

F.O.M.N.P.
P.O. Box 19,
CHURCHILL 3842.

May 1988.

Dear Friends,

We were really lucky that the rain stopped just in time to enjoy our outing into Billy's creek.

What a lovely climb it was up the northern slopes. The old logging track proved to be still accessible and few areas can have such delightful views. Sadly, as was evident, some of the hill cover had been destroyed by a recent fire. The walk turned out not as difficult as expected, however we had to encounter a few obstacles on the way up and sometimes it was a quite steep climb indeed.

Along the walk Ken pointed out the edible mushroom and he discovered Fennel growing on the slope.

At the top of the northern slope all of us were intrigued by a couple of Wedgetailed Eagles flying like kites in the sky. Yvonne regretted having left her camera behind.

Incidentally it was a great turn-up for mothers day and the members of the group who did wear rubber boots counted themselves luckily. Gail, in sneakers was offered (and accepted) a piggy-back across the creek.

On reaching the Weir picnic area after the walk, a warm welcome awaited us and Billy tea, prepared by Gail, was much appreciated. The meeting followed around the campfire.

Johanna Aziz.

APRIL 25th 1988.

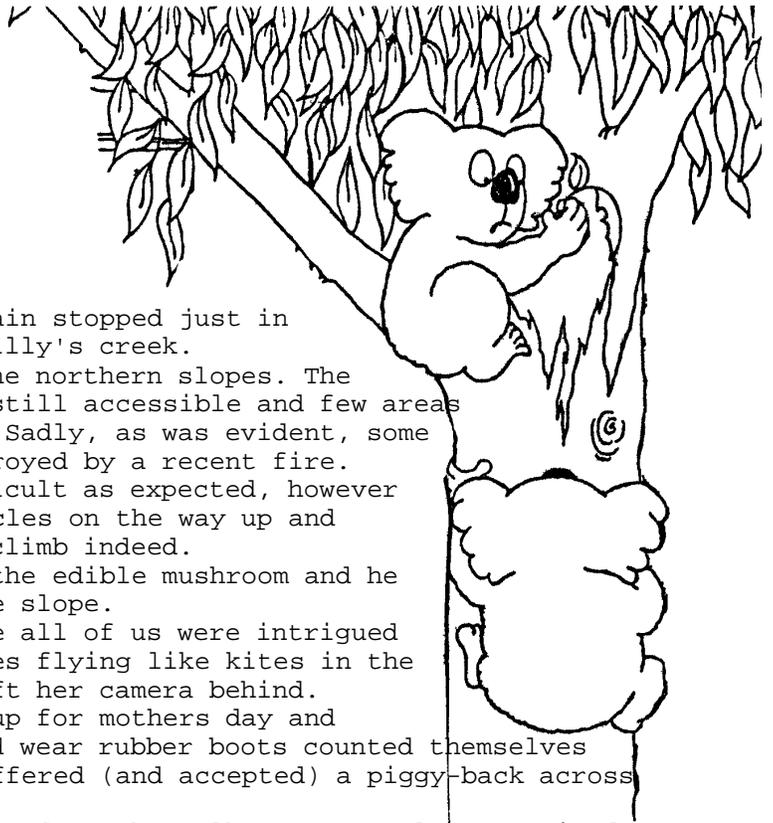
Our wonderful summer finished with a some what dazzling display - perhaps its the way of it in this bicentennial year!

The odds were high that there would be a fire, everything being so very dry, although by Anzac day we are usually relaxing our vigil. Weather it was good or bad depends on how the circumstances are viewed. The fire was contained to the Billy's Creek section of the National Park and part of the adjoining reserve forest, no private homes or property were endangered. Luckily the wind remained very slight so the area of the burn was contained to approx 40ha. and ceased to be of concern after 12hrs, although it continued to smoulder in underground roots for some days.

Fire to the natural way of things is right for our Australian bush, although as a regeneration burn it was too hot although an excellent fuel reduction burn. All the same, there were some "exciting" moments for the fire fighters.

The fire started approx 5pm near the weir and very quickly advanced up the northern ridge. The combined difficulties of terrain, access, visibility and gusts of wind made for some unpredictable conditions and we thank those people that tried to stem the fires advance. They included 16 CFL staff, 2 bulldozers, 6 CFA units and an SES unit.

The sight was quite impressive and I hope that some photos Brian took will be able to show it as it was. Morning of the 26th brought rain and a quieter time for all, most people had worked through the night so it was left to relief crews to mop up.



FRIDAY 13th May 1988 - Victorian National Parks Advisory Committee visit.

The morning of Friday 13th May saw the expected arrival of members of the Victorian National Parks Advisory Committee. This honorary group is made up of representatives of many interested organizations and directly advises the minister on matters relating to areas reserved for conservation purposes, such as National & State parks, flora & fauna reserves etc. Although they only have an advisory roll, they also present a report to parliament annually. Gail and Margaret organized morning tea and lunch with our traditional billy tea which was greatly appreciated. Again the friends were included officially and Frank and myself were included in the tour of inspection into Billy's Creek. I believe the area was well received and the overall concept accepted with enthusiasm. Unfortunately there was no answer to the covering of development costs.

Many thanks to Gail, Margaret and Frank for making their time available.

The next meeting of the Friends is on Sunday JUNE 12th at 4.00 PM, meeting at the end of Tebbs Tce. A B.B.Q. Tea at the weir is planned with a spotlight walk following. A small container of supper would be appreciated and don't forget our effort to conserve the environment by bringing your own cup. Much effort at present is going into obtaining some of the history of the area and we still hope to obtain a speaker in the near future.

Last month was our 2nd anniversary and although I remembered while we were walking it was forgotten again by afternoon tea time. Happy Birthday group and may there be many more.

Yvonne Aplin.

Report of F.O.M.N.P. Special General Meeting 8.4.88

Eleven of our members helped out at the Yinnar South Country Fair held on the 19th March 1988. The fair donated \$250 to the friends in appreciation of our assistance. This money was to be used to purchase picnic equipment for Billy's Creek, but these are being provided from another source. Any ideas on another suitable project for this money. The Fund raising task force is almost ready to release its twelve page booklet detailing the proposed plan for Billy's Creek. \$500 has been pledged from an individual to help kick the appeal along.

\$200 has been donated for 1st prize in our logo design competition.

To help new members (and some existing) to know one another, it was suggested the logo badges include members' names and therefore double as name tags.

The Secretary is writing to a private Conservation Trust which has advertised it has money available for projects which preserve or enhance the environment.

Billy's Creek fire on 25th of April burnt out approx. 35ha of land on the eastern side of the creek.

We are investigating if our newsletter is eligible for reduced postage rates as a registered publication.

Our project days are to be advertised in the local media.

Neil Grigg (acting Sec)

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY JUNE 12TH AT 4pm.

Following a meeting of the Steering Committee for the Billy's Creek Appeal, a request has been made to the Shire of Morwell to hold a Public Meeting to launch the Appeals Committee to raise funds for the development of Billy's Creek under the auspices of the Victorian Conservation Trust. Therefore, this SGM is called to report on the Steering Committee meeting and recommendations, and to nominate 2 persons of the Friends group to be nominated to the Appeals Committee. One of these persons will be nominated - the other person to be proxy to the nominee. Furthermore we will briefly discuss arrangements for the August visit to Warradyte SP.

NB. Due to pressure of time, no other business will be dealt with.