



FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK INC.

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Hello,

Who would have thought that we would be worried about whether the trees we planted would get enough water ? All we need worry about now is whether or not they've slipped down the bank. Approxim3tely 150 plants were put in; including blue and grey gums , prickly mo, wonga vine, varnished wattle and blackwood. Here's hoping some pesky wabbits haven't made a feast of them.

Well there's news a'plenty this time around. About a month back, Rob took a walk around the park at night and spotted a couple of Greater Gliders in the car park/Fosters Gully area. Ken also had the pleasure of seeing a Wedge-tailed Eagle by the lodge site at our last meeting.

The Yinnar South Country Fair committee has generously donated the funds to purchase 5 large vermin traps - at \$80 a pop, this is a very helpful contribution.

Students from Monash Uni are currently doing a project to look at the rate of vegetation, and the species that re-vegetate, following the spraying of blackberries. They have test plots set up along the Billy's Creek reserve between the park and Junction Road. The information obtained from this work should prove invaluable in monitoring re-vegetation in the new section of the park.

Whilst on the subject of the creek reserve, Ken has spotted a small clusture of swamp gum with very accessable seeds. These should prove valuble once the pussy willow is removed from the creek banks.

Some research closer to home is being planned by a teacher from Yinnar Primary School. He has applied for a environmental research grant, and plans to involve the kids in some tree planting in the park. This planting will be coupled with some broader teaching of ecology within the park. This will hopefully lead to a much greater appreciation of the role of the park by the local kids. At the very least, they'll have a strong personal appreciation for the park, after having had a part to play in its re-vegetation.

And so to our next meeting: please note the changes. The Department of Conservation and Environment (as they now must be known) have cancelled all weekend work in the region, as Wilson's Prom. blew out their budget. This is going to make Friends work very difficult for the rest of the financial year. Still, with socially redeeming projects like changing your name to occupy your time, why waste money on trivia like hands-on conservation work by volunteers. (I enjoyed that). Anyway, next meeting will involve weeding, either of verbena around Billy' s Creek, or pine seedlings along Jumbuk Road. We are still meeting on May 20 at 1:30 p.m. , however we are now meeting at Foster's Gully car park. It'd be great to see you with shovels etc. to help out. The weed infestation in the new section of the park is going to take some work to overcome.

See you round,

STEVE