

PO Box 19
Churchill
3842

President:
5664-8211



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter – December 1999

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Morwell National Park Website

The Park now has its' own Website on the internet. I have taken the photographs used for the book and added many more, combining them with detailed distribution data which I have been accumulating over the last year. This has made a fairly detailed summary of the flora and fauna of the Park. You can select a particular walk, choose a segment of the walk and obtain a display of all the flowers blooming during this month. You can also search for any individual plant or animal to find out more about it. There is also a section to help anyone to identify a plant, by following an illustrated key (not completed yet).

There is a little history on the Park and links to the Parks Victoria Website.

I would also like to add a section on the Friends and perhaps even have the newsletter appear there each month.

The site can be found at:

<http://morwellnp.pangaean.net>

Ken Harris

Merry Christmas To You

To celebrate the festive season, the Friends group will be having their Christmas Gathering on Sunday 19th December at 12.00pm. We will be meeting at the BBQ's in the Fosters Gully carpark. Please bring along food and goodies for the BBQ and any additional chairs, and all family and friends are welcome.

This is a great opportunity to catch up with everyone before the holidays begin. Please contact Ed Steenbergen on 5664 8211 for more information. We may also be doing a little seed sowing and pricking if required.

Merry Christmas

Bats in the Park - Ken Harris

Some members will remember a night in December 1994 when Lindy Lumsden gave us a demonstration of bat-trapping in the Park. Many of us were up with her until 2.00am and were back at 7.00am for a final check and to help dismantle the nets.

Well Lindy is visiting the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club next February to talk about bats and will be giving another bat-trapping exhibition in the Park. This will take place on the evening of February 26th 2000. The Field Naturalists have invited us to join them in the Park for the evening. The time is to be announced close to the date. Lindy is full of information and enthusiasm for bats and members should find it a fascinating evening, which may also add to what we know about the fauna of the Park.

100 Parks Ambassadors Cont. - Lee Theissling

Last year I wrote a piece on how I was chosen to participate in a youth program run by Parks Victoria. Well recently I was called back with 30 of the original 100 to talk about how to get young people into the Parks. We visited a few Parks and were told how they run in conjunction with the local committees. After which we were asked to come up with some ideas on how to attract young people.

I was surprised to see that some of what we had said on our first visit last year had been implemented. I volunteered to information about how my school Catholic regional College and the Morwell National Park were involved in the tree planting program and how students felt that they would return to the Park.

At the end of the day we got a chance to question a panel of key people from Parks Victoria, including Mark Stone the head honcho of parks Vic.

I asked what Parks Victoria is planning to do about ranger numbers in the future. He replied that they would stay the same because they have just the right amount at the moment.



Thank you to everyone who has contributed articles to the Newsletter. It is wonderful to hear about what is happening in the Park and what our members are doing. Please send in stories of your holidays and plans for the year ahead.

Have a very happy and safe Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Helen Steenbergen

