



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

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NEWSLETTER APRIL 1996

MARCH ACTIVITY

On 16 March 1996 several Friends assisted at the Yinnar South Country Fair. Friends provided billy-tea and damper free to the public and assisted in the Fair's catering tent. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources provided a display which featured Morwell National Park and the Friends.

ADDITIONAL MARCH ACTMTY

On 17 and 24 March 1996 several Friends removed the reusable plastic tree guards from young trees in the Billys Creek section. Several hundred tree guards were collected and will be used during the 1996 tree planting.

PARK VISIT

On 3 March 1996 President Ken Harris led a group of elderly citizens from the University of the Third Age on a guided walk in Morwell National Park. The group first walked into Billys Creek section. Near the weir, a pale coloured koala was sighted perched in a eucalypt. While walking back to the carpark a black snake was sight. The party then visited the Fosters Gully section.

FARMWORLD

Farmworld was held at Lardner Park, west of Warrigal from 21 to 24 March 1996 inclusive. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources provided an exhibit promoting conservation issues. A part of the exhibit featured Morwell National Park and the Friends.

BILLYS CREEK FOOTBRIDGES

On 29 March 1996 three footbridges over Billys Creek were completed by prisoners from the Morwell River Farm. Construction of the footbridges was supervised by Ranger Rob Howell.

APRIL ACTIVITY

WALK IN SOUTHERN PART OF FOSTERS GULLY SECTION

1.30PM SUNDAY 11 APRIL 1996

FOSTERS GULLY CARPARK

RANGER ROB HOWELL WILL LEAD THE WALK

FROGS IN MORWELL NATIONAL PARK

Rob de Souza-Daw

There are 33 species of frogs in two families in Victoria. Occasionally frogs are sighted in Morwell National Park. At night in the warmer months in the Park frogs can be heard calling. Most calling probably originates from the surrounds of dams adjacent to the Park.

Four species of frog have been found in the Park. The species are:

HYLIDAE

TREE FROGS

Litoria ewingii

Southern Brown Tree Frog

This is a small light to dark brown frog with a dark brown streak around each eye. The species has pads on its digits and is a very capable climber and jumper

LEPTODACTYLIDAE

SOUTHERN FROGS

Ranidella signifera

Eastern Froglet

This is a small ground dwelling species. The frog is predominately brown with a dark patterned back and a mottled black and white granular belly. This frog often calls during the day as well as at night.

Limnodynastes dumerili insularis Pobblebonk Frog

The Pobblebonk Frog or Banjo Frog or Southern Bull Frog is a solidly built burrowing frog. The species is predominately brown with a smooth mottled belly. This frog is easily recognized by its large tibial gland.

Limnodynastes peroni

Striped Marsh Frog

The Striped Marsh Frog or Striped Grass Frog or Peron's Marsh Frog is a solidly built frog which prefers wetland environments. This frog possesses strong hind legs and is predominately green or brown with dark longitudinal dorsal stripes.

Other species of frogs may also live in the Park. The lack of permanent still water sites in the Park restricts the opportunities for frogs to breed. This factor presumably results in the infrequent sightings of frogs in Morwell National Park.

Tadpoles have been found in the roadside ditches bordering the Foster Gullys carpark. These tadpoles were probably those of the Eastern Froglet. Unfortunately the water in the ditch would have drained or evaporated before the tadpoles metamorphosed.

I am sorry for the late arrival of this news letter. I was entrusted by Rob, with the photo-copying and distribution, in plenty of time and then forgot all about it,

Ken Hems