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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter April 2003*

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

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Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. After just arriving back from a fortnight living it up on Lord Howe Island, please forgive me if I am not quite up to speed on the happenings in this part of the world. Many thanks for the various contributions that make up the bulk of this newsletter.

As I was not present at our last activity, due to some more gallivanting around in the wilds of Buchan, Jane Sultana has kindly submitted her report on the occasion.....

### **Removal of Tree Guards**

by Jane Sultana

Denis and I were feeling a little apprehensive as we arrived at the Junction Road car park for the March activity. Having not been to working bees for several months we hoped that people would still remember us. We were greeted by Danny who made comment of our long absence but thankfully knew who we were. Ken, Wendy and Rob smiled cheerfully and addressed us by name. It seemed we were off to a good start but then our confidence faded when we noticed two unfamiliar faces. Neither Denis nor I had any recollection of who these two people were. "How embarrassing!" Our minds were put at ease when they introduced themselves and we realised that they were new members. Elizabeth moved into the area in December and lives in the hills overlooking the National Park. She works in business with her partner Andy as a Tree Doctor. Elizabeth is also a member of the Friends of Baw Baw National Park. Kai Ming is a lecturer in computers at Monash University. He works with Ken and is interested in plants and the environment.

Introductions over we commenced work for the day removing tree guards from the section of Billy's Creek near the Junction Road car park. The old plastic mesh guards were no good for re-using so we simply cut them off the trees then tossed them into the back of the ute for taking to the tip. The green triangular guards, if not too badly damaged, were reusable, so we stacked them neatly in the trailer. It was interesting to note that frogs seem to like making their homes in the green triangular guards. A total of five brown tree frogs were found sheltering inside them.

It wasn't long before the back of the ute was bulging full of old plastic mesh guards and there were still many more of these guards on the trees. At this point we decided to stop collecting the green, triangular guards and to concentrate on removing the old mesh ones, which we would throw into the trailer since there was no room left in the

ute. At 12:30 we stopped for lunch. Our two new members, having other commitments in the afternoon, departed company.

After lunch Wendy, Ken and Rob went off in the ute to collect last months weed piles while Danny, Denis and I continued with tree guard removal. By now the sun was getting very hot and the novelty of pulling guards off trees beginning to wane. When the others returned we continued for a little longer before giving in to exhaustion.

Our final job for the day was to collect some piles of old brown tree guards, the work of Wendy and Dorothy. The piles, which had been sitting there for a year or more, were overgrown with grass and weeds and were a challenge to locate. We eventually found all the piles and loaded them into the trailer, which by now was quite full. It was 3pm when we returned to the cars. Wendy and Danny offered to accompany Rob to the tip to empty the back of the ute and the trailer. The rest of us headed for home where an ice cold drink and a refreshingly cool shower awaited.

Oh, by the way, if any of the participants at the March activity noticed that I seem to be a little rounder than usual it's not because I ate too much over Christmas. Denis and I are delighted to announce that we are expecting our first child in August.

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Congratulations to Denis and Jane, we wait expectantly for our new member come August! Following is Danny Barclay's version of events.....

### **'Operation Tree Guard.'**

by Daniel Barclay

On the March activity it was a nice, pleasant day. Meeting at the Junction Road car park, eight people were keen to spend a day to remove tree guards, which came in three different varieties. Saying good morning there was Rob, Ken, Wendy, Jane and Dennis, and two newcomers, who we welcomed to the group and there was myself.

Starting from the car park we walked along the track and collected the green tree guards, in which some of the trees that we planted had perished. Giving the guards to Rob he neatly stacked them in his famous cage trailer. Also, we encountered the biodegradable net tree guards that strangled the trunks of trees like those medical neck braces when you have a crook neck. These things came in plague numbers like a weed. Following the track all the way to the wooden seat we exterminated tree guard after tree guard. Able to get away from predators, some hid quite well in thick grass around the trees.

Half time we all stopped for lunch at the wooden seat. After we had filled our stomachs and the (new) members had left, whom we thanked for helping, we continued our mission to control the horrible tree guards. At this time Rob, Ken and Wendy decided to go to the weir area and collect the weeds that were harvested from the past month's activity. Bravely, Jane and Dennis and myself stayed behind to tackle the pesky tree guards. Killing a large number of tree guards, I asked Dennis if he would like any for his birthday, which is in April, but he said no. Oh well, it's the thought that counts.

When Rob, Ken and Wendy had returned, the tree guards were thrown into the trailer along with the weeds. Pushing on further to the limit where these tree guards spread no more, Wendy introduced us to the beige cylinder tree guards, which Wendy and Dorothy rounded up during their own time. Getting rid of one pile we went to another pile where we were ambushed by more biodegradable net tree guards. After putting them out of their misery we took a rest.

During our afternoon breather the park's next-door neighbours, a father and son, visited us on their motorbikes. I thought it was cute to see a little boy riding on his motorbike following his old man. You don't see that picture very often. At the end of the day we decided to go back to the car park but along the way came across more cylinder tree guards that Wendy had forgotten about. Also we saw more net tree guards showing their faces and saying "you can't get rid of us". Biding our time we'll get them next time, as one battle does not win a war. The ones that were captured were taken to the Yinnar tip to be executed. Rob, Wendy and myself were happy to do that.

### **April Activity**

Due to Easter the April activity has been moved back a week to Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April. We will meet at 10am at the Junction Road car park. We are pencilled in for an exploratory walk, probably along the proposed route of the Coprosma Track, so bring along your walking gear, some lunch and refreshments, and hope the weather is kind to us.

### **Incoming Correspondence**

Thanks again to Jane for providing the following information.....

Latrobe City Community Groups News;  
Seminar on Communities in Control to be held in Melbourne 7-8<sup>th</sup> April 2003.

Latrobe City Community Groups Training and Networking Opportunities;  
Topics include promoting your group, working with the media, charitable trusts and government grants, insurance and risk management, sponsorship and fundraising.

### **MARSUPIALS**

By Daniel Barclay

Answer the questions to find the answers in the puzzle.

- 1) What is the name of the bandicoot with long ears?
- 2) What is the other name for the Burrowing Bettong?
- 3) Are Dunnarts herbivorous or carnivorous?
- 4) What is the name of the possum-like Marsupial that exists at Cape York?
- 5) What happens to a male Antechinus after mating?
- 6) What is the name of the place where the Bridled Nailtail Wallaby only exists?
- 7) How many species are there in the kangaroo and wallaby family?
- 8) How many species of Quoll are there in Australia?

- 9) What is the name of Western Australia's only surviving Potaroo?
- 10) What is the only possum with green fur?
- 11) What is the other name for the Musky Rat-Kangaroo?
- 12) What is the other name for the Rufous Hare-Wallaby?
- 13) What was Australia's largest carnivorous Marsupial?
- 14) What is the small marsupial that swims in the desert sand?
- 15) What is the only marsupial that feeds on termites?
- 16) What coin was the Feathertailed Glider pictured on?
- 17) What macropod rhymes with melon?
- 18) Find Phascogale.
- 19) What is the only state would you find the Northern Hairy-Nosed Wombat?
- 20) What is another name for Native Cat?
- 21) What is the macropod that climbs rocky outcrops?
- 22) What is the glider that sounds like a little dog barking?
- 23) How many species of wombat are there in Australia?
- 24) What was Tasmania's largest carnivorous marsupial?
- 25) What is the macropod that can walk backwards?
- 26) True or False: Is the Desert Rat-Kangaroo is extinct?
- 27) Leadbeater's Possum is the mammal emblem of which state?
- 28) What state would you find the Southern Dibbler? (Initialed)
- 29) What is the largest glider?

L E D Y E C N Q R M A L A S C  
 D I L E B N O J U W S B O U A  
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**ANSWERS:**

- 1)BILBY 2)BOODIE 3)CARNIVOROUS 4)CUSCUS 5)DIE 6)DINGO 7)FIFTY NINE
- 8)FOUR 9)GILBERTS 10)GREEN RINGTAIL 11)HYPHI 12)MALA 13)MARSUPIAL
- LION 14)MARSUPIAL MOLE 15)NUMBAT 16)ONE CENT PIECE 17)PADEMELON
- 18)PHASCOGALE 19)QUEENSLAND 20)QUOLL 21)ROCK WALLABY 22)SUGAR GLIDER
- 23)THREE 24)THYLACINE 25)TREE KANGAROO 26)TRUE 27)VICTORIA 28)WA
- 29) YELLOW BELLIED.