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# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

## *Newsletter July 2002*

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

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Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. Our apologies for your not receiving your June newsletter until after the June activity. Although it was ready and waiting to go, apparently Rob had extra work on and wasn't in the office to organise his mailings.

### News and Views

Should you like to have a look at old newsletters, Ken Harris has now put the newsletters for 2002 on the website. He plans to put all the old newsletters there for people to access, as soon as I get organised enough to send them to him.

Thank you to Rob De Souza-Daw for the donation of nesting boxes. They will be installed along Billy Creek on the willow removal sites, where they will be of most benefit to any creatures disturbed by our work in that area.

Correspondence includes:

- Friends of Coolart newsletter 2/02. Let me know if you want a read.
- A letter and questionnaire from Michael McGoldrick, the Parks Victoria GIS Operator, to Ken Harris, asking for information on records kept by the Friends Group or interested individuals that may be available for inclusion in DNRE or Parks Victoria databases. As Ken looks after his Butterfly Orchid surveys and Flora and Fauna records, he has made a suitable reply.

In the Latrobe Valley Express on Thursday, June 20, I noticed two items of interest. The first was an article on the announcement of successful grant applications, including a grant of \$5970 to the Friends of Morwell NP for work on the improvement of visitor facilities at the Kerry Road picnic area. Ken has received official notification from the Minister for Conservation and Environment. The second item was a letter to the editor from Jane Sultana, expressing her concerns over a proposal for a woodwaste-fired power station in the Latrobe Valley. Good on you, Jane.

While on the subject of grants, as mentioned in the June newsletter, we are applying to have the old pine plantation on Jumbuk road removed, with the assistance of the Latrobe City Environment Unit and Grand Ridge Plantations Pty Ltd. Should the proposal be accepted and undertaken, the Friends Group would then be involved with revegetation of the site. To this end we have also applied for a grant from Envirofund, through the National Heritage Trust, to assist with the costs of tree guards, stakes, weed control and the growing of the trees at the GEST nursery in Moe. Our initial plan of applying for monies for a bridge over Billy Creek was not to be, because capital works were excluded from the types of grants we could apply for.

On a personal note, I have just been talked into the role of secretary for the APS LV group. So in future I will be writing the newsletter for the Friends Group and then posting it to myself for the APS group!

# **Tree Planting Number 1**

**By Cathy Beamish**

We had a good turn out for our first tree planting of the year. There were nine adults and 4 children present. Aside from the regulars, there were also two people from the Tarra/Bulga Friends group – Craig the Ranger and Peter, one of the volunteers. The weather was perfect. The morning fog disappeared and left us with blue skies and a bit of cloud. The three layers of clothes that I had on were not required for very long.

We started out planting trees in the grassy area behind the carpark on Junction Road. From there we walked behind Rob as he drove the 4WD about 200m through the gate to the next planting area. This turned out to be a grassy verge along the track. We then moved further into the park and ended up in long, extremely wet grass that had been used as an access road between two original plantations. We started out systematically placing guards, stakes and trees and those of us that had enough muscle (which translates to not me!) scraped away grass and weed to make room for the Hamilton planter to be used to make the hole for the plant. I had a preference to either walk around placing guards or to plant the trees. The challenging part of planting was when I came to a puddle of water and had trouble finding the hole that had been dug. If it weren't for the clod of dirt beside the puddle, I wouldn't have believed that there was a hole there!

We were progressing nicely with some of us looking forward to having lunch, when we discovered that Ken and Rob were laying MORE guards behind and to the side of where we had already been! Feeling a little frustrated at having to backtrack, again, we all pitched in and soon had the work done. One p.m. saw us walking back to the carpark for much needed sustenance.

Ken and Peter left before lunch and the remainder of us enjoyed the break. After lunch we watched while Craig took a chainsaw to a gum tree that was growing in an arc shape over the beginning of the track. The base of the tree was growing right beside the drain and it had the potential to rot at the base and fall and injure someone. So...out came the chainsaw (which I personally thought a little small for the job) but Craig knew what he was doing and down it came. Amazingly, it missed all of the signposts and only landed on the fence. Rob and Craig fixed the small amount of damage it did at the end of the day. Once the track had been cleared, everyone except Craig (who stayed behind to cut up the tree) piled into the vehicles and headed up to the first ford.. On this corner we use the remaining tree guards and managed to talk Rob out of going to fetch some more!

While we were there Nicole let out a loud cry "MUM, I found a platypus!" By the time Jane, Dennis and myself had dropped tools to get to her, the platypus had gone under the embankment, but Jane did manage to see the trout that was also there.

At 2.45pm we called it a day. We stood around for a while nattering and then piled back into the vehicles to head back to the carpark. I had Craig drive my 4WD as I preferred to travel with someone who had some experience in sliding along slightly muddy tracks (and it wasn't me!). The 4WD had gone a little sideways up the last small incline before we had stopped. I wasn't about to go down it sideways and end up somewhere I shouldn't! Call me a wuss if you like, I don't mind!

For our efforts we managed to plant 348 trees. These included Manna Gum, Swamp Gum, Blackwood, Silver Wattle and Hazel Pomaderris. An excellent effort for what amounted to about 3📁 hours of solid work.

## **July Activity**

Our second tree planting expedition will start at the Junction Rd carpark at 10am on Sunday July 21. Note that this is a change from the information on the calendar, which nominated Braniff's Road as our starting point. Remember to bring along your gumboots and lunch.