



# FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK INC.

PO Box 19  
Churchill  
3842

Ranger 03 51221478  
Secretary 03 51221046

## JUNE NEWSLETTER 1997

### MAY ACTIVITY REPORT

On the 18'th of May our first tree planting session for 1997 was held, 430 trees were planted. All trees were planted alongside Billy Creek about 500 metres from Junction road. Ten adults and two kids turned up and within two and a half hours we had all trees planted. This is made possible by using the Hamilton tree planters which takes out all of the hard work done previously by using shovels to dig holes for the trees. Somehow or another it managed to nearly rain on us all of the time, well just a light misty rain. Which was a welcome change but some of us decided we wouldn't get too wet and it wont worry us too much if we didn't wear a coat, well we were wrong and were looking forward to having a hot shower when we got home.  
( This could have had something to do with the short time it took to plant the trees. )

The trees planted are as follows:

E. obliqua	Messmate gum	60
E. viminalis	Manna gum	40
E. ovata	Swamp gum	85
E. globulus	Blue gum	60
A. dealbata	Silver wattle	60
A. melanoxylon	Blackwood	75
O. argophylla	Musk daisy bush	50
Total		430

The next week Wendy went in and watered the trees we planted, as it is very dry still in the area. A lot of the Musk daisy bush were showing signs of drying out. On the 25 May a group of us re-organised and weeded the seedlings in the propagation shed. We also moved the best of them to the hardening off area so that they will be ready for planting out next activity (15 June ).

The plants moved to the hardening off area are listed below.

E. Ovata	Swamp gum	2 trays
E. Viminalis	Manna gum	3 trays
E. Bridgesiana	But But gum	1 tray
E. Globulus	Blue gum	1 tray and 36 pots
E. Obilca	Messmate gum	1 tray
A. Dealbata	Silver wattle	2 trays
A. Verniciflua	Varnish wattle	1 tray
A. Melanoxylan	Blackwood	2 trays
A. Verticillata	Prickly moses	34 pots
Oleria Argophylla	Musk daisy bush	2 trays

These plants were already in the hardening off area.

E. Viminalis	Manna gum	15 pots
A. Verniciflua	Varnish wattle	3 trays

As there are 40 pots per tray this gives us 805 seedlings in the hardening off area. After reorganising the remaining seedlings in the propagation shed someone decided to make sure the sprinkler system would water all of the plants while most of us were still in the shed. We thanked John for testing this out and went outside to dry out and have a cuppa, Wendy convinced us to water the plants we had planted out the week before. Some of these really needed some water as the ground was so dry. After shuttling back and forth to the creek relaying the empty containers for full ones we had all of the plants watered in about half an hour.

### IF YOU GO WALKING ALONG BILLY CREEK

If you go to the park from Braniffs Road and you have a spare minute, could you have a look in at the trees planted on the left hand side of the track which were planted the last two seasons. Some of them need to be stood up again and their stakes knocked back in the ground. Don't feel compelled to spend hours to do all of them, just a few at a time would help.

### LIAR LIAR

Well maybe a Lyre Bird or two. Last Tuesday (27 May) as I was riding my bike up Jumbuck road I saw two Lyre birds on the side of the road next to the Park. The first one was above the Weir at Billy Creek, all I saw of it was its long tail disappearing down the side of the road. As I was head down and tail up at the time I didn't get to have a good look at it but I was able to get within twenty feet of it, before it dashed off.

It must have considered me not much of a threat as I was puffing and weazing my way up the road in first gear to have let me get so close to it.

The second one was on the other side further up the road near the top of the park. These were my first I had seen in Morwell National Park and it was good to see them, especially in the middle of the day.

## JUNE ACTIVITIES

15 June 10 am Junction Road next to Billy Creek Tree planting session.

BYO lunch, gloves, coat, hat, boots and extra helpers.

We will be planting next to where we planted last time only this time the ground will be a lot softer and wetter.

### EXTRA ACTIVITY

29 June 10 am Reidys Road ( off Jeeralang West Road, which is off Junction Road just before Braniffs Road ) see map attached.

This will be our first session to be done with re-vegetating the upper steep slopes of the west side of Billy Creek Valley, using our grant money to erect fences and trial which method of re-vegetation will work best and easiest.

I have been told it is quite good mountain goat country and it is considered an advantage to have your own mule when venturing in the area !

I hope this hasn't scared everyone off from helping as many hands will make for easy work.

We will be meeting at Ed Steenbergen's place where most of the materials have been stored and will proceed from there.

## INFORMATION BOARD

The information board has now been up-dated and the new format is it will be showing what to look for, what is flowering etc. for that season, i.e. winter.

## THE NEWSLETTER

If you have any comments to make or contributions to the newsletter please send them to Martin Gwynne , 1 Townsend St Churchill 3842 ; or phone 03 51223364