

FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK
 INCORPORATED
 PO Box 19
 Churchill 3842

15th September, 1988

Dear Friends,

After the depression of a year ago, it was a joyous occasion to celebrate the arrival of another cub, as we conducted our Annual Koala survey last Sunday. This was most noteworthy as there have only been two previous sightings - September & October 1986.

Congratulations to the proud "parents"!!

Due to only a small gathering of 10 people, we conducted our survey in 3 areas: Fosters Gully, North & East Boundary, and Stringybark. A total of 15 Koalas were found, plus the cub. The accumulative results are:

	Sept '86	Oct '86	Sept '87	Nov '87	Sept '88
Fosters Gully	6	6	6	3	4
North & East Boundary	4	-	6	-	9*
Stringybark	4	1	5	3	3
Western Boundary	1	-	n/s	n/s	n/s
Southern Boundary	3	3	-	-	n/s
Total	18	10	17	6	16

n/s = no survey conducted

* = includes cub

From the statistics gained it would appear the number of Koalas are reasonably constant, and that September is the best survey time. However, the reasonably short time over which we have covered the Park does not lend itself to any significant results yet. One could in fact argue that the numbers appear to be dropping. This may not be true as we have not covered all the areas we have traditionally covered in the past. We would encourage all members to help at our next survey in order to make for a clearer picture of our Koala population. November 13th is the date for our next full Koala survey, so please help us in this important part of our programme.

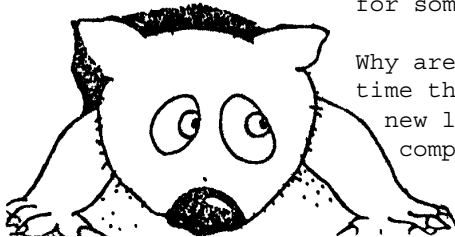
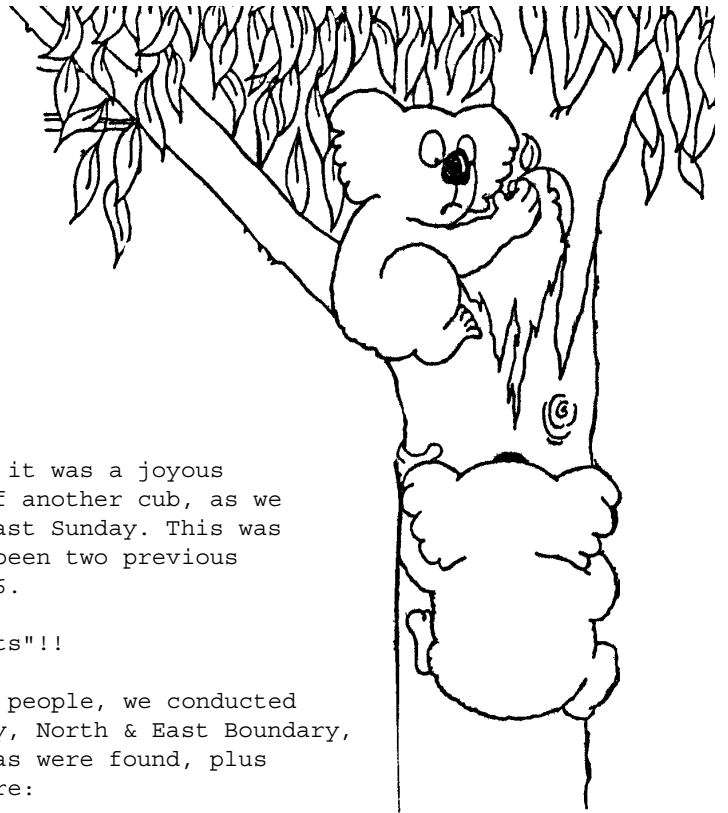
October-9th is our next Project Day, which will be spent in Billy's Creek. Meeting at the end of Tebb's Terrace at 1.30pm, we intend to carry out two projects:

- 1/ Slashing of blackberries to aid with the overall weed control programme. Please bring machetes, or similar, to help.
- 2/ Inaugural Koala Survey of Billy's Creek. We will attempt to break up into 3 groups: River Flats, Lodge Track, and the Jumbuk Rd Access Track.

The programme caters for everyone, so please be there and be prepared for some hard work or walking.

Why are the Koalas and Wombat crying? This is the last time they appear on our letterhead, as we will have our new logo printed by then. Final results of the Logo competition will be announced then.

See you all in October, *Peter Byrnes.*



* Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club - Friday 23rd September 7.30pm - Education Centre Link St. Morwell "Gippsland Midlanders" by Noel Pierce (C.F.S.L). Saturday Excursion to Venus Bay (Middleneck)