



FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK INC.

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OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 1996

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITY REPORT

The koala count went ahead with very good weather considering the rain we had the few days before. A total of 14 koalas sighted on the three tracks which were surveyed, that can be broken up to 13 adults and one baby. Other wildlife sighted included one echidna, a lyre bird doing a courting dance, a wallaby and a baby black duck which had unfortunately been picked up by a member of the public. As the duckling had been separated from its parents it was placed in the care of Eagles Nest Wildlife Shelter at Toongabbie.

Some statistics from koala counts going back ten years is attached to the newsletter.

FLOWERS AND FERNS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK BOOK

The go ahead to print the first 1000 copies has been initiated, with an extra 1000 copies to be printed using funds from the Friends of Morwell National Park (\$1200 - to be repaid by sales of the book).

Also extra runs of a thousand copies will be printed when other donations are received as indicated by some local businesses. The book will contain some 384 colour photos on 32 pages with a four page index and it is expected to retail for about \$20. Hopefully the book will be out before Christmas (less than 12 weeks to go).

GENERAL

Empty glass bottles and aluminium cans are collected by the "Friends" and sold for recycling which also raises funds for the "Friends". Please bring along these items to any of our activities and pass them onto the ranger for collection.

Over the past few weeks there has been some extra work being put in by several members of our group removing tree guards. The trees are out growing the guards and in some cases are being deformed by the guards which have not broken down as expected. Some several thousand guards have been removed from the trees which is not only good for the trees but it makes the park look good as well. Thankyou all of you who have given up your Sundays to do this.

OCTOBER ACTIVITY

20 October 1:30 PM Tree Guard Removal Braniffs Road.

You will need to take with you a knife (a stanley knife with a retractably blade would be ideal as you can slit the plastic without cutting the trees bark), gum boots, rain coat, pliers (to get off the wire guards if we get that far) and a drink.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Just a reminder that fees are payable to the Treasurer \$15 family and \$10 single. Just fill in the form attached. Reciepts will be posted out to you with this newsletter for those who have paid.

LAKE WELLINGTON CATCHMENT LANDCARE NETWORK

Some information about the Lake Wellington Catchment Landcare Network is included which describes their objectives and includes an invitation to a meeting out near Nilma.

GRANTS FOR FRIENDS GROUPS

The commitee has been meeting for the last few weeks and have applied for a grant to help in the tree planting projects we have been carrying out in the Billy Creek Valley area of Morwell National Park.

We have asked for a grant to erect some fences aound selected plots on the hill area just above the weir which is very difficult to gain access to with our conventional tree planting methods. It is anticipated that we will be able to fence off areas to use different methods of revegetation. This will exclude grazing animals and trial different methods of planting without the need for guarding individual plants.

THE NEWSLETTER

If you have any comments to make or contributions to the newsletter please send them to Martin Gwynne RMB 1418B Yinnar 3869 or phone 221945 thankyou.