



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

PO Box 19
CHURCHILL 3842

President: 03 51221213
Secretary: 03 51276501

Incorporation number A0016319X

AUGUST 1998 NEWSLETTER

The AGM was held on the 2 August 1998. 13 Members turned up and I won't bore you with all of the details but this I will give you, the minutes of last years AGM were read and accepted.

Office bearers Reports were read and presented (please find enclosed these reports).

Committee members all stood down and an election was held with the result as follows:

President	Ed Steenbergen
Vice President	Di Alweyn
Secretary	Anne Bailey
Treasurer	Wendy Steenbergen
Newsletter editor	Lee Theissling
Publicity officer	Danny Barclay.
Yinnar South Country Fair Liasion	Joan Sikkema.

Congratulations to all new office bearers, and thankyou to all old ones.
(I will still try to have some input into the newsletter so look out!)

General Business meeting held straight away after the AGM.

Retain membership fees as is \$15 Family and \$10 Single.

Payment for Incorporation fee \$32

New Incorporation rule, we must now have our Incorporation number on all documents

The number is A0016319X.

We need to spend money for our grants

New hardening off area for our seedlings.

New and revised watering system for the above.

Purchase of tree guards.

Jute mats for next years planting.

Stronger stakes.

These are to keep grazing animals a little further

Away from the trees.

On our last tree planting session of the year we intend to have a BBQ sausage sizzle.

Tree planting dinner to be held at my house which is located 1.5 KM down hill past the entrance to Morwell National Park, RMB 1447 on the other side of the road. The time to turn up is 6:30 pm.

What you will need to take is Committee members will bring along a casserole or similar and others if they can please bring along a salad or sweet of your choice.

September 6th Trial plots 1:30pm at the end of Reidys road (at the top end of Jeeralang West road, off Junction road). This will be to seed our trial plots which we have been working on last year. Turn up if you are interested, or contact one of the committee members for more info.

September 20th Koala count.
Meet at Fosters Gully 1:30 pm
BYO boots, binoculars, drinks and Koala spotting kids.

Membership fees:

Time to pay up for the coming year, please fill out the form attached and send it off to our treasurer, Wendy Steenbergen 118 Manning Drive Churchill 3842.

TO : TREASURER, FMNP, PO BOX 19, CHURCHILL, 3842.

Please find enclosed an amount of \$_____ (\$10 single \$15 family) being for membership.

Name : Telephone:

Address:

Signed: Date:/...../.....

Tree planting details from the 19th of July 1998, Total trees planted were 555 and were of the species listed below (sorry no number breakdown this time)

- Messmate
- Manna gum
- Swamp gum
- Blue gum
- Apple box
- Blackwood
- Silver wattle
- Prickley mosses
- Varnish wattle
- Musk Daisy Bush
- Austrel Mulberry
- Hazel Pomaderris
- Golden tipped clover bush (goodia)

Next newsletter should be coming from our new newsletter editor Lee Theissling. I wish him the best of luck in getting this out on time as I have not been able to do so all of the time.

Martin Gwynne.

Friend's of Morwell National Park Annual General Meeting 2nd August 1998

President's Report;

Another eventful year has past having made great contributions to Morwell National Park and issues in and around the area.

I'd like to open by expressing a big thank you to the committee of the last year, for their contributions and enthusiasm in regard to Parks management.

Revegetation remains the major emphasis of FMNP with just a few pockets of flats to be filled and variety increased before the steeper sections are attempted. Having collected what seed we could in the past dry summer, propagation was either great or very poor. So with a reduced number of species, nearly 3000 were potted.

More research is required to improve our retention rate. This season we used pine bark, it tended to be water repellant when dry, yet remained very wet once soaked. And fungus infestation on the gums was devastating to the Globulus.

As for planting, it has been an irregular workforce, but after a letterbox drop of some 200 leaflets we have some new and some old locals interested. The targeted planting day saw 29 people of varying ages plant nearly 1000 plants in quick time. GEST also contributed to the revegetation process by growing some 2000 plants and planting half of them.

Several members have attended revegetation workshops regarding technique and method. Most of these work very well on accessible land but still sheds little light on our steep country project.

The eradication of weeds within the park continues, with two activities. The careful removal of Tutsan berries and plants, and the pulling of rooted willow branches was done by some very focused teams. The removal of the larger willows down steam is still with the West Gippsland River Authority, no time frame at this stage.

Track work was done by some very able-bodied members, in gravelling a culvert and the very rewarding slashing of the side creek track to the bottom of the Plots zigzag. This track up the steep, bare hill needs more work to get through the blackberries and cutting of Prickly Moses nearer the top.

Publicity in the newspaper has been erratic, we need to use this medium better, so that it gets published every time. The annual Yinnar Sth Fair was attended, the billy tea and damper was a hit.

Our success at gaining grants from Parks Vic has continued. We are finishing the report on the Plots, half way report on revegetation and there is another application to complete. All ideas are welcomed for the current round.

Much Paper work has been dispatched by the Friends committee. We have lobbied for extensions to the park, land lease, SECV and the Billy's Creeks flats that are still not National park. As Stated previously, a letterbox drop was done and we have some new members and some enthusiastic younger members, this is to be encouraged and welcomed.

Several applications have been made to diiferent funding sources to fund or sponsor projects in the park. As yet none have been positive. The book, of which there are 2100 left, Needs to be a focus of the coming year, this could be an easy way to raise large amounts.

The Friends group has supported local issues, especially the clearing of native vegetation within 300 meters of the park boundary .Sheep, goats and other domestic animals continue to prey on the parks flora and fauna to the detriment of the parks values.

Over the past year we have increased our profile with Parks Vic and its managers, although we aren't on their internet site. At this stage of the Park, the coming year will see the acceptance of the management plan, so all the recommendations can be acted on and the Friends will be an integral part of them.

I'd like to conclude by thanking our dedicated ranger, Rob Howell, without his skills and knowledge we'd be floundering and we'd be a lot poorer. Thanks Rob.



Ed Steenbergen
2/8/98

RANGER'S REPORT - MORWELL NATIONAL PARK - 1997/98

In August '97 Gippsland Education, Skills and Training planted 2000 trees which had been grown at Morwell River Prison Nursery and paid for out of left over Greenhouse Funds. Then, for the 1998 planting season, G.E.S.T. grew 2000 seedlings in their new nursery in Moe and managed to plant 1000 of those for us.

A magnificent effort by the Friends saw a total of 2,775 trees planted this year with several hundred too small to plant being left to grow on for next year. Congratulations and thanks to all those who participated and special thanks to Ed for all the extra organising and recruiting he did whilst I was on leave.

The direct seeding trial plots have been successful in excluding grazing animals and none of the fences appear to have been damaged in any way. There is noticeably more growth of grass inside the plots and some seedlings of Blue Gum and Varnish Wattle are appearing in the "Seed-tree Plot". Again, thanks to all who contributed to this heroic job.

I have drafted a Revegetation Plan for the Park to be used in conjunction with the Management Plan (coming soon I'm told) and I'd like your comments on it so see Ed or myself if you want a copy.

A Good Neighbour Grant enabled us to run an effective weed control program this year targeting Ragwort, Thistles and Blackberries. I have applied for a similar grant for 1998/99.

The track along Billys Creek was improved by spreading crushed rock on the wetter sections and the small carpark at Junction Road has been consolidated with crushed rock and leveled.

I have been able to get some jobs done by employing a construction and maintenance worker from NRE in Traralgon. These jobs include:

- Fitting new front legs to the Information Shelter at Kerry Road picnic area,
- A new gate and pedestrian access at the Tebb Terrace easement,
- Replacing the posts and handrails on the Fosters Gully footbridge.
- And a gravel path around the gate at the Kerry Road picnic area.

I attended some interesting courses this year, the best being Cost Effective Vegetation Establishment, Riparian Weed Control and Managing Disturbance.

An Environmental Risk Assessment (pest plants & animals) and an Elevated Structures Review have been completed for the Park.