



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

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DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER ACTIVITY REPORT

15th November 5 people turned up to the trial plots and erected the fence around the seed tree. Well most of the fence was put up; it still requires some more work yet. I am told that the posts were put in and ring lock wire was fixed in place, a good effort by those who turned up. Ed and Brian went back up the next Thursday and got the 'chook' wire placed around the fence, which only leaves the pegs to be put in to hold the 'chook' wire down and the barbed wire to be fixed.

Hopefully I will be able to get out and do some before it gets finished.

Ed reported back to me that there are two self-sown Blue gums growing in the fenced off area already, which have been eaten back. This indicates that by fencing off the area will allow others to grow and not be eaten off.

16th November saw a big turn out with 10 people turn up. 1200 pots were cleaned ready for use, only another 800 to be cleaned for our proposed '98 planting season.

One tray each of Blue gum, Messmate, Swamp gum and Manna gum were planted.

Three trays each of Blackwood and Silver wattle and three others were planted of a variety which I cant confirm as yet for sure (I don't know which ones they are so I wont give you a bum steer).

As well as the other work done I believe that the hardening out shed was given the once over to get it up to scratch for the next year or two.

There are some Silver wattle coming up already which is a good sign of a successful planting session. This may need an early session of potting out of the plants which are ready, give one of the committee members a ring if you are interested in helping out.

Thanks Ed for forwarding this information on to me.

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

13th December 1:30pm (not 5:30 as I wrote in last months newsletter, sorry) propagation shed to wash out pots and by the sounds of it we will need to pot out some of the silver wattles.

13th December 7:30pm Fosters gully picnic area for the end of year BBQ, BYO food and drinks.

9:00pm Fosters Gully Spotlight walk, BYO torch and come and join the spotlight walk.

Join the friends for a guided tour of Fosters Gully at night, main spotlight provided; all you need to take with you is your silence (so as to see the most night animals) and a torch for your own use during the walk. To get the best results it is ideal to have a small group, bunch up close and keep quiet.

21st December 3:00pm Propagation shed, potting out of the seedlings as required. There may be a lot of plants or there may not be many to do, this is all up to the plants themselves and how the growing season goes. You may be asked to come along to another session latter if there are not enough of the seedlings ready to be potted out.

25th December Santa to come down your chimney, no help required thanks, I know he can do it by himself. Have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year (see attached activity calender for next year. See you then.)

GENERAL INFORMATION

A funding application from the Vic Health Community Grants Scheme has been submitted on behalf of the Friends of Morwell National Park to get funding to produce a brochure of walks and paths of Morwell National Park. If anyone has a favourite walk or track in the park and would like to get it included in the brochure then please forward it to the friends group address as on the letterhead of this newsletter. Please include any track notes and items of interest (things to look out for, why you like it etc.).

Skillshare has been given the go-ahead to raise 2000 trees for the park and to plant them out pending upon getting some other grant money or sponsorship latter on in the new year. This will mean another year of about 4000 trees to be planted out in the park again next year (soon we will have no more trees to plant out).

FIRST AID TIP FOR THE MONTH

Snake bite.

When out in the park this summer you may come across a snake, here is what to do if you do if you come across one or even worse still if one bites you (or if someone else gets bitten).

Prevention:

Leave snakes alone, dress accordingly (stout shoes, socks and jeans), do not wear thongs or sandals in “snakey” country, be noisy when walking in the bush, look carefully where you are walking, use a torch when out at night in the bush, keep sheds free of mice (snake food) and cut grass short around houses and play areas.

Symptoms and signs:

These do not appear immediately, but from about 15 minutes to 2 hours after the casualty is bitten. There are often no visible symptoms and signs. Take seriously any information that a casualty has been bitten by a snake:

Strong emotional reaction

Headache

Double vision

Drowsiness

Nausea and/or vomiting
Pain or tightness in the chest or abdomen
Giddiness or faintness
Puncture marks about 1 centimetre apart at the site of the bite, although sometimes there may only be fang scratches on the skin. Bites are usually on the limbs, especially the legs.
Swelling of the bitten area.
Reddening.
Bruising.
Sweating.
Breathing difficulties.

Management:

Check for danger, snake gone.
Rest and reassure the casualty.
Apply a pressure immobilisation bandage over the bitten area and around the limb.
Seek medical aid urgently.

Warning:

Never wash the venom off the skin as this will help in later identification.
Never cut or exercise the bitten area.
Never try to suck the venom out of the wound.
Never use a constrictive bandage (tourniquet).
Do not try to catch the snake. However, a description of the snake may assist medical aid.

Don't let this put you off from going out into the park during summer, it is only meant to help you if you need to. I don't think that anyone has been bitten in the park yet.

See attachments for the bandaging of a bite area.

PS. This was copied from the St John Ambulance First aid manual.

LEADBEATERS POSSUM SURVEYS IN CENTRAL VICTORIAN HIGHLANDS.

Last Sunday (23rd November) I went and participated in a survey of the Leadbeaters possum in the central highlands of Victoria (near Powelltown). This is being organised by Environment Victoria for the gathering of information about the habitat of the Leadbeaters possum. I had never seen one out in the wild so of I went (I still haven't seen one yet), there was a group of about twenty –five of us gathered at various drop off points on the way. I got a lift with some Melbourne ZooKeepers (of native animals); this was an experience, Very interesting people, zookeepers are. Finally we reached our destination up in the hills just before dusk. Of we went single file into the bush off a perfectly good road and into the leach infested undergrowth and had our “stag trees” allotted to us to watch for any emerging possums as it got dark. Number 18 was my tree. the tree was an old broken off stump which is their likely habitat, the tree stump is about 10 metres high and no doubt hollow inside. So I made myself comfortable on a seat of damp ferns and craned my neck up and looked up at the tree in anticipation of seeing a family of Leadbeaters possums trouping out for me to count.

Well it got dark and nothing came out of my tree number 18. But I did get a visit from a Brush tail possum on its way past. We all managed to find our way back out of the bush and regroup for a hot cuppa back at the

car and swap observations. Some saw Greater gliders come out, sugar gliders and more brush tailed possums even one person saw some piggy possums.

Then it was on for the highlight of the night, the spotlight walk along the road. I had up till then not seen any Greater gliders at all, and only thought that they were very rare. Boy was I in for a show, I saw no less than 8 Greater gliders, we even saw a pair of them very close up, a pity we did not have a camera with us. They look just like a rag doll of a very flat panda.

Well I was impressed and came home very happy, and yes the drive home with the zookeepers was an experience, the poor city boys were stopping at every wombat, wallaby and anything else, which happened to move. Very entertaining, but I was glad to get back into my own car and drive myself home!

If you are interested in going possum surveying give me a ring and I can lead you in the right direction.

NEWSLETTER

If you have anything to be included into the newsletter you can do so by either of these ways:

Phone me Martin Gwynne on 03 51223364 and leave a message if I am not home or if you are lucky you may even get me at home in person.

Write to me or drop off information to me at 1 Townsend Street Churchill 3842.