



# **Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.**

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## **SEPTEMBER 1998 NEWSLETTER**

Well another successful session of tree planting was finished off on August the 16<sup>th</sup> with Ed, Ranger Rob, Anne, Wendy, Lee, Danny, Nick, Dorothy, Chris and a new recruit Guang Lu (just came over from China.) The day started at the usual time of 10:30 and at about 11 O'clock it started to rain. It rained on and off all day making the whole experience a lot more "enjoyable". Late in the afternoon we came across two huge flowering weeds which we took upon ourselves to remove from the park and relocate to the safety of Ed' s garden. Later on in the day we had a barbecue, but good old Dorothy managed to burn the snags. After lunch we went for a bit of a sight seeing at the weir and planted the last of the trees that we put along the banks of Billys creek. In all we planted 2800 plants in the last four mouths. In the last planting section we planted swamp gums, blue gums, manna gums, silver wattle and black woods.

## **COMMITTEE MEETING**

There was a committee meeting the day after the last tree planting session. There's was a few things discussed but the main thing was the ways that the remaining money be used. A few things had to be bought (clippers and other assorted tools,) but most of the money was invested in high quality tree guards. We now have a new fridge to keep seedlings in a safer place out of harms way curtsey of NRE.

## **September 6<sup>TH</sup> TRIAL PLOTS**

At 1:30pm on Sunday Ed, Martin, Dorothy, Nick, Lee, Ranger Rob, Danny and Tom all went up to the trial plots at the end of Reidys road. It started out very encouraging with us once again being blessed with a down pour of rain, but we didn't let that stop us, We finished off the fence around the in-closed area a few hours later and headed for home. I an happy to report that the trial plots are going good. There seems to be no perimeter breaches of un welcomed geusts. (Rabbits and other peasts )

## **REPORT ON PARKS FORUM IN MELBOURNE**

Last week I went to a young ambassadors forum in Melborune after I won an essay competition to become a young ambassador for Victorian Parks. There were only 100 year 11 students chosen in the State out of hundreds of entries. We were given the VIP treatment and most of the two days were taken up at Albert Park. It was quite amusing when a young greenie jumped up out of the crowd and asked embarassing questions to the head of Parks Victoria about why one of the head people on the board for Parks Victoria is also one of the head people running the Jabiluka mine at Kakadu in the Northen Territory .

Then just after that we were swamped by people protesting about old growth forests being cut down in East Gippsland near Orbost. And to cap it all off there where people handing out save Albert Park pamphlets. Quite exciting! On the final day we where asked many questions about what things should be changed with regard to Victorian National Parks. There was one very suss question they asked us, should Victorian Parks being privatised. There was much debate but in the end it was evident that 99% of people thought they shouldn't be privatised. I made it quite clear that if the parks were fully privertised many friends groups would feel used because they'ed be working for a private company and not be paid. This would lead to a lack of support for friends groups, and it is a well known fact that without the support of the friends groups many Parks would be lost.

If anyone is intrested in any of these courses the numbers you can call are:

Logging of old growth forest at Goolengook, East Gippsland:

Goongerah Environment Centre Office (GECO) 0351 540156, or Friends of the Earth (FOE) 0394198700.

Save Albert Park; (ph: 96903855).

## **SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> KOALA COUNT**

Nest time it's Koala surveying at Fosters Gully. To get there come down Jumbuk road and turn down Kerry road Until you come to the picnic area at the end of Kerry road. Hopefully it'll be sunny so if you want a couple of hours of fun with the kids or just by yourself come along to spot a Koala or two. ( I now Guang Lu can't wait to see his first Koala.) Remaimber it starts at 1;30 pm and to bring you own boots, binoculars, drinks and Koala spotting kids.

## **NOTE**

Attached is some information on Victorian Parks and what ther've got to offer in case you ever want to go vist a park apart from our own. Also attached is a listing of the remaining centenary celebrations going on around the state in the different National Parks.

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

Special Thanks to Martine on his great work over the last 12 months in writing the newsletter and his ongoing support of Morwell National Park.

Editor Lee Theissling.