

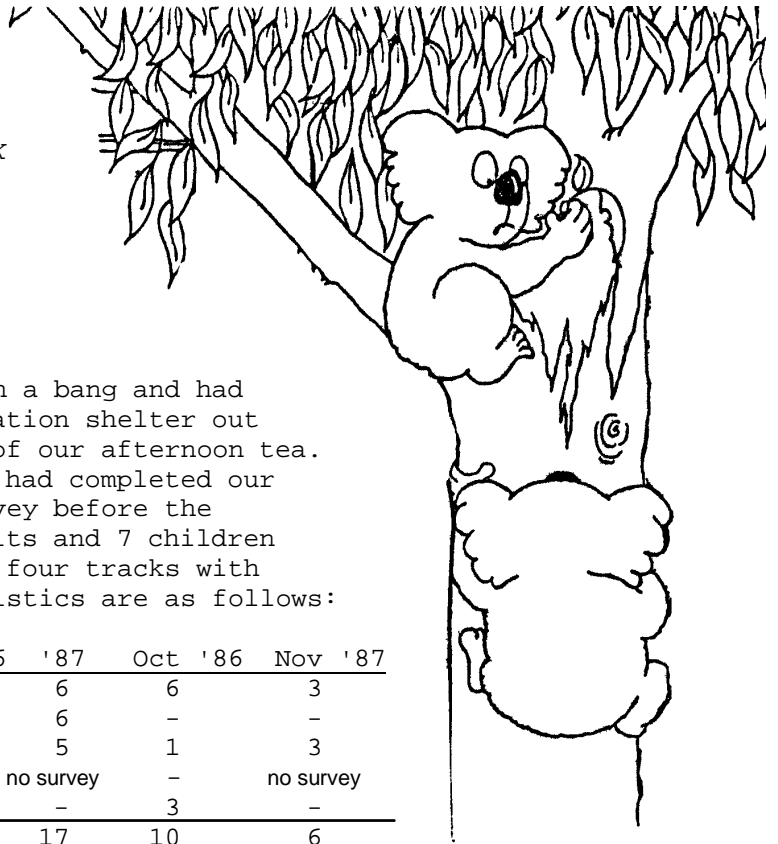
FRIENDS of MORWELL NATIONAL PARK
 R.M.B. I405
 Jumbuk via YINNAR 3869.

November 11. 1987.

Dear Friends,

Our last gathering finished with a bang and had us sheltering in the new information shelter out of the rain finishing the last of our afternoon tea. Again we were very lucky and we had completed our walks involved in the Koala Survey before the thunder storm hit. With 17 adults and 7 children attending we were able to cover four tracks with few Koalas sighted. Koala statistics are as follows:

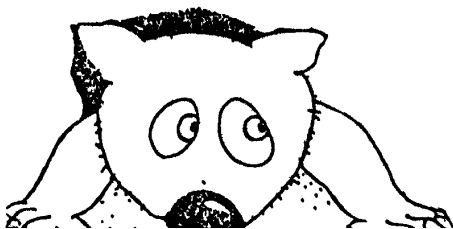
| | Sept '86 | '87 | Oct '86 | Nov '87 |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Fosters Gully. | 6 | 6 | 6 | 3 |
| North & East Boundary | 4 | 6 | - | - |
| Stringybark | 4 | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| Western Boundary | 1 | no survey | - | no survey |
| Southern Boundary | 3 | - | 3 | - |
| | <u>.18</u> | <u>17</u> | <u>10</u> | <u>6</u> |



One question that may arise from the survey results is; if we have a sustainable population where are the cubs? Only two cubs have been sighted, one in Sept. '86 and one in Oct. '86. Are the females infertile due to Climidia or is the general loss of habitat outside the park reducing numbers by road kills, dogs etc? Something to ponder; also what can be done to improve the situation? All weird and wonderful suggestions are welcome. Thankyou to all who attended because without your help the compiling of these statistics would be impossible.

The department has offered to assist groups that are interested in organizing a Junior Ranger Program with literature and ideas on games and activities. It was felt by those present that this was an opportunity for the friends to publise ourselves and provide an educational and fun program for the community. In a less personal way we also have the oppurtunity to contribute by assisting Ian with his annual display at the Yinnar South Fair on Sat. March 19th. With this date in mind we have tentativily set aside our April meeting date of April 10 for a Junior Ranger program at the Park. More details later, a few people have offered their assistance but any other ideas or talents would be very much appreciated.

The next meeting is our last for the year and it would be lovely to see every one. We plan to follow up on the orchid survey and plant out some Blue Gum seedlings with a barbeque tea in the evening. The barbeque will be an opportunity for us all to mix socially. December is a very busy time so if commitments make it difficult to come for the day it would be great to have your company for one part or other. If anyone has implements capable of digging a small 10 - 13cm deep hole (almost



anything) they will be helpful for the tree planting. Please bring your own meat plus a salad and desert to share, billy tea will be available as usual. Of added interest would be photos taken on any of our group outings during the year. Don't panic and stay home if its wet, we will move in and take over Ian's shed. Looking forward to seeing you *DECEMBER 13th*, 1.30pm at the picnic ground. Please note the date, not as printed in agenda sheet eariler this year.

With space to spare I thought I would take this opportunity to fill you in with a little of the history of the park. Some I am sure will know most of the story but with so many new people and some living quite a distance away there May be a few interested. Most national parks are areas of Crown land, but the land that makes up Morwell National Park was originally private property, owned by the Quigley family. In 1964 Mr. Ray Quigley asked the Morwell Shire Council about the possibility of buying his land and ensuring its preservation as a national park. The significance of the area for flora and fauna had already been established by the .Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club and the Bird Observers' Club; the then National Parks Authority expressed interest; and the government agreed to provide half of the purchase cost of the land (138 hectares or 341 acres)) if the Shire Council would provide the other half. This arrangement was agreed to, and the park was declared in 1967, Since then two additional lots of land have been added to the original piece. The first one in 1981, is the western area up as far as Vaggs Track which was original owned by the A.P.M.. .An agreement between the relavant government departments and the company saw a swap of land that benefited both organizations. The latest purchase is from the original southern boundary through to Brewsters Road. Mr. Frank Peel when establishing a new residential subdivision reserved an area of natural bush and offered it to the Department of Conservation Forests and Lands for purchase. The option was taken up and the 9.3 hectares (23 acres) was added to the park area during this year. The total area of the park at present is 293 hectares (724 acres) with all our hopes on an expansion towards .Billy's Creek.

For those that can count, they will have already worked out that the Park celebrates its 21st birthday next year; how about a party?

We thankyou for your support and if any information is required please contact either Gail on 22 1478 or myself on 22 2597.

yours sincerley,



Yvonne Aplin.