



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

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NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 1995

OCTOBER ACTIVITY

On 15 October 1995 the Friends of the Morwell National Park visited the Tarra-Bulga National Park. Friends met at the Balook Information Centre and then enjoyed a barbecue before being led on a walk by Ranger Craig Campbell.

The guided walk was approximately five kilometres and was accomplished in 1½ hours. Initially the guided walk was along the Lyre-bird Ridge Track for a kilometre and then along a partly constructed walking track. This track winds its way through the temperate rainforest and eventually meets the Yarram-Balook Road. The land (on which this walking track) is located links the Tarra and Bulga sections of the Park and was acquired by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in a land exchange with Australian Paper .

SEED PLANTING

Several Friends attended the additional 22 October 1995 activity to sow acacia and eucalyptus seeds in trays at the Propagation Centre. The majority of the seeds were collected in the Billys Creek section in January 1995. The seeds were sown for tree planting (by the Friends) in the Billys Creek section in 1996.

The seeds planted were:-

<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	Silver Wattle	1 tray
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood	1 tray
<i>Acacia vemiciflua</i>	Vamish Wattle	1 tray
<i>Acacia verticiflua</i>	Prickly Moses	1 tray
<i>Eucalyptus globulus bicostata</i>	Blue Gum	2 trays
<i>Eucalyptus oblique</i>	Messmate	1 tray
<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>	Swamp Gum	1 tray
<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>	Manna Gum	2 trays

On 29 October 1995 President Ken Harris planted an additional tray.

<i>Olearia lirata</i>	Snowy Daisy-Bush	1 tray
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Several thousands seeds were planted. It is anticipated this will result in around 2000 seedlings for planting in the Billys Creek section. The seedlings will be watered using the automatic watering system in the Propagation Centre. An additional Friends activity is likely to be scheduled in December 1995 for the pricking-out and potting of the seedlings.

FOOTBRIDGES OVER BILLYS CREEK

Recently Ranger Rob Howell has been designing footbridges to facilitate walking access in the Billys Creek section of the Park. Three footbridges will be constructed using treated pine and hardwood logs. The cost of the project will be met from the Morwell National Park Appeal funds and will exhaust all funds from this accoum. Labour for the project is likely to be provided by the Morwell River Prison. Construction of the footbridges will commence in the near future and it is anticipated the project will be completed by the end of this summer.

INVERTEBRATES (OTHER THAN SPIDERS) IN MORWELL NATIONAL PARK

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* Robert de Souza-Daw

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources issued a permit to conduct a spider survey in Morwell National park. The permit was valid for the year 1 July 1994 to 30 June 1995. While searching for Spiders during the day and at night, I found other invertebrates which were incidental to my survey. The Following is an account of those invertebrates which were found and identified.

ARACHNIDA

ACARINA

One very unusual and interesting native mite was found under eucalyptus bark. This mite was bright red and hairy. This mite was in the super-family *TROMBIDIODEA*.

OPILIONIDA

Several indigenous harvestmen were found under logs where the ground was moist. One species was *Paranuncia ingens* and another *Callihamus badius* both in *TRIAENONYCHIDAE*. One night I found a long-legged native harvestman *Spinicrus sp.* In *MEGALOPSALIDIDAE* on the bridge over the Fosters Gully creek.

PSEUDOSCORPIONIDA

On different occasions pseudoscorpions were discovered under bark of living eucalyptus. These arachnids were found singularly and on other occasions in small groups. On 22 February 1995 while in the Park at night I found a large click beetle at the base of a mature eucalypt. Attached to its legs were five pseudoscorpions. They were clinging to the beetle to be transported from one location to another. This relationship is known as phoresy. The pseudo scorpions found during the survey were in the genus *Austrochernes* and the widely distributed genus *Conicochernes*. Both genera are in the large (and widely distributed) family *CHERNETIDAE*.

SCORPIONIDA

The Wood Scorpion *Cercophonius squama* in *BOTHRITHIDAE* is common in Morwell National Park. These small dark mottled scorpions were often found under eucalyptus bark and occasionally under logs. Sometimes several including sub-adults were found taking refuge under the bark of the same eucalypt.

CHILOPODA

LITHOBIIDA

Lithobiid centipedes were frequently found under logs where the soil was moist. These centipedes are glossy orange and possess 15 pairs of legs and 15 tergites. Several European centipedes have been introduced in Australia and I am uncertain whether those found were indigenous or introduced.

SCOLOPENDRIDA

Scolopendrid centipedes are common in the Park and were often found under bark and logs. These centipedes possess 21 or, more frequently 23 pairs of legs and a similar number of tergites. One scolopendrid centipede identified was *Cormocephalus aurantipes*.

SCUTIGERIDA

These chilopods are known as House Centipedes and are easily recognised by their long fragile legs and long antennae. These centipedes have eight tergites and fifteen pairs of legs and were usually found under logs in drier areas of the Park. The species identified was *Allothereua*, probably the species *maculata* in *SCUTIGERIDAE*.

GASTROPODA

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SIGMURETHA

The indigenous snail *Helicarion niger* in *HELICARIONIDAE* frequents the Park. This species has three whorls and its shell is a glossy orange-yellow. The snail was commonly found in moist conditions under logs and sometimes amongst moist leaf litter. On one occasion while in the Foster Gully section, many were sighted within a few square metres.

The introduced ubiquitous snail *Helix aspersa* in *HELICIDAE* was found in the Billys Creek section. This a large snail with a four-to-five whorl globose shell. Another introduced snail found in the Billys Creek section was *Oxychilus alliarius* in *ZONITIDAE*. This species is small and has a flattish four-to-five whorled shell. On several occasions the indigenous slug *Cystopelta purpurea* in *CYSTOPELTIDAE* was located in huddles of three or four under eucalyptus bark or inside rolled-up bark banging from eucalyptus trees.

In Billys Creek section two introduced slugs were found. One was the Leopard Slug *Limax maximus*, a large slug with longitudinal bands on its body and a mottled mantle. The second was *Lehmanna nyctelia* which usually has two lateral dark stripes on its body and mantle. Both these snails are in *LIMACIDAE* and possess a small internal shell.

INSECTA

BLATTODEA

The indigenous cockroach *Laxta granicollis* in *BLABERIDAE* (*EPILAMPRINAE*) found under eucalyptus bark. This cockroach is black and has a very flat body .I have seen these cockroaches referred to as Rock Cockroaches but have always found them under bark.

COLEOPTERA

A large Click Beetle *Pseudotetralobus australasiae* in *ELATERIDAE* was found at the base of a manna gum at night. It was this beetle which was commuting the five pseudoscorpions. Several Soldier Beetles *Chauliognathus nobiletatus* in *CANTHARIDAE* were discovered. These beetles have soft elytra and are carnivorous. Leaf Beetles *Chrysophtharta decolorata* in *CHRYSOMELIDAE* were found at night eating juvenile blue gum leaves. These are short rounded beetles and enjoy the regrowth blue gums planted by the Friends.

A Longicorn beetle in *CERAMBYCIDAE* with its conspicuous long antennae was seen resting on a eucalypt. An indigenous weevil with a hard knobly body was discovered. This specimen was *Porpterus conifer* in *CURCULIONIDAE* (*CRYPTORHYCHINAE*).

While looking under logs, large curl grubs were often sighted. These were scarab larvae of the large beetle family *SCARABAEIDAE*. Other beetle grubs found under logs were glossy orange and cylindrical in shape. These were tenebrionid larvae of another large beetle family, the *TENEBRIONIDAE*.

DIPTERA

On a hot summers day several pest indigenous blood-sucking March Flies were active. These large March Flies were *Scaptia sp.* in *TABANIDAE*.

HYMENOPTERA

In drier parts of the Park, bullants of the large genus *Myrmecia* in *FORMICIDAE* (*MYRMECIINAE*) are prevalent. These are social insects and build underground nests.

The introduced vespine wasp, the European Wasp *Vespula germanica* in *VESPIDAE (VESPINAE)* was found on several occasions sheltering under bark and logs. These are social wasps and construct an irregular shaped paper nest. The European Wasps sighted were probably all workers.

LEPIDOPTERA

Spent moth cocoons were found under eucalyptus bark and on the underside of fallen logs. The cocoons were covered with stiff bristles which cause irritation to the skin and eyes. The moths are *Anthela sp.* in *ANTHELIDAE*.

TURBELLARIA

TRICLADIDA

Flatworms were occasionally sighted under logs where the ground was moist. These invertebrates have a flat elongated body covered in mucus which assists movement. The species identified was the black and yellow longitudinal striped *Artioposthia fletcheri* in *GEOPLANIDAE*.

The above invertebrates were incidental to my main object of finding and collecting spiders. Many other invertebrates were discovered but were not collected or identified.

No doubt many more invertebrates inhabit Morwell National Park. These species will be left to others to find and identify. Hopefully the above account extends the knowledge of the invertebrate fauna in the Park.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Unfinancial members please pay outstanding subscriptions to the Treasurer.

Family	\$ 15.00
Individual	\$ 10.00

NOVEMBER ACTIVITY

1:30pm, 19 November 1995
End of Braniffs Road, Billys Creek section
Willow control along Billys Creek.
