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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter January, 2002*

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

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Happy New Year to everyone and welcome to our first newsletter for 2002.

### **Break-up 2001**

Our end of year BBQ was another success with a very good turn out. We had people from the Baw Baw, Mt Worth and Tarra-Bulga groups, as well as all our regulars. Again, the spit roast that was supplied was wonderful. All I heard were compliments to the chef for a very enjoyable meal.

Prior to the meal, our Friends group participated in our December activity. This involved piling into three four-wheel drives and heading for Reidy's Road. As we got to the top of the hill about to go through the farm gates, we had the privilege of having a close view of two eagles that were enjoying themselves by riding the up-drafts. They were great to see.

We followed Rob across the paddocks and down the other side of the hill, until we reached the slightly boggy, and very skinny 4WD track that meandered its way down to the base of the hill. I believe that there were some of us who didn't enjoy this kind of driving and elected to walk after this experience!

Once a particular Blue Gum had been found, the challenge was to then retrieve as many unopened seed capsules as possible. Some of the branches we were able to reach from the ground, others required the monkey antics of Nicole and Zack to reach them. When that avenue was exhausted, the ute was placed in a strategic spot and then someone climbed aboard and used the loppers. We also wandered around looking at other trees and did find some more seed, but I believe that the majority was found on one particular gum.

Before we had finished collecting seed, Hilma, Heather, Jane and Dennis elected to walk back to the Junction Road carpark. As Rob anticipated that it should take them about 45 minutes to do the walk, the rest of us had a cuppa after finishing the seed collection and then made our way back up the hill and headed for the BBQ at Kerry's Rd carpark. (I was very pleased to find that the climb up the skinny track was nowhere near as slippery or hair raising as I thought it might have been!!)

An enjoyable day was had by all and our thanks go out to those who participated.

## January Activities

Again this month we have scheduled some extra activities. Due to the time of year and the good strike rate that has occurred with the seeds planted last month, we now need some extra work done to make the most of our good luck.

So, on **Sunday** January 6<sup>th</sup> and **Saturday** January 12<sup>th</sup>, we will be meeting in the Kerry Rd carpark and then going up to the shed to prick out the plants. On Sunday January 20<sup>th</sup>, we will be having our normal scheduled activity. At this stage, this may involve weed removal and seed collecting and we will meet at the Braniff Rd carpark at 10am.

Please be aware that this may change depending on what Rob sees as the highest priority.

*P.S. Should you be a bit confused about the Saturday planting (you may have been expecting a Sunday) Rob has found out that he is unable to attend on the Sunday but can make it on the Saturday.*

## Correspondence

We have received a variety of communications to our Post Office Box. These include:

- Friends of Coolart Newsletters for the third and fourth quarters of 2001.
- Under Control- a magazine produced by DNRE, Agriculture Victoria and the Keith Turnbull Research Institute on Pest Plant and Animal Management.
- Parks Victoria Annual Report 2000-2001.
- An invitation from the Australian Conservation Foundation to take advantage of their online services for volunteer recruitment and advertising.
- Latrobe Community Service Centres newsletter for November 2001.