



Mornington Peninsula Branch

Autumn Newsletter 2009



The Briars Homestead February 2009

It is with a sombre mood we approach the end of summer 2009 where, sadly, flags fly at half mast across our scorched landscape. The panorama of lush and green carpeted hills around the Peninsula is hard to recall as we have been surrounded by parched scenery for what seems like such a long period. However, optimistically we now approach autumn with the promise of rain, and hopefully Mother Nature will redirect her energies to revitalise our surrounds and those areas so badly damaged by fire.

The Branch's environmental project, *Endeavour Fern Gully*, is steadily taking shape with the Branch being instrumental in recently securing funding for replacement of the boardwalk through the gully and excavation of an access path which will ultimately allow visitors the opportunity to experience first hand, the visually beautiful and tranquil sense of place, contained within the Gully.

The Gully, owned by the National Trust of Australia (Vic) is a remnant of indigenous bushland, rare on the Peninsula, and an invaluable bio link with other Peninsula bushland areas. Currently, the Trust is seeking approval to remove pine trees which have seeded and grown over the years on a leased area of the property and the branch intends to revegetate this area with indigenous plants using seed collected from the site.

Three of the branch committee members, together with thirteen other volunteers, have committed to the Tree Project with each volunteer growing three hundred and thirty tube seedlings, providing around five thousand plants for the revegetation program, to commence later this year.

BRANCH ACTIVITIES

AUTUMN

On Saturday the 18th APRIL, to coincide with World Heritage Day, The Branch is holding an Endeavour Fern Gully Information Day for members and friends. Meeting at 11.30am at the Church of Christ hall, Arthurs Seat Road, Red Hill. Parking in the church grounds.



Meet the family, one month old!
Eucalyptus obliqua (messmate) next to \$2 coin.

WINTER

Fireside Luncheon with glass of wine.
Friday 5th June at The Briars Homestead, Mt Martha. Dr Robert Barnes will share his in-depth knowledge and long interest in early Australian history by revealing *What really did happen at Sydney Cove on the 26th January 1788*, as well as a sneak preview into his shortly to be published book *An Unlikely Leader*, which explores the life and times of Captain John Hunter. Bookings required. \$15 per head.

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