



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

P.O. Box 19
CHURCHILL 3842

Ranger: (051) 221478
Secretary: (051) 696496

JUNE 1994 NEWSLETTER

Previous Activity Day

It was disappointing that so few members managed to turn up for the first of our winter 1994 tree-planting sessions. Some of our reliables were away, but with only 5 members, plus Rob and one visitor, we were not able to do the planned amount of planting.

-Nevertheless, 164 trees were put in:

Leafy Flat Sedge	<i>Cyperus lucidus</i>	36
Hazel Pomaderis	<i>Pommaderis aspera</i>	64
Kangaroo Apple	<i>Solarium aviculare</i>	48
Blackwood	<i>Acacia melanoylon</i>	16

The sedge, pomaderis and kangaroo apple were the first of these species that the Friends have planted, and we have Anton to thank for the propagation and raising of the seedlings. Hazel Pomaderis grows naturally in clumps, so was grouped together only 2-3 feet apart, and the Sedge was placed very close to the water with as little disturbance to the soil as possible, as disturbed soil seems to attract predators. Despite wintry conditions, it was quite sheltered down by the Creek where we were planting. Do please try to come along to the future tree plantings as we need a better attendance to achieve our program. Sadly, the hempbush seedlings that were being grown so successfully at Newborough H.S. were vandalized and completely destroyed, a disappointment I am sure to the students as well as ourselves.

June Activity

Again, Tree Planting. **Sunday 19th June**. Meet 10.00 a.m. start at the end of Braniff's Road. Same pay and conditions.

GOOD NEWS!

The Committee is pleased to announce the receipt of a cheque for \$2,800 as a result of the grant application for materials for a propagation shed. Added to this is another donation from the Yinnar South Country Fair of \$400, again ear-marked for shed materials. Your Committee met soon after receipt of this to make further plans regarding acquisition: of materials, and a work plan.

From President Ken

Ken has mentioned our propagation activities to the recently formed local group *The Society for Growing Australian Native Plants*, and members have expressed interest in being involved. A number of members of this group have some expertise in seed

propagation of natives, and may also be a source of new members for FMNP .

A report is attached from Ken re first sightings of some animals in the Park. One of the more interesting aspects of the April General Meeting was Ken leaping up at the sight of the Orchid Butterfly, and rushing off on the chase. As he was Chairperson it was a bit difficult to continue without him! This event was NOT recorded in the Minutes of the Meeting! (but could have gone along the lines of "... there was a short break in proceedings as the Chairperson pursued a butterfly. ..."???)

Ken is also a member of the LV Field Naturalists, who had a visit from a bat expert. Traps were set in Morwell National Park, and the attached report from Ken gives details of bats caught. There are several species which do not fly much in the Autumn, bats being most active in summer, and it was suggested that FMNP have Lindy visit us in the summer with a view to setting more traps, as a FMNP activity. We are pleased to say Yvonne contacted Lindy and it looks as if she will be coming on the 10th December (a Saturday) - only tentative at the moment. It sounds a very interesting project.

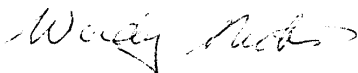
Ranger's Report

Many of you ,will have heard of the fire which occurred in the Park on 27th April. Although deliberately lit, this caused little damage to the tree canopy, and the burned area should regenerate well.

Unfortunately, the very useful four wheel motorbike "went missing" while being used in another Gippsland area, and is not likely to be replaced in the short term. As a result, some of the areas which are more difficult to access with the truck for tree planting will have to be rescheduled this year.

The Management Plan is making very slow progress in the Minister for Conservation & Natural Resources' Office.

Welcome back to Paul and Judy Lambert, and to Johanna Aziz, who have been away for a few weeks. Cheers for now.



Wendy Nickson
Newsletter Editor ,

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT KEN HARRIS

I am pleased to be able to report yet more sightings of further previously unreported animals from Morwell National Park.

The first sighting occurred during the Special General Meeting held at the start of the April activity, on Sunday 17th April. The meeting was held in the ranger's workshop, with the double doors open. As chairman, I was seated facing the open doors and I saw a large spectacular butterfly, fly from above the building up towards Rob's house where it headed for a flowering shrub.

I immediately interrupted the meeting and took off in pursuit and was able to identify it as a male

Orchard Butterfly - *Papilio aegeus*

It stayed around the flowers for most of the (resumed) meeting, but was gone by the time the meeting ended.

This species, one of the largest of the swallowtails, is common on the East coast from the Victorian border northwards, and also in South Australia. It is however rare in Southern Victoria. Its name comes from its liking for citrus trees as food for its caterpillars. I have seen these butterflies in Bega, but have never previously seen one in Gippsland, let alone in Morwell National Park.

In addition to the butterfly, I am also able to report the recording of three new species of bat for the Park.

On Friday 22nd April, Lindy Lumsden, of the wildlife research section of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, gave a talk on bats to the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Society. On the following Saturday evening, 23rd April, she led an outing to Morwell National Park, during which she set four bat traps and one mist net to try and catch some of the bats in the park.

The mist net did not catch anything, but the traps were very successful and in the course of the evening trapped 9 bats. These consisted of

5 Chocolate Wattle Bats	<i>Chalinolobus morio</i>
3 Little Forest Bat	<i>Vespadelus vulturnus</i>
1 Southern Forest Bat	<i>Vespadelus regulus</i>

None of these three species had been recorded in the Park before.

In addition Lindy heard what she believed to be a

White-Striped Mastiff Bat	<i>Tadarida australis</i>
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a high-flying species, very hard to catch in traps. We can only record this as a possible for the Park as Lindy would not make a firm recognition from sound only.

She reported that there are likely to be 7 or 8 species altogether in the Park, but April was rather late in the year to be trapping and several species will already have become fairly inactive as the colder weather approaches.

Ken Harris