

FRIENDS of MORWELL NATIONAL PARK.
R.M.B. 1405,
Jumbuk via YINNAR 3869.
January, 1988.

Dear Friends,

Well a new year has arrived and with it the promise of big exciting changes to our little group. since May '86 we have existed in a very informal sense but with the decision to incorporate and the developments with the Billy's Creek Land acquisition, we as a group must also develop and formalize.

With the thought that there would be some members not arriving until the B.B.Q., the meeting was held late afternoon. There was much to report and discuss: Mrs. Kirner's visit, which I'll detail separately, and the formation of a fundraising committee under the auspices of the Victorian Conservation Trust. The Trust is a government body with the power to have donations over \$2 tax deductible. The initial task of forming the committee and raising a large sum of money or assistance of work to develop the Billy's Creek section of the Park, daunted many and I must admit to a few sleepless nights until a few of us had done our homework. After consulting many people and finding out just what was expected we soon discovered our group wasn't directly responsible but we were perhaps the best group to help set the project on the road. Concern was expressed with a request that the committee to be elected in the future, continue with this issue. With this in mind a motion was passed: "That a steering committee be formed to, formulate a draft constitution, formulate a draft fee structure and call a general meeting of interested persons." Duly elected to that committee were Ken Harris, Rob De Souza-Daw, Frank Carter, and Yvonne Aplin.

With 24 adults and 10 children in attendance In the course of the afternoon and evening the planned activities were quickly and enthusiastically carried out. With consideration of what 30 people can do to a very delicate and sensitive area, the orchid survey was left to Ken and a few keen helpers after a general inspection of the first plot. For many this was the first sight of the orchid flower, and what a beauty we had to show off - three spikes and lots of tiny delicate flowers. Some adults and children went with Ian up to Vaggs Track and proceeded to plant seedlings on a treeless ridge below the pines. Using new stocking type tree guards and fertilizer capsules the job was completed in no time, the views, sunshine and enthusiastic company made it very pleasant. The junior members were a tremendous help, it is great to have them along.

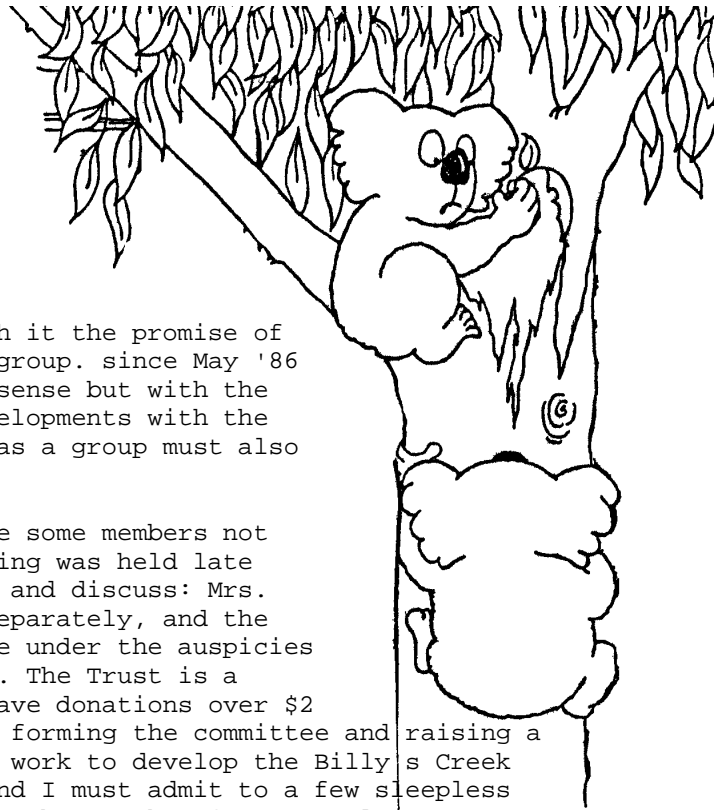
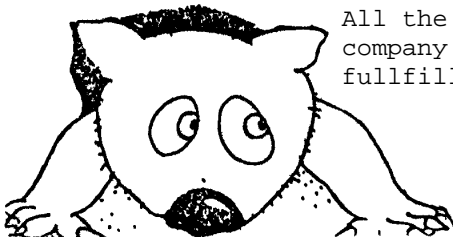
The social event of the year!, the B.B.Q: for those not there, was again a very pleasant evening, weather wise and judging by the chatter most of those attending enjoyed themselves.

I trust this newsletter finds everybody recovered from a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year and enjoying at least a little of the holiday spirit. For some of us we have to work, at least the pace in this household is a little slower than normal.

All the best for '88 and I'm looking forward to all your company and help, as we go into what could be a very busy fullfilling year.

Yvonne Aplin. Ph. 222597

Yvonne



Mrs. Kirner, Minister for Conversation, Forest & Lands visit.
December 2nd, 1987.

Mrs. Joan Kirner was a guest of the Yarram Region of the C.F.& L., to present prizes to 3 Gippsland Schools, winners of a Forestry Industries competition, and to announce the purchase of 'Walsh's land on Billy's creek to be included in the present Morwell National Park.

The C.F.&L. set up a large marquee on Batmans' land and that was half full of school children and the rest were representatives from C.F.&L., V.N.P.A., L.V. Forum, L.V. Field Nats., Morwell Shire, A.P.M., Friends plus Val Callister and Barry Murphy.

After a day of almost record rainfall and winds, the ground was very wet and chairs and feet sunk easily into mud and water. Luckily the rain mostly held off and the day was pleasant although some heavy showers gave us some concern until mid mornlng.

Jack Channon, Regional Manager Yarram C.F.&L., welcomed those assembled and introduced each speaker.

Stan Collins, of the Timber Industies spoke of their role in the forests and commented on the competition entries.

Hon. Joan Kirner, Minister C.F.&L., presented the prizes to the winning schools and announced the purchase of Walsh 's land on Billy's Creek and the start of a fund to purchase and development additional land.

Hon. Val Callister, replied to the ministers remarks and endorsed her support of the purchase.

Yvonne Aplin, on behalf of the Friends of Morwell National Park, offered a thankyou for the purchase and the support shown by so many.

The lunch prepared by the Friends Group members was much appreciated and many comments were passed. As is often the case there was far to much food but it was well made and beautifully presented. Gail and her helpers must be congratulated.

With the wet conditions the trip into Billy's Creek was cancelled and a tour for all interested was taken up Jumbuk Road and Tebb Terrace to look into the Valley. The Minister later took a quiet trip down to the creek with Ian and Jack.

I must thank all those that helped on the day from parking cars, arranging flowers, placing bark to help that sinking feeling, preparing, serving and cleaning up the lunch and all members for making the time and effort to come and lend support. Some took the day off work while others called in during lunchtimes; not easy with an event so far out of town.

The cat ering so impressed our shire president she invited us to provide the food for the Shire Presidents Cocktail Party. Gail and Margaret worked extremely hard and inlisted much help both from members and non members alike. There was hardly a cookbook in the district that hadn't been gone through. The night saw some ladies working hard with the able assistance of Dahlia, Rashida & Steven Aziz's who acted as waitresses and waiter. Again the efforts where well received from guests and staff alike, Gail and Margaret can be well pleased with all those hours of work. Thankyou to all those that helped, team work is the key to any success.
Yvonne Aplin.

NEXT MEETING

A general meeting of interested persons will be held at
SES HEADQUARTERS
Latrobe Valley Airport
Traralgon West.

on SUNDAY FEBRUARY 14th at 1.30pm.

AGENDA: to consider the adoption of a constitution and an annual
Subscription.
If a constitution is adopted, the election of a committee.

A copy of a draft constitution will be forwarded prior to the meeting.
Please consider your availability for a committee position prior to
this meeting.

!!!!!!! NOTE: NOT AT PARK. !!!!!!!!
Frank Carter.
Chairman,
Steering committee.

Any enquiries contact Gail 22 1478 or Yvonne 22 2597.

As a result of discussions at the December meeting, the present
informal decision making structure of the group cannot continue.
Therefore....

In an effort to maintain the present momentum of publicity and
support as it relates to Billy's creek I am keen to pursue the
formation of a temporary task force whose role will be to "set up"
the Billy's creek appeal committee. This action is to be taken only
as an emergency measure until the Friends group has formally
elected it's own committee which can as one of it's first acts call
for a formal election of people to the task force if necessary.

The task force is to operate independantly of the present steering
committee. Once the Appeal Committee is established the task force
can disband.

Only 2 members of the Friends group will be required to sit on the
appeal committee, all other members of the appeal committee will
be found by the task force from supporters of the project throughout
the community hopefully.

Approaches have been made to the following people who agree to sit
on the temporary task force to raise an appeal committee:-

Neil Grigg
Frank Carter
Margaret Loughborough
Dick Donchi
Gail Roche
Yvonne Aplin
Neil Beggs

L. R. Ral
Ranger
Morwell National Park

ORCHID SURVEY.

The orchid survey went back over the four plots we had set out previously, to see how well they were flowering.

We managed to locate all but four of the I2I plants we had noted before and we found an additional 43 plants, previously overlooked, bringing the total to 160 plants on the four plots.

Of these, 82 or just over half, were in flower. 75 plants had single flower spikes, 6 plants had two flower spikes, while the biggest plant had a magnificent 3 spikes with 37 flowers. Altogether 381 flowers were recorded, averaging just over 4 per flower spike.

It was interesting to see how synchronised the plants were. All 381 flowers we saw were open at the same time. There were no unopened buds and no flowers were over and starting to wither.

on the 3rd January, I went back to the plots, looking for any signs of seed being set, but with very disappointing results. Almost every flower had fallen from the spikes, leaving no sign of developing seed pods. Only 5 flower spikes out of 90 still had lingering flowers which might possibly be going to set seed. These will be checked again towards the end of January.

KEN HARRIS.

TREASURER'S REPORT (a real first)

Directly after the events of Mrs. Kirner's visit a meeting of those members present was called to discuss the events of the day and the establishment of a bank account. To this point in time we had avoided the need to handle any money but with the monies owed for catering and some impromptu donations made on the day, this was now unavoidable. A savings account has been opened with the State Bank, Victoria - 682 Morwell with 2 signatures required to withdraw from a nominated 4. These four are Gail Roche, Margaret Loughborough, Frank Carter & Yvonne Aplin. This is an interim measure and will stand until a formal constitution and committee are elected. All donations made for the development of the Billy's Creek section of the Park will be forwarded to the V.C.T. when all relevant paper work is completed and the fund formally established.

Receipts.

Billy's Ck. donations.	II.20
Catering	<u>780.00</u>
	<u>79I.20</u>

Payments.

Catering	280.00
Bank Bal. 6.I.88	<u>5II.20</u>
	<u>79I.20</u>

<u>Catering:</u>	C.F.L.	280.
	<u>Shire of Morwell</u>	<u>500.</u>
	Total Receipts.	780.
	less expenses	
	C.F.L.	70.
	<u>Shire</u>	<u>210.</u>
	<u>* PROFIT</u>	<u>500.</u>

* To achieve this amount there were many donations.