



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

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NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 1995

VALE OSSIE BREWSTER

Club member Ossie Brewster from Inverloch died on 21 September 1995. A funeral service was held at Inverloch on 25 September 1995.

The Brewsters lived in Yinnar South for many years and were instrumental in having the land declared a Park in 1967. In the 1930's Ossie (with two others) toiled for three months digging just off the present Fosters Gully Track in search for gold. After three months the gold mine was abandoned but the diggings remain.

Ossie was a keen naturalist and with his wife Eulie travelled the Australian countryside. He was particularly interested in native orchids. In recent years he was involved in conservation in South Gippsland.

The Friends extend sympathy to Eulie and the Brewster family.

KOALA SURVEY

The annual koala survey was conducted on 17 September 1995. The survey involved koala watchers looking and listening for koalas along three pre-determined routes in the Fosters Gully Section of Morwell National Park. A number of adults and children participated in the survey.

Koala sightings for the 1994 and 1995 surveys were:

	18/9/94	17/9/95
FOSTERS GULLY TRACK	3	3
STRINGYBARK TRACK	3	0
JUMBUCK ROAD WALK	(Not surveyed)	1
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TOTAL KOALAS	6	4

The Fosters Gully Track group reported two males and one sub-adult, all in eucalypts. The Stringybark Track group failed to sight a koala but heard a male calling. The koala located by the Jumbuck Road Walk group was probably a male and was found in a blue gum. There were no reports of koala cubs or signs of disease.

Although the Stringybark Track koala watchers failed to find a koala, the following fauna were sighted:

Black Rock Skink	<i>Egernia saxatilis intermedia</i>
Southern Water Skink	<i>Eulamprus tympanum</i>

Both these skinks were sun-bathing on the same fallen log. The two skinks were adults and appeared to be oblivious of each other.

Wood Scorpion	<i>Cercophonius squama</i>
Crinoline Spider	<i>Stiphidion facetum</i>
Wolf Spider	<i>Lycosa</i> sp.

Several scolopendrid and lithobiid centipedes were found under fallen logs. Larvae of the scarab and tenebrionid beetles were also found.

Scratchings along the Stringybark Track were indicative of wombats and echidnas.

A bee or wasp hive was seen near the Stringybark Track bridge. The hive was located in a gum tree hollow approximately eight metres from the ground. The insects were seen entering and leaving their hive.

PRISONERS' ASSISTANCE

Recently Ranger Rob Howell was assisted by a group of about ten prisoners from the Morwell River Prison for ten working days. During this period the prisoners:

Removed Sweet Pittosporum *Pittosporum undulatum* growing in several hectares along the Stringybark Ridge. The prisoners cut the trunk with chain-saws and then applied poison.

Burnt and removed rubbish from the western side of Billys. Creek (in an area at the end of Tebb Terrace).

Erected a stile adjacent to the entrance gate at the end of Braniffs Road.

Completed the Information Shelter in Billys Creek

The work performed by the prisoners is a positive contribution to the management of the Park. The prisoners will be undertaking more maintenance work in the future.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

There are still outstanding subscriptions. Unfinancial members please pay the amount due to the Treasurer.

Family	\$15.00
Individual	\$10.00

OCTOBER ACTIVITY 1230 pm 15 October 1995

Traditionally the Friends of the Morwell National Park visit another Park and Friends group as one of the monthly activities. This year our inter-Friends visit is to the Tarra Bulga National Park

Arrangements are:

Meet 1230 pm 15/10/95

Visitors Centre, Balook

Program Barbecue lunch on arrival with our hosts.

BYO MEAT. SALAD AND DRINKS

Followed by guided walk along a new walking track.

BYO GUM BOOTS.

ADDITIONAL OCTOBER ACTIVITY 130 pm 22 October 1995

Place	Propagation Centre
Purpose	Seedling propagation for Morwell National Park.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Friends Newsletter is being word processed by:

GIPPSLAND BUSINESS COLLEGE

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