



# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

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Well its been a while since our last newsletter mainly because both the activities where track maintenance between then and now. Because I've been very busy with year 12 school CAT's during this time I haven't been able to attend the activities so I've had some help from Wendy the Friends Treasurer who often lends a hand in the writing of articles in the newsletter. And Martin who was the former editor to the newsletter. And what a ripper he's written for us. Thanks to both of you for your help.

A committee meeting was held on the Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> of may just routine things were gone over (eg. Grants, brochures.)

## **Track Maintenance, April 18<sup>th</sup>, Reidy's Road. Report , Wendy.**

We had an early start so we could organise to have transport in the park to drive us out to Braniffs road at the end of the day, and to collect the tools needed for the days activity.

We were well loaded up to walk from Reidys rd to the start of the track we were going to clear, but it was all down hill and the day was sunny & warm. Rob did a grate job to remove the prickly mosses and we followed up behind clearing & ranking the track.

We were pleased to see Ken appear coming up the track, he certainly took the hard way to attend the day. The track is now clear down to Side Creek, with only a few logs to jump over or under, just to make the walk interesting.

## NEXT ACTIVITY

### JUNE 20<sup>th</sup>

Well it's tree planting season again and this year we have tree planting all the way to September with the AGM between the four sessions. On June the 20<sup>th</sup> (this Sunday) it is our first session and we're hoping for a very good turnout to beat last years record of about 30 odd people in the first session that made our job a lot easier in the following sessions. So make no plans for the 20<sup>th</sup> and come down and help us break last years record we need everyone to lend a hand even if only for a couple of hours. It will be started at Junction Road at 10:00.

### JULY 18<sup>th</sup>

On the 18<sup>th</sup> the next month the next tree planting session will be held at the same time at Junction Road also. Bring to both sessions gumboots, lunch and drink.

### AGM

AGM will be held on the August the 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:30. Venue will be notified at the Tree planting sessions.

## May 15th. 1999 activity report.

Well five people turned up for the track maintenance off Billys Creek up the zigzag track above the weir.

Fantastic weather was experienced during the day as we had nearly every type of weather available to us (it didn't snow which was disappointing).

Ranger Rob, Ed, Danny and Steve were already at it when I (Martin) turned up, cutting, slashing chopping and sweating. It took a while for me to 'learn how to use these tools' before they had me in there doing it too (mainly the sweating and puffing though).

The zigzag track now goes all of the way up to the seed plots up on the hill. All members are invited to walk up the track at their next opportunity to inspect our work. Which I must say is of the best quality and professionally done. We cut back blackberries, chipped back parts of the track to enable the four wheel motor bike to get up it and also dug out several metres of dirt which had slipped onto the track.

The highlight of the day (for the workers) was when we were having lunch watching Ranger Rob cutting up the tree which was rather lazily lying on the track. He took all bits of advise which was given in copious quantities, and still managed to smile when the wood parted with a well placed foot to the south west corner.

Well I get told I have a knack of putting my foot in it.

Our lunch was eaten but Ranger Rob's wasn't, so guess who had to sit down to watch us dig, chip and shovel out the bank of the track far enough to allow the 'bike' to fit under and aroundish the bigger tree which had fallen onto the track. Well after the dust settled the job was done and the big dirty bikie kicked over his bike and roared through with even four or five millimetres to spare (wow what a job it looks like the transurban city link).

Smiles all round when the work, which was done during the last activity, was reached. This meant that all to be done after that was to walk up to the top of the hill and admire the seed plots.

Some plants have done very well and some have been no good at all. Well we now have some idea which process will work, when we figure out which ones it was that had the most success. More on that later as the plot-files are accessed and compared to the seedlings which have grown.

The walk up the track to the top was watched by the ever present Wedge tailed eagle soaring above us (good to see it is still around).

Well from the trial plots we split into two groups, one group who had four wheels under their backside and the other group who had two feet. The group who only had feet went down the steep slippery track straight down the hill. I think that Danny was the only one who managed to stay upright on the way down as Ed, Steve and myself all managed to find our feet accelerating at a rapid rate down the hill faster than our bodies.

Ranger Rob, being the only one with four wheels under his backside took the comfortable cruise back down the newly groomed track.

Down at the bottom the walkers managed to get to the bottom first (gravity still works), only to my dismay to find two dogs which had bailed up a kangaroo in the creek. One ran off, but the other one was nabbed to be handed over to the Authorities.

Well I had better sign off, see you later Martin Gwynne.