



# Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

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## NEWSLETTER JUNE 1996

### MAY ACTIVITY

On 19 May 1996 several Friends plus a few extra welcome hands attended the first 1996 tree-planting session. The weather, terrain and soil were favourable for the tree-planters. Ranger Craig Campbell (from Tarra-Bulga National Park) supervised the tree planting in the absence of resident Ranger Rob Howell. The trees were planted along the creek flats of Billys Creek. The species planted were:

160	Manna Gum	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>
80	Swamp Gum	<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>
80	Silver Wattle	<i>Acacia dealbata</i>
80	Blackwood	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>
24	Turnipwood	<i>Rapanea howittiana</i>
<u>3</u>	Snowy Daisy Bush	<i>Olearia lirata</i>
Total	507	

### FIRST DECADE

In May 1986 the Friends of Morwell National Park was formed. In 1988 the group became incorporated (and hence the word Inc. was added to its name). During the ten years the number of members and in particular active members have fluctuated. The first ten years is often recognised as a significant event but on this occasion there were no birthday celebrations, reminiscing or publicity. Perhaps it was a quiet achievement or alternatively, quite an achievement.

### YINNAR SOUTH COUNTRY FAIR

The Yinnar South Country Fair was held on 16 March 1996. The Friends received a \$100's donation from the proceeds of the Fair. This money will be used to meet the Propagation Centre's expenses.

### NEW MEMBERS

The Friends welcome the following new members:

Lois Godwin from Moe  
Lee Skerratt from Hazelwood  
Ed and Helen Steenbergen from Jeeralang

### JUNE ACTIVITY

10am, 16 June 1996  
Junction Road, opposite Junction Picnic Reserve  
Tree planting in Billys Creek section  
Bring your own lunch and drinks

PTO

# LIZARDS IN MORWELL NATIONAL PARK

Rob de Souza-Daw

Eight species of lizards in two families have been recorded for Morwell National Park.

## SCINCIDAE                      Skinks

The skinks are the largest lizard family and are recognised by their regular and usually symmetrical scales on top of their heads. Their tongues are short, relatively broad and fleshy. Some large skinks are carnivorous but most small species are insectivorous.

*Egernia saxatilis intermedia*                      Black rock skink

This skink has keeled scales and is blackish-brown and often has faint longitudinal stripes. The head and body sometimes contain numerous pale brown flecks around the throat.

*Eulamprus tympanum*                                      Southern water skink

The Southern water skink has smooth glossy scales. The dorsal scales are a glossy dark brown with narrow blackish broken longitudinal stripes. The lateral scales form a wide black band and the abdomen scales are pale with some dark mottling.

*Lampropholis guichenoti*                                      Garden skink

The Garden skink is a small greyish-brown skink which prefers moist conditions. This skink has an irregular vertebral stripe with lateral bands. Garden skinks have flecks of white on their sides and to a lesser extent on their backs.

*Nannoscincus maccoyi*                                      Maccos skink

Maccos skink is another small skink which prefers moist conditions. This species has five digits on its short limbs. The body scales are dark brown, occasionally with a reddish tinge. Along its body and sides are scattered white flecks. The species is easily recognised by its glossy bright yellow abdomen.

*Niveoscincus metallica*                                      Metallic skink

The Metallic skink is a small smooth scaled skink with five digits on its well developed limbs. This skink is dark brown and often has pale flecks. The abdomen is whitish.

*Saproscincus mustelinus*                                      Weasel skink

The Weasel skink is a small smooth scaled skink with five digits on its well developed limbs. The species is a russet brown with a tan coloured tail. Occasional flecks occur along its body. The abdomen is pale. The species has a small white patch beneath its eyes.

*Tiliqua nigrolutea*    Blotched blue-tongue

The Blotched blue-tongue is a large skink with five digits on its well developed short limbs. The species is blackish-brown with pale blotches on its body and usually pale bands along its tail. Blotched blue-tongues have a short tapering tail and distinct ear openings.

## VARANIDAE    Goannas

The goanna family consists of large lizards which have small irregular scales on top of their heads. These lizards have long slender deeply forked tongues. When alert goannas constantly flick their tongues in and out. Goannas have powerful legs, strong jaws and are carnivorous.

*Varanus varius*    Lace monitor

The Lace monitor grows to over 2 metres in total length. The body is a dark bluish-brown with banded white scaling around the body and tail. The five digit limbs are strong and well developed. The thick part of the tail is laterally compressed and its nostrils are directed to the side.

Other species of lizards may also live in Morwell National Park. The small skinks often superficially look-alike and identification requires examination of the scales. This is often difficult on live specimens. The best time to see lizards in the Park is on warm days in the warmer months of the year.