friends group in its survey, labour and educational work over the years.

Mrs Kirner then went on to officially launch the Billy's Creek Appeal, officially known as the "Morwell National Park Development Appeal". Mrs Kirner further helped the appeal by herself donating \$50 to the Appeal.

Thanks must be expressed to Crs Keith Hamilton, Gloria Auchterlonie, Ms Val Callister, the Shire of Morwell for their help at this most important day in the life of the Park and the Friends group.

Thanks to Johanna for providing some details of this Launch for the newsletter. Further details may be gained from the "Express" (23/9/88, or by obtaining a copy of the Minister's statement from Peter Bryant.

Enlargement of Photo 1

Enlargement of Photo 2

Sunday October 9th was our last Project day. A small but enthusiastic group of 9 gathered to help clear some paths through Blackberries in order to facilitate further Blackberry spraying by the Department. This was done on the northern bank of the second river crossing in Billy's Creek. Evidence of earlier spraying success was noted by the ferns starting to appear along some creek edges, where blackberries have previously choked them out. This further helped with the discovery of an old, now derelict dwelling and outhouse on the hillside where we were clearing black berries. Many objects of past habitation had been spread throughout the nearby bush giving evidence that it may have been part of the agricultural activity that is a part of the Billy's Creek history. To add to this interesting and exciting discovery, we discovered two koalas in the small area we had been working in! So, we more than covered our aims for day without having to go far into the area! We had a terrific time. Thanks to all who attended and helped!!

Enlargement of Photo 3

The results of the Logo Competition were also announced at the October Project Day. We are grateful to our two judges, from GIAE and ARC-Morwell, for their objectivity and help. First Prize went to Rohan Jones from Traralgon High School, with second prize to Trina Harrison also of Traralgon High School. Rohan's entry, with slight modification by the Judges, is the new letterhead, and Trina's entry can be used for Badges. On request of the two students teacher, the \$100 prize money is going to be shared between the two students. Both entries will be featured in the "Express" and also at the Traralgon High School Art & Craft exhibition (October 18- 21). Some other entries will also be displayed at the Art & Craft Exhibition. It is planned to present the awards to Rohan and Trina at a Junior Ranger Day* to be held shortly. Please show your support by attending, or sending an apology to Yvonne or Peter if unable to attend on the day.

*FLASH - Junior Ranger Day - Sunday 6th November - 12 noon at Foster's Gully Picnic Area. BYO Picnic/Bkg. Dancers/Bk Tea. Friends + neighbours hall provide

Photo 4

The Friends Of French Island State Park will be visiting us on Saturday 22nd October. The programme will commence with morning tea at 10am at the Foster's Gully Picnic area. Most of the days programme will be centred on Orchids, which will be led by Ken Harris. BYO lunch will be held at the Foster's Gully Picnic area, as will a late afternoon tea before the "Islanders" return. We would appreciate your participation on the day by attending and helping with morning and afternoon teas.

Photo 5

VNPA desk calendars are now available from Peter Bryant at a cost of \$9.95. Stocks are limited so please get in quick with your order! Each calendar sold raises \$2.85 for the Development Appeal - another way you can help to raise \$250,000!

Photo 6

Sunday 13th November is our next Project Day. Meeting at 1.30pm at Foster's Gully Picnic area, we will be doing our Koala & Orchid survey. Your support is essential for the success of this on-going project. Remember - BYO cup please!

Well, that's all for now folks. See you on 22nd October and 13th November for more exciting activities.

6th November
Peter Bryant