

PO Box 19
Churchill
3842



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – August 1999

President:
5122-1213

AOO16319X

From the Editors Desk

My name is Helen Steenbergen and I am the new Editor/Writer of the Friends Newsletter.

I would welcome any item/s that you would like to have included in each newsletter. Items could include but are not limited to trivia, general information, upcoming events, who's doing what and anything else. Please send items to the above address and mark them attention to the Newsletter.

That Slice Recipe!

There have many requests for the wonderful slice made by Faye Harris at this years AGM. So here it is and it's called

FLAPJACK.

8oz rolled oats 4oz butter
6oz soft brown sugar
mixed fruit/your choice & quantity

Mix butter & sugar in a pan over low heat and stir until butter soft (do not let butter separate). Add oats and fruit. Stir till mixed.
Press into two spring form flan tins and bake at 180 degrees for 15-20 minutes. Cut into slices while still hot.

Enjoy!

Memberships Due

Memberships for 1999/2000 are now due. Please forward single membership of \$10.00, or Family membership of \$15.00 to The Treasurer, Friends of Morwell National Park, PO Box 19, Churchill 3842. Cheques are to be made payable to 'Friends of Morwell National Park'.

Yinnar South Country Fair

The Friends group has received \$150.00 for their involvement in the 1999 Fair. This money will be put to good use within the Park.

Members Movements

While we were all rugged up in the cold, Wendy Steenbergen has been enjoying the warmth of far north Queensland and the Territory. A great way to spend 5 weeks.

Dot Rienkowsky has also been enjoying the sights of Tasmania making the most of a hard earned rest.

Newsletter Reviews

We have received newsletters from Tarra Bulga Friends.

Tarra Bulga – The carpark at the visitors centre has been sealed and the centre is to be repainted. There is a crack in the underground water tank causing leakage problems and they will also be installing outside pamphlet and display boxes. A joint project with Monash Uni. will see the production of a new video for the visitors centre. The annual lyrebird count is to take place on Sunday August 8th, pre-dawn!



August Activity

This month we will be planting along the boundaries of the Billys' Creek area of the Park. Don't forget to bring along your gumboots, a raincoat, your lunch, a drink and gloves. Everyone is welcome. We will be meeting at Junction Road for a 10.00am start. We really appreciate as much or as little time as you can afford, as many hands make light work. Please contact Ed on 5664 8211 if you would like more information. See you there!

1999 AGM - Presidents Report - Ed Steenbergen

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. 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 2000 were potted.

As for planting, it has been a hardy consistent workforce. GEST also contributed to the revegetation process by growing some 2000 plants and planting 500 of them. The new tree guards are an improved method of planting, assembly and using weed mats.

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 stream is still with the West Gippsland River Authority, and is expected later this year.

Track work was done by some very able-bodied members, clearing the lookout zig zag track of Prickly Moses and leveling it for bike and trailer access.

Publicity in the newspaper has been consistent. We could use this medium better and with greater effect with articles of natural features and past activities. The annual Yinnar Sth. Fair was attended and the billy tea and damper was a hit.

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

Several applications have been made to different 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.

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.

1999/2000 Committee

President	Ed Steenbergen
Vice President	Ken Harris
Secretary	Anne Bailey
Treasurer	Wendy Steenbergen
Newsletter	Helen Steenbergen
Publicity	Danny Barclay
Ranger	Rob Howell

DON'T FORGET - The next Newsletter will be produced in September 1999. If you would like to have anything included, please have it to me by 1st September 1999. You can send contributions, letters and comments to Helen Steenbergen at PO Box 19, Churchill, 3842.

To: Treasurer, Friends of Morwell National Park, PO box 19 Churchill, 3842

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

Name:.....Telephone:.....

Address:.....

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

RANGER'S REPORT -MORWELL NATIONAL PARK 1998/99

Firstly, thanks to all members and the committee for all the hard work put in over the past twelve months, and special thanks for all the extra effort that was put into Grants (applications, reports, payment of accounts etc), as well as all the other issues relating to the Park.

There has still been no news on the Crown Land to the south and west of Riedys Road or the SECV land at the end of Tebb Terrace. However, the good news for the year was the release of the final Management Plan for the Park in January (copies are still available for anyone who is interested).

Again, a Good Neighbour Grant has resulted in some good work being done by an NRE crew on controlling Ragwort, Thistles and Blackberry in the park. Some additional work was also done spraying Tutsan along Billys Creek.

Other works done by the NRE crew include the removal of the dangerous stile at the end of Braniffs Road and construction of ground level access there, installation of signs (including Friends Revegetation Project sign), walking track maintenance and fence repairs.

The Campus Conservation Corps (a body of student volunteers operating under the administrative umbrella of the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers) did a wonderful job of removing Pittosporum from many hectares of Stringybark Ridge during the summer months. This has opened up the bush and will allow the return of a more natural ground cover and under storey.

In October 98 Parks Victoria developed its Volunteer Manual which provides guidelines for staff who work with volunteers such as the A TCV, Campus Conservation Corps and, especially Friends Groups. It contains some good, positive ideas and encourages co-operative partnerships between Parks Victoria staff and volunteer groups. Then, in May, Parks Victoria launched their new Information, Interpretation and Education Policy which allows staff to once again conduct these activities and encourages Friends Groups to participate in them if they so wish.

Another 2000 good, healthy looking seedlings have been grown for us by Gippsland Employment Skills Training in their Moe nursery this year and the students came out and planted 500 of these near Billys Creek on the day they were delivered. This, when combined with our own stock, leaves about 3000 trees to plant this season. But do not fear, we have been offered the services of large numbers of students from CRC in Traralgon to help with tree planting so the job should get done without too much trouble.

The new green tree guards provide excellent protection against browsing animals and the heavy frosts we have been having recently. However they are very labour intensive to assemble and it takes longer to plant a given number of trees using them. The Jutemat weed mats also add to the planting time but I'm sure they will allow the trees to become established much earlier due to reduced competition from weeds.

Opening up of the track up from the side creek near the weir has allowed access to the direct seeding trial plots (other than by coming down through the farmland from Riedys Road). The intrepid volunteers who participated in the two expeditions needed to achieve this goal are to be highly commended. Anyway, I was eventually able to get up to the plots and count the seedlings resulting from last Spring's seeding exercise. The results were not as poor as was first thought because Bracken was hiding many of the small seedlings.

Seedlings counted on 26 - 06 - 99 were:

Blue Gum	17
Grey Gum	20
Varnish Wattle	20
Prickly Moses	20
Blackwood	26
Silver Wattle	20

I have not had a chance to analyse these results yet but, despite the small numbers, there may well be enough data to draw some broad conclusions about seed treatments and sowing techniques.

During the walk down the creek to remove Willows in March we found a plant which I was not familiar with. Ken thought it was probably Rough Coprosma which will be a new species for the Park if the identification can be confirmed when it flowers.

Lastly, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority still have the removal of Willows along Billys Creek on their books and are planning to start work in the Park in October this year.

Once again thanks to all those involved with all of the activities which have made this a varied and very successful year.

Rob Howell

RANGER

Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Activities Calendar 1999 / 2000

(Third Sunday of the Month, plus extras)

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Activity:</u>	<u>Venue and Times:</u>
August 16	Tree Planting	Junction Road; 10.00am
September 19	Tree Planting	Junction Road; 10.00am
October 17	Koala Survey	Fosters Gully; 1.30pm
November 21	Seed Sowing	Propagation Shed; 1.30pm
December 19	BBQ Lunch	Fosters Gully; 12.00pm noon

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

2000

January 2 +/- or 9	Potting of Seedlings	Propagation Shed; 10.00am
January 16	Seed Collection	Braniff's Rd; 10.00am
February 20	Tree Guard Removal	Braniff's Rd; 10.00am
March 11? (sat)	Yinnar Sth Fair	Martin Walker Res; 9.30am
March 19	Weir Walk, Willow Pulling	Braniff's Road; 10.00am
April 16	Track Maintenance	Braniff's Road; 10.00am
May 21	Billy's Creek Works	Junction Road; 10.00am
June 18	Tree Planting	Junction Road; 10.00am
July 16	Tree Planting	Junction Road; 10.00am
August 6	AGM	TBA; 1.30pm
August 16	Tree Planting	Junction Road; 10.00am
September 19	Tree Planting	Junction Road; 10.00am

- for all activities BYO; food and drinks, suitable clothing and footwear, and equipment required for the activity.
- Please check dates, locations and activities details in newsletter .