



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

P.O. Box 19
CHURCHILL 3842

Ranger: (051) 221478
Secretary: (051) 696496

Dear Friends

APRIL 1994 NEWSLETTER

Previous Activity

The Yinnar South Country Fair in March was successful with a large attendance all day, in perfect weather. Our stand drew enquiries and we had a fairly constant stream of children cooking damper to various degrees of success! Thanks to those members who helped at our stand and also at the Fair's very busy catering marquee (Dorothy, Yvonne, Wendy S, Joanna, Jo, Judy, me). Catering does a roaring trade and must contribute greatly to funds raised, from which FMNP benefits. This year we have submitted a request for an amount towards our propagation shed expenses.

1994 Friends Network Seminar

Rob de Souza Daw and Ken Harris represented the Group at the Friend Network Seminary held in the Herbarium in Melbourne (unfortunately this clashed with the Yinnar South Fair) -the following is Rob's report for your interest:

THE 1994 FRIENDS NETWORK SEMINAR

This Seminar was held on 19 March 1994 at the Herbarium and consisted of three segments. The first segment was devoted to matching the expectations of friends with the relevant management authority. A management perspective was provided by representatives from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Melbourne Parks and Waterways, Municipal Conservation Association and the Victorian Conservation Trust..

The second segment was a talk by Dr Patricia Vickers-Rich from Monash University on Victorian dinosaurs. Slides were shown of dinosaur fossils from the Otway and Gippsland basins. The coastline around Inverloch is now the main search area for dinosaur fossils.

The final segment provided participants with a choice of inspecting the Herbarium's seed bank, strolling along the Koori Food Trail or joining in the Dinosaur Food Walk. Our dinosaur expert pointed out various ferns, cycads, ginkos and conifers which the herbivorous dinosaurs would have eaten.

Dr Patricia Vickers-Rich gave little hope of finding dinosaur fossils in Morwell National Park. Our geology is too recent to find dinosaur bones. In other words, dinosaurs were extinct well before the park was formed!

The speaker which was the most relevant to Morwell National Park was the representative from the Department. The Seminar was informed the Minister would shortly announce a strategy on conservation volunteers. The present Government stated in its election campaign it would actively promote voluntarism as a means to promote and conserve Victoria's parks and wildlife. This

strategy when released would cover conservation volunteers acting either as individuals or in groups such as Friends. Several possibilities were briefly outlined of the content of this yet-to-be released strategy. It was made clear to participants, additional funding for conservation purposes would not be forthcoming. Whether or not this strategy will have an impact on the modus operandi of the Friends of the Morwell National Park is a matter which needs to be considered when the strategy is released.

About 130 Friends from approximately 50 Friends groups were represented at the 1994 Friends Network Seminar. Many of the urban Friends were thriving in contrast to several rural Friends which were struggling.

It is difficult to identify specific ideas or projects from the Seminar which relate to the Morwell National Park. However, in the foreseeable future the public is likely to see local government becoming increasingly involved in conservation and the state government becoming increasingly reliant upon volunteers to perform conservation work. To put it succinctly, if you would like to see conservation activities in our public parks-do it yourself!

Rob de SOUZA-DAW

April Activity Day -Sunday 17th

The next meeting begins with a special General Meeting to discuss proposed changes to the FMNP constitution -see attachment to your March newsletter. The Committee has discussed and endorsed the wording of these proposed modifications, but the actual changes must be discussed and voted upon by members so your attendance is essential to get this business finalised - **1.30 at the Depot near the Ranger's house in the Fosters Gully section of the Park**. We hope the official business is over without too much delay, after which we shall go over to the Billy's Creek section to remove treeguards.

Best Wishes


Wendy Nickson
Newsletter Editor