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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter March 2001*

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaeian.net>

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Welcome to the March edition of our newsletter. Lets hope that the onset of autumn brings us some overdue rain. I only wish that some of rain falling in northern New South Wales would head our way and relieve us of the level four water restrictions that have been placed on Boolarra.

### **MARCH ACTIVITY**

This month (Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>) we are again meeting at Braniffs Rd at 10am, to continue pulling out the persistent new growth of willows that are found along the creek bed. Everyone is welcome to join us. Don't forget your lunch and your gumboots.

Last month we had a successful day pulling out/or poisoning the new willows. As it turned into quite a warm day, we were grateful to be walking in the creek and at times in the shade. I think we were also lucky not to come across any snakes. The only wild life that was found while we were there was a medium size crayfish. It didn't appreciate being picked up by Michael to be inspected before he let it go.

### **TRIVIA RESULTS**

Below are the answers to last month's trivia questions. How well did you do?

1. 59 species
2. True – Tree Kangaroos, Black Forest Wallaby & Papuan Forest Wallaby
3. Red Kangaroo
4. Musky Rat Kangaroo
5. Burrowing Bettong
6. Barrow Island, Boodie Island, Dorre' Island and Bernier Island – Western Australia. It is making a comeback to the mainland by a special reintroduction program at Heirisson Prong, WA.
7. Mala.
8. 3 Species. Long footed Potoroo, Long nosed Potoroo & Gilbert's Potoroo. Native to Western Australia, the Gilbert's Potoroo was thought to be extinct since the 1930's but it was rediscovered recently at two Peoples Bay.

9. Tree Kangaroo
10. Rock Wallabies
11. Bridled Nailtail Wallaby
12. Tasmanian Pademelon, Red-legged Pademelon & Red-necked Pademelon
13. Quokka
14. They use their tails to carry nest material to nest sites.

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Below is a reprint of an article that was in The Age, Saturday 4 December, 1999. The article was given to me by Martin Gwynne at our Christmas BBQ. You may find it of some interest.

AUSTRALIAN *word*

*By Susan Butler*

**Eucalypt**

*He fled 50 yards into the open. Ending under a smooth and tolerant eucalypt and jumping to snatch down some of the leaves from its high branches, he crushed them in his hands and sniffed up their clean astringency. They stung his brain, and he dropped the ones he held and jumped for more.*

***Thomas Keneally, Bring Larks and Heroes, 1967***

THE EUCALYPT, described by early European settlers as a drab and unlovely tree, but seen by us now as a national emblem of Australia's natural beauty, has a name conferred on it by a French botanist.

Charles Louis L'Heritier was a botanist friend of Joseph Banks, who visited London and published a book in 1788, in which he described examples of the eucalypt gathered from Adventure Bay in Tasmania by Cook on his third Voyage. The particular tree that L'Heritier had in his hands was the *Eucalyptus obliqua*, now known as the "messmate". He noticed that peculiar shape of the buds that formed in a cup-shaped swelling with what seemed like a lid or cap snugly fitted. The buds were well-covered he thought, so he reached, as botanists did in those days, into his knowledge of Greek and pulled out the words *eu* meaning well and *calyptos* meaning "covered". So next time you see the well-covered buds of the eucalypt you can think of the history that lies in its name.

*Susan Butler is the publisher of the Macquarie Dictionary.*