



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

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JANUARY 1995

News from the Editors Desk

Dear Friends

The Committee extend their best wishes for 1995 and may this year bring happiness and good health to you all and...increase membership numbers to The Friends Group.

We go back briefly to the end of 1994 when Ken spotted on 26/11/94 two native plants in the burnt area of Stringy Bark Walk. He recognized the Prasophyllum brevilabre --- short lipped leek orchid --- reported previously by Don & Ollie Thomson but was not recorded on the official plant list. Lobelia Rhombifolia --- Tufted Lobelia --- was the name of the other identified species.

Both have been of value in documenting plant life in our Park.

This month's issue contains information which has been written by the President as a result of the successful December outing. Including too is the Activities Calendar for 1995.

On the Labour day weekend (11-13 March) The Seventh Biennial Friends Conference will be held at "Kangarooie" Prince Town (near Port Campbell). Interested members for this weekend should contact the President Ken Harris on 223137 as soon as possible before applications close.

A personal note reminding those members who were intending to renew the membership for 1995 but forgot to do so please mail your fees (\$10.00 single or \$ 15.00 family) to the Treasurer...P.O.BOX 118...Churchill 3842.Thank you.

UNWANTED WATTLE

On Monday 2 nd ,of January, Ken did some seed collecting in Billys Creek area and in the course of it discovered that the Friends have inadvertently introduced an alien wattle species into the Park.

About 4 years ago we planted into the Lodge area a number of varnished wattles. Acacia verniciflua. Among the batch of seedlings from Won-Wron Prison Farm, must have been some Sydney Wattle -- Acacia longifolia and a dozen or so Sydney wattles were growing at that site. As several plants had nearly ripe seeds, Ken reported to Rob immediately the unwanted species & that afternoon Rob eradicated the aliens. Rob noticed some have shed seeds so watch out for Sydney wattles at the Lodge area in years to come.

Fortunately on the high site goats ate the varnishedWattle, probably they too included SydneyWattles. At least we now have our own propagation centre and have direct control over what seeds are sown and grown on for future plantings in the Park.

Cheerio from Johanna

Bat-Trapping - Morwell National Park - 10 and 11/12/94

On the night of Saturday 10th December, The Friends combined their end of year barbecue, with a demonstration of bat-trapping by Lindy Lumsden, and in the process attempted to add to our knowledge of the bat species inhabiting the Park.

The weather was perfect and the evening was an enormous success. Lindy has an infectious enthusiasm for her subject (borne out by her wearing of two tee-shirts with bat motifs, a bat ring, a bat pendant on her necklace and a pair of bat ear-rings). She also provided a wealth of information about bats, not only for the Australian species.

A few of us went into Billys Creek before the barbecue, where four bat traps were set. Then back to Fosters Gully, where a further four traps were set. The traps were then left for a couple of hours while we enjoyed the barbecue and pumped Lindy for a little of her vast store of knowledge about bats.

Eventually we set off to explore the 4 Fosters Gully traps and returned to the picnic area with 17 bats of 5 different species in bags. Lindy then weighed and measured each bat and it was around midnight before all the bats had been processed and released (and one of each species photographed by me).

At this point several members departed, but an enthusiastic few stayed on for the checking of the traps in Billys Creek, which yielded a further 17 bats. Again there were 5 species, but one was different from Fosters Gully. It was two o'clock before we all got to bed!

The keenest of the Friends were back at Fosters Gully at 7 o'clock for a final check of the nets in both Fosters Gully and Billys Creek and to help Lindy to dismantle her traps. The morning catch added another 33 bats and added 2 more new species, so that the total was 69 bats of 8 different species.

The whole exercise was an enormous success and was thoroughly enjoyed by all and we extend a very warm thankyou to Lindy for giving up her time for us and for the enthusiasm with which she shared her knowledge with us.

Below is a summary table of the bats that were caught in the course of the night:

Ken Harris

Species	Fosters Gully				Billys Creek				Total			
	M	F	U	T	M	F	U	T	M	F	U	T
Little forest bat (<i>Vespedilus vulturinus</i>)	12			12		5		5	12	5		17
Southern forest bat (<i>Vespedilus regulus</i>)	2	1		3	2			2	4	1		5
Large forest bat (<i>Vespedilus darlingtoni</i>)	4	6		10		2		2	4	8		12
Gould's long-eared bat (<i>Nyctophilus gouldii</i>)	1	1		2					1	1		2
Chocolate wattled bat (<i>Chalinolobus morio</i>)	16	20	1	37	6	2		8	22	22	1	45
Gould's wattled bat (<i>Chalinolobus gouldii</i>)	3		1	4					3		1	4
Great pipistrelle (<i>Falsistrellus tasmaniensis</i>)						1		1		1		1
Eastern broad-nosed bat (<i>Scotorepens orion</i>)	1			1					1			1
Total	39	28	2	69	8	10		18	47	38	2	87

where: M = Male F = Female U = Unsexed T = Total