



FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK INC.

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JANUARY NEWSLETTER 1997
HAPPY NEW YEAR

DECEMBER ACTIVITY REPORT

Seven of us turned up for the potting of seedlings ready for a quiet time pricking out seedlings, but the seedlings were not ready to be potted up as they were still quite small and many still shooting. So it was decided by Rob that we retrieve some of the few remaining tree guards left which had been removed from the trees earlier in the year.

As it was very hot and humid in amongst the long grass and trees some of us nearly expired after searching out the guards and moving them to where Rob could get the trailer to. (I thought that we were going to lose Wendy at one stage)

We were fortunate enough to hitch a ride back to the gate on Rob's truck after all of the guards were fetched.

Then came the BBQ at the Gwynne's house which showed a good turn up of the members of the friend's group and a few extras for a good chin wag, drink and a feed.

At last it was dark enough for the spotlight walk which saw even some more people turn up at the Fosters gully car park. So off we went all 30 or so of us torches flashing, some chatting, kids grizzling and everyone saying shhhh we will scare anything away. Well we did scare almost everything away. First Rob spotted a pair of eyes high up a tree these belonged to a small possum or glider we could not tell exactly. Second Rob saw another pair of eyes nearly as high up but we all could see the eyes this time, again it was a small possum or glider.

Finally we found something we all could have a look at, a frog, (a Bobble bock - I think I've got that right !). After hearing a Boobook owl several times we finally spotted the first of two ringtailed possums. Several butterfly orchids were spotted, which was late in the season for them to be still flowering. Not long after the second ringtail was seen a scorpion was seen by one of the children flashing their torch about (this was the high point of the walk for him). One koala was seen very near to the carpark up a large tree, also on this tree was one huntsman spider which was about as big as they get.

After all of that and some very tired children and adults (myself included being that I carried one of these tired children for most of the way) the walk was over and we all went home.

On my way home just onto old Jumbuck road we saw a wombat, so this finished off my first spotlight walk in the Morwell National Park.

JANUARY ACTIVITY

Sunday 12 January 10:00am Propagation centre. Seedling transplantation.

Sunday 19 January 1:30 pm Braniffs road. Seed collection.

GENERAL

A committee meeting was held on the 19 December 1996, this was held to determine the activities calendar for 1997 which should be attached to this newsletter if all goes to plan.

Also the Ranger gave us a bit of a rundown on what has been happening about the park and the merger of two departments into one which is as follows:

Since the 12 December 1996 Parks Victoria has been managing our National Parks and Melbourne Parks and Waterways. This is will see about some more changes to the " way things are" as we know them. Hopefully this will not mean any less for us at Morwell National Park.

They say they have a strong commitment to working with and nuturing Friends Groups and volunteers. Also it is intending of providing the exciting opportunity of online services and communication for the Friends Groups via the internet.

Morwell National Park is in the Victoria East Region.

Fire in the park. Late November a fire got away from one of the neighbors and some 2 hectares was burnt. The fire was in the Peels block area (see map attached) near Brewsters Rd.

Aparantly the neighbor used their bull dozer to stop the spread of the fire which did not burn out too much of the park. We will be going up to the fire site for a walk later on in the year to hopefully see some orchids which come out after a fire.

The potting of seedlings has been going ahead with some of the friends meeting up at the propagation centre on the 28-12-96 and potted out the following :

Acacia Dealbata	Silver wattle	320
" Melanoxylon	Blackwood	120
" Verniciflora	Varnish wattle	160
Eucalyptus Globulus	Blue gum	227
" Obliqua	Messmate	138
" Ovata	Swamp gum	155
Billardiera Longiflora	Climbing appleberry	15
TOTAL		<u>1135</u>

Johanna Aziz has sent us a post card from Egypt. She says that she has been to many places including Holland and sends her regards to all.

CHURCHILL COMMUNITY FAIR 1997

This is Chuchill's community day. What can we offer as a group?

Stalls, Trees, Leaflets or anything else anyone can think of.

We are open to ideas if someone can help. I shall inform of any happenings in latter issues of the newsletter.

YINNAR COUNTRY FAIR 15 MARCH 1997

The same as above applies to this as well.

FLOWERS AND FERNS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK BOOK.

So far the book has not been moving at a great pace as was expected but should be very close for release in March all going well.

PROPAGATION CENTRE PUMP FAILURE.

The pump which is used for the watering of the seedlings and plants broke down on about the 30-12-1996. This was noticed by John who was up checking on the plants progress and noticed that the plants were getting a bit dry. Rob was nearby and found out the problem and devised a way of getting water to the plants.

John had to go up every day and start up the watering manually. Rob managed to get the pump repaired fairly quickly and now it is all back in service again.

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 51221945.