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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter July 2001*

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.net>

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Welcome to the July edition of our Newsletter. Isn't the weather strange for this time of year? Sure, it's cold, but where are the miserable, wet, never-ending winters we used to have? A week or two of overcast, windy days with no substantial rain, followed by a week or two of fog followed by brilliant, sunny days and I'm beginning to think it's Spring. Surely the blossoms will be out soon! My garden is jumping out of the ground, with the wattles showing off their many shades of yellow and cream, all the heathy plants covered in red, pink and white, and the Banksias, Hakeas and Correas providing ample attractions to the honeyeaters. Lots of other plants are budding up for their Spring glory.

### Park News

We have some items of interest to report.

Firstly, the Foster's Gully Track has received some maintenance work, with the section beyond Lyndon's Clearing being upgraded and realigned around the old wooden steps, resulting in a much more pleasant gradient.

The new signposts for the Billy's Creek section of the park are almost ready for installation, while some nice solid timber seats have been constructed and placed in strategic positions on the various walking tracks. (From memory, six are in already at Big Bend, The Potato Paddock, on top of Blue Gum Ridge, the junction of Clematis and Lodge Tracks, at Side Creek junction and at ?, with two more to go in half way up Blue Gum Hill and half way up Clematis Track.)

Thank you to Ken Harris for acting as a guide to the Traralgon Historical Society on their visit to both sections of the Park some weeks ago. Ken has also been busy upgrading the Morwell NP website and has been invited to participate in a botanical survey of a local property known as Mayfields. Hopefully more news on this next month.

We have copies of the Friends of Coolart Newsletter and of Canopy (Parks Victoria) Newsletter available. If anybody wants a look, let us know.

Lastly, I note from the LV Express that the Ben Cruachan Walking Club will be visiting the Park on Wednesday, July 11 for walks in both sections of the Park.

## June Activity

Believe it or not, we were early on the morning of Sunday, June 17. But even so, we were not the first to arrive. Waiting in the carpark for us were Dorothy (great to see her back in action) and Cathy's folks, Ray and Reg. Soon to follow were Dennis and Jane, Wendy, Ken and Danny, with Rob arriving as well with all the gear. An excellent turnout for the first tree planting session of the year.

The weather was reasonably good to us, with drizzle patches interspersed with brilliant, warm sunshine. Our workplace for the day was the creek flat at Big Bend, our aim to plant out the flat, replace some of the plants washed away in the recent flooding and to begin work on the burnt piles of willow. To our amazement, the piles were still steaming away some five weeks after they were lit.

Rob had obviously spent a good deal of time preparing for our session, with all the necessary equipment (stakes, guards, plants and tools) ready and waiting, a bridge constructed across the creek to aid our access and a multitude of natural regrowth marked out with stakes so that we wouldn't crowd them out. We were soon into a good rhythm, working singly or in teams as the situation demanded. We were joined by Ed and daughter Ireland not long thereafter.

Good progress was made in the morning session, with most of the far side of the creek planted by lunch. Ed and Ireland left us for an afternoon nap, but we were then joined by Dionne and her young son, who were out for their Sunday stroll, saw us toiling away and decided to join in. Again, many hands made light work and we soon ran out of trees to plant.

Overall, we managed to plant 450 trees, a mixture of Blackwood and Silver Wattles (*Acacia melanoxylon* and *A. dealbata*), Manna and Swamp Gums (*Eucalyptus viminalis* and *E. ovata*), Native Hemp Bush (*Gynatrix pulchella*), Hazel Pomaderris (*Pomaderris aspera*), Musk Daisy Bush (*Olearia argophylla*) and Prickly Tea-tree (*Leptospermum juniperinum*).

Thank you to all who attended, a great days work (except maybe for Zack and his friend Jordan, who spent most of the afternoon excavating a wombat burrow in the middle of a pile of ash and had to be stripped and scrubbed before gaining entry to the car).

## July Activity

This month we will continue our tree planting along Billy's Creek. Hope to see you at Junction Road carpark at 10am on Sunday, July 15. Remember you will need to bring your lunch, footwear to cope with wet ground and clothing to cope with the weather. I will bring along the coat left in our car last month.

## Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held on Sunday, August 5, at 1.30pm. The venue will be the residence of Ken Harris, at RMB 4318, Haverbrack Crescent, Hazelwood South (Churchill). See map below. If you get lost, Ken's phone number is 5122 3137. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

