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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – November 1999

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Rangers Report - November 1999

On the 18th of October another crew of volunteer students from CRC in Traralgon came to work in the Billys Creek area of the National Park. They were put to work on the so-called "Verbena site" where they removed the last of the wire mesh tree guards and then planted a total of 130 Prickly Current Bush and Purple Apple Berry on and adjacent to the site.

A recent meeting with Phil Taylor of the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority confirmed that they would be able to start work on the removal of willows along Billys Creek in March or April 2000. They are able to help with revegetation only, by growing trees for us in their nursery (from our seed), so we may have to enlist the help of the CRC students again next year to help with the planting.

I have just spent three interesting days in the high country assisting with a vegetation survey being done in the areas of the Alpine National Park burnt during the Caledonia Fire of the summer before last. It was interesting but very tedious work, those Botanists really earn their money.

Rob Howell
Ranger

There is no such thing as bad
weather, just various forms of
good.

"If ants are such busy workers,
how come they find the time to
go to all the picnics?"

Marie Dressler

November 1999 Activity

This November we will be sowing seed and doing some maintenance work around the propagation shed. It has started to look a little weary, so with a few hands we will be able to tidy it up and get it ready for the coming year.

Please bring along some lunch, sun hat and gloves.

The activity is at the Propagation Shed and we will be meeting at 1.30pm.

Please contact Ed Steenbergen for more information, on 56648211

October 1999 Activity Report **Koala Survey**

A big thank you to all those who attended the 1999 Koala Survey, held on Sunday October 17th. Approximately 20 people were there on the day to help locate them, including two families, one of which had arrived at the Park to enjoy a lovely picnic. Between the groups, 8 koalas were counted. Two were in Fosters Gully, 2 mothers and their babies and two other adults were located along Stringy Bark Ridge, with none being found along the Jumbuk Road Track. It was a beautiful day for a relaxing and enjoyable day in the Park.

Member News - Reforesting Steep Slopes

Ed and Helerl Steenbergen have been accepted as part of a new initiative to speed up the reforestation of steep land areas in the Strzrezelcki Ranges. The program will involve weed eradication, soil preparation and direct seeding. The seed is all indigenous to the area, collected mostly from their property. Hopefully it will take out much of the hard work involved in returning a property to its' natural state and will be a wonderful natural environment in 10 years time.



Presidents Report

The Committee are busily thinking about the content of the soon to be produced motivational Park Brochure. A first draft has been developed and is under consideration. If you have any photos/contribution/artistic flair, it would be appreciated. Please contact me if you think you may be able to help.

Ed Steenbergen. Ph: 5664 8211

From the Editor

Thank you to those who have made contributions to newsletters. Please keep sending in articles, items of interest, personal reflections and other member news stories so that we can all benefit from each other.

We look forward to seeing you at the next activity.

Helen Steenbergen

