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Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter September 2001

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

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Park News

Welcome to a new member, Hilmar Batza of Churchill, who came along to the August tree planting. Without any pressure at all from the salespeople in the group, Hilmar signed on the dotted line and paid his membership fees, so he is one up on a number of current members, present newsletter editor not excluded! Apparently, Hilmar is a regular visitor to our Park and has an excellent knowledge of the walking tracks and facilities. We were so pleased with his application that we called an Extraordinary Committee Meeting on the spot, very informally, and accepted him as a member of the Friends Group.

(Quorum- Ken Harris, Wendy Steenbergen, Danny Barclay and Mike Beamish.
Moved- Wendy, Seconded- Mike, Motion accepted)

For those that are interested in the flora of the Park, there is currently a mass flowering display of Maroonhood Orchids, *Pterostylis pedunculata*, not far from the Tebb Terrace entrance to the Park. From the gate, proceed down the old vehicle track (the right-hand branch) until you are just inside the edge of the timber. Up on the left-hand bank of the track there are thousands of plants in one group, with other smaller groups to be found further down the hillside. In the same area you should find colonies of Nodding Greenhood, *Pterostylis nutans*, and individuals of Tall Greenhood, *Pterostylis longifolia*. The leaves of other orchids can be seen as well, with Sun Orchids, *Thelymitra sp.*, and Fairy Orchids, *Caladenia sp.*, flowering later in spring and the Helmet Orchids, *Corybas sp.*, mostly finished flowering.

Water, water everywhere! At last we've had a decent drenching with some good falls filling the creeks and drains. Following unseasonal warm weather in early August, winter hit the week before our tree planting session, with gales bowling over trees and power poles and snow falling on the Strzeleckis. About 50mm of rain fell the day before our gathering, with more heavy falls afterwards.

September Activity

Our next activity is scheduled for Sunday, September 16, 2001 at 10.00am. This time we will meet at the Junction Road carpark for our last tree planting session of the year. As we have only a small number of sites and a small quantity of trees left to plant, we will probably be finished early. We then plan to go for a stroll, so as well as your lunch and tree planting clobber, you will need comfortable walking attire. Suggestions for destinations will be discussed on the day.

Tree Planting Number 3 – 19/8/01

Some brave souls presented themselves at Junction Road carpark at the appointed time, while various other members were conspicuous by their absence, having sent messages of illness or unwillingness to leave a warm bed! The wind was very lazy, driving straight through outer clothing instead of going around, and whistling through the large gums along the creek. But at least it wasn't raining, yet.

We waited impatiently for awhile, chatting and huddling for warmth, until we realised that our beloved leader had probably not read the newsletter again and was waiting elsewhere. A search party was organised, our suspicions confirmed and a mass movement to Braniff's Road resulted. We were quickly instructed in the plans of the day and off we went to commence our labour. All the tree guards and stakes had been laid out for us, so we distributed the trees and commenced planting. As we squelched and splashed our way through the supposedly dry swamp (it was reconnoitred before the downpour of the day prior), a kookaburra happily caught a yabby and proceeded to dismember it on a nearby log.

Before we knew it, lunchtime had arrived. A comfortable chair, some tasty sandwiches, a hot cup of tea and pleasant conversation kept the chilly wind at bay. Or perhaps it was the windbreak afforded by the superb achievements of the tree planters of yesteryear. All too soon, it was back to the fray. But we had been so efficient before lunch, that within an hour we had exhausted our supply of sites to plant. Four hundred and fifty-five trees were in the ground (or mud, in the case of that swamp), a variety of Swamp and Manna Gums, Blackwood and Silver Wattle, Musk Daisy Bush and Prickly Tea-tree.

A quick discussion pointed to a desire for a spot of sightseeing, so we dashed (read puffed and panted) up the nearby But But Track to view the spectacular mass flowering of Orchids. An hour spent wandering through the woodland, discovering little gems hidden amongst the underbrush, was a fitting end to the day's efforts. My word I enjoyed that hot shower!

Subscriptions

It is that time of the year again, so here is the cut-off slip for payment of your outstanding membership fees. Please ignore it if you are already paid up, but please, please, please don't forget as you will be deleted from our list if we don't hear from you.

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

Please find enclosed the amount of \$_____ (\$10 per person, \$15 per family/group) being for membership 2001/2002.

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