



FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK INC.

P.O. BOX 19
CHURCHILL 3842

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AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

Once again thank you for the group who turned up for the August tree-planting. The weather was perfect and a good planting was achieved in the creek flats area.

The next tree-planting is on the **15th August**. meeting at **10.00 am** at the end of Braniff's Road. We are not anticipating that a huge number of trees will be ready -approx 100 manna gums and silver wattle -so are expecting to finish around lunchtime. Please bring along something to BBQ as we are planning an easier day. with time for a leisurely lunch. Billy tea provided as usual. Again planting will be on the creek flats.

This is your chance to qualify for the **End-of-Tree-Planting Celebration/Wake** which will this year be held at Joanna Azziz's on **Saturday the 28th August (Note: Not the 4th Sept as in the Activities Program)** starting around 7.00pm. Those who have been involved with tree planting this year are invited to come along with their families -Committee bring a casserole, and members a salad or sweet please.

Just a reminder that the September and October activities are: the **Koala Count on the 19th September**. Meet at Fosters Gully carpark, at 1.30 pm.; and the annual **visit to another Group (possibly Sale Wetlands this year) 17th October**, so mark your calendar and consider attending these. The Koala Count needs many eyes for an accurate result. I shall be away for the whole of September so there may not be a newsletter for that month to remind you of the Koala count, but should manage an early October letter with details of the visit to Sale.

A well attended Annual General Meeting was held at the Depot on 1st August, and the following Committee was elected:

President:	Ken Harris
Vice President:	Shelley Templeman
Secretary:	Joanna Azziz
Ass.Sec (Newsletter)	Wendy Nickson
Treasurer:	Judy Lambert
Committee Member:	Steve Shiners

A copy of the President's report of the year's activities is enclosed. A report from Ken on the Friends Conference held earlier in the year will be attached to the next newsletter.

Members are reminded that annual subs are now due. The amount continues to remain the same, (\$10 Single, and \$15 Family Membership). Please forward the appropriate amount as soon as possible with the slip below.

Wendy Nickson
(Newsletter Editor)

To: Treasurer, FMNP, PO Box 19, CHURCHILL 3842

Please find enclosed an amount of \$..... (\$10 Single, \$15 Family) being for membership fee.

NAME: TEL:

ADDRESS:

SignedDate / / 1993

Friends of Morwell National Park

President's Report 1992-3

Thank you everyone for your efforts in making 1992-93 another successful year for the Friends of Morwell National Park.

It is a great spur to our further tree-planting efforts to look at the results of the last two years plantings along Billys Creek. Growth rates along the creek flats are phenomenal and we begin to see, not just seedlings, but a new forest taking shape.

This year the hemp bush planted two years ago flowered for the first time, most are now 3 to 4 metres high and when collecting seed this summer, I collected hemp bush seed solely from trees we had planted. We now have a batch of seedlings growing that are the second generation of our plantings.

Planting has progressed well. We completed our third planting in August and around September, the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers planted some 5500 trees on the Billys Creek flats. This massive planting was carried out using new plastic guards, which seem to work extremely well. They are very Quick and easy to install and the trees planted have shown excellent growth already. Almost every tree is already well above the top of the metre high guards.

The large scale planting of last year was a one off exercise and in 1993 we are back to relying on our own efforts, but we continue to make slow but steady progress. Rob Howell announced that he would not be available for tree-planting during 1993, but we were reluctant to see a break in the planting, with so much still to do. WE negotiated a scaled-down planting season with Rob, with no new trees to be grown, but using up the surplus grown for the large planting last year. This leaves us with about 500 trees to plant and we planned three planting sessions.

As it has worked out, Rob has been able to assist with the plantings and we have completed the first two successfully. First we planted mountain grey gums around the area where the bridge collapsed below the lodge site and secondly we extended the plantings along the Billys Creek flats with some 290 manna gums and silver wattles. We shall complete this years plantings this month, with another 100 manna gums and silver wattles to plant on the creek flats.

Our developing tradition of celebrating the end of the season's tree-planting with a casserole evening was continued and most of our tree-planters enjoyed an evening at Paul and Judy Lambert's home. Thank you Paul and Judy. This year we shall celebrate on 28th August at Joanna Aziz's home.

Our other regular programs have all continued. The koala surveys were completed in September and November and the butterfly orchid survey was completed in November.

Our tradition of visiting another friends group each year was also maintained with a visit to the Friends of" Mount Worth State Park, our nearest neighbour as friends groups go.

Other activities have included removing tree-guards from many of the trees planted two years ago, with a follow up session to stake the small number that fell over when the guards were removed. Two sessions were planned for the construction of the information board in Billys Creek. At the first of these the concrete base was successfully installed, but poor weather prevented the construction from proceeding on the second occasion. Rob has however been able to complete this task himself .

The Friends once again assisted at the Yinnar South Country Fair and the organising committee have once more made a generous donation which will be used for the purchase of equipment for eliminating the willows along Billys Creek.

Unfortunately the weather caused the cancellation of our end of year barbecue in December.

News of developments in the management of the park is good. The second attempt at the management plan has reached the draught stage and the committee have been able to see a copy and make comments on it. There is no news of when it will be officially launched, but perhaps we will actually see a management plan in place during the year ahead.

The promised development of the Billys Creek access over the next three years has begun. The first year's plan was for the building of the road from Braniff's Road as far as the creek and that road was constructed this autumn. Unfortunately it involved removing some of the trees planted two years ago (in the rain). We hoped to transplant these trees, but the soil at that time was so dry and friable that it fell away from the roots and made transplanting impossible. It was sad to see these trees uprooted, but it was gratifying to see the enormous root development confirming the health of the rest of that planting.

Next year the creek crossing should be constructed and the year after that the car park will complete the task.

The goat population has been further reduced to four, but they have not yet been completely eliminated.

Another Biennial Conference of Friends Groups took place in March and I and Anton Wray attended. Anton gained useful help from other groups on techniques for the propagation of some of the harder species that we want to include in our plantings. I have written a full report of the conference which will be printed shortly in our newsletter .

One outcome of the conference was an awareness that many Friends groups maintain their own propagation facility and grow all their own seedlings for planting in their Parks. Our committee has discussed this and since it appears that Won-Wron may not continue as a source of seedlings, we have decided to start the development of a propagation centre at the Park. Anton Wray is looking at the design we should need to propagate about 2000 seedlings each year and we plan to develop a centre to sow seed for the first time about September 1994. When that gets under way we shall be looking to the Friends to run the facility.

We once again extend our thanks to our ranger Rob Howell for the excellent job he has done during the year and for working so well with the Friends. Despite a very interrupted year, in which Rob has to use up outstanding leave as well as taking time off for his studies, he has still managed to attend all the Friends activities in the Park, including in many cases extra preparatory work before hand. The extra assistant Rob had at the start of the year did not last long and Rob has had to do almost everything on his own with very little time to do it in. Thank you Rob.

Ken Harris
President