

PO Box 19
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3842



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

President:
5664-8211

Newsletter – JUNE 2000

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JUNE ACTIVITY

This month we will be tree planting to make the most of the winter rains. We will be meeting at Junction Road carpark at 10.00am. Please bring along gloves, hammers and any other useful gardening equipment. Also remember something to eat and drink and you will need to keep your energy up in this cold weather.

Please call Ed on 5664 8211 for more information.

Activity Day, 21st May - Wendy

We had a good turn up for our activity day. We all managed to pile into the two vehicles and headed for side creek, near the weir to continue with some track maintenance. Some of us started clearing the overgrown sides of the track while others helped repair and widen the narrow sections.

We had a pleasant lunch break at the weir and again spotted our resident koala.

After lunch we inspected the willow clearing that had been finished in April 2000 by West Gippsland Catchment Authority and followed up by removing any small willows that had been missed. Most of us enjoyed a bit of a paddle in the creek. The area looks great now and our previous planting's will soon cover any open areas.

Thanks to all those who came to enjoy the day and we hope to see you at the next activity as we begin our tree planting for 2000.

Newsletters

We have received newsletters from Tarra Bulga Friends and Coolart Friends.

If you would like to read these newsletters in full, you can call me (Helen) on 5664 8211 and I will be able to send you a copy or loan you the ones that we have.

TREE PLANTING STRIKES AGAIN

Danny Barclay

Hey, everyone of the Friends Team. It is that time of year again to get your hands dirty.

As the winters cold snap had arrived early with a surprise, I hope it has not put anyone off coming to the first part of the series of tree plantings. The young trees are luring their leaves at us to come and plant them like a death adder wiggling its' tail to coax a gecko.

There will be a range of tasks to do. There will be a ranger mobile and a trailer full of trees waiting to be planted. There will be lots of lovely guards to be assembled, stakes to hammer, jute mats and a variety of tools to choose from to dig with.

Rob will remember to bring along our lovely green chairs for the royalty to sit on too.

If you can't get hold of Ed for details you can call me (Danny) on 5169 1765 or you can coo-wee loudly in the Park as a last option.

Nature is a good economist: note the blades of grass which make use of cracks in your concrete path.

P.K.Shaw

Ellen Lyndon OAM

Naturalist, Historian, Conservationist 19.12.1906 - 15.04.2000

The following is a shortened version of the eulogy which was given by Eulalie Brewster at her funeral.

Ellen Agnes O'Connor was born on Prospect Hill at Seaspray where her father was the manager. When she was 6 her father bought a farm at The Heart by the Latrobe River. There she grew up with 4 younger brothers and 2 sisters. As the eldest child, Ellen regularly helped her father with the hand milking and farm chores and was also competent with indoor chores with the children. Ellen was able to explore the surrounding countryside and enjoy birds and other native animals as well as the masses of wildflowers which grew in the area.

Ellen worked in the Post Office before moving to Melbourne. She also attended telegraphy classes at nights. She also worked as a salesgirl, waitress, in a jam factory and looked after children during the depression of the thirties. Her experience was gained by applying for jobs and endeavouring to use the different types of machines before she was sacked. Through her outside interests at Albert Park Ladies Rowing Club she met and married Don Lyndon in 1936.

Ellen and Don found a small farm after army life. They also share farmed on two other properties before they made a successful application for a Soldier settlement farm near Leongatha. Her spare time her was spent exploring the bush and roads increasing her knowledge of native plants and encouraging others to do likewise.

From the time she heard and saw the many native plants, particularly the Butterfly Orchid, she was keen to see the area reserved to protect these plants. Over many years she wrote submissions and letters and enlisted help from people who might be able to have the gully area reserved. In 1965 Morwell Shire used a Government grant for half the purchase price of the land and National Parks Authority supplied the remainder price. Lyndon clearing in the Park was named in appreciation of all she had done towards the declaration of Morwell National Park.

After retirement from farm life, more time was given to interests in natural history. In 1976 the South Gippsland Conservation Society was formed with Ellen a foundation member. Her interests in local history led her to write the "History of Mossvale Park". Many of her contributions to various newsletters were used to compile "Door to the Forest", and it was she who wrote the history of the first 25 years of the Latrobe Valley Naturalists Club.

In 1988 Ellen was awarded the Order of Australia for her voluntary work.

From her childhood on the family farm between the waters of Lake Wellington and the Latrobe River, Ellen always had a keen interest in the natural world around her, an alert and inquiring mind to learn, and a skill with words to share her discoveries with others. All whose lives have been touched by hers are richer for that contact.

Eulalie Brewster

Road Signage

Exit signs will be installed on the Princes Freeway prior to the C456 exit. A sign will also be provided on Monash Way near the eastbound off ramp.

**Please send articles
for the newsletter to
Helen Steenbergen,
PO Box 19, Churchill
3842**

Don't forget the **Annual
General Meeting** on the 6th
August. Venue and time to be
advised. Put it in your calendar
now.