



## FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK INC.

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MAY NEWSLETTER 1997

### APRIL ACTIVITY REPORT

Peel's Block fire site walk.

Eight people attended the April activity with some regrowth being evident despite the dry weather which we have had.

There are a lot of silver top gum tree seedlings coming up everywhere, with most coming up on the fire break. As well as some wattles shooting up from root rhizome buds there is a very good display of trunk rhizome regrowth of one of the narrow leaf peppermint gums.

There were a few weeds growing where there were no other plants at all growing, some were deadly nightshade which had ripe berries on them.

Three of us walked all of the way from Brewster's rd. to the Fosters gully car park along the Stringy Bark Ridge track, one koala was spotted along the way.

While walking around the fire site there were two very bad 'smells' in the area. These proved to be coming from two very dead wombats.

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

On the 10th of May a committee meeting was held which discussed the following things.

Book sales, there have now been enough sales to pay back some of our external loans which were the gap filling loan to Monash and the loan from the Field Naturalists Club. This leaves only one loan left to pay back which is to us and is well on the way to being paid. This is good news as the rest of the money collected from the book sales will be profit to the Friends of Morwell National Park.

Ranger's report :

Fuel reduction burn to be done soon (if not already done) in the park in the general area of the Stringybark Ridge Track. It was to be done earlier but it was too dry, then too wet and hopefully it won't be too late for it to go ahead.

The Yinnar Venturers are interested in helping out with the tree planting program to be carried out later this year. The areas to be planted out are in the Billy's Creek section of the park and located up on the side of the hill and very difficult to get to.

All members of the Friends group are covered by insurance provided by the department when involved with activities at the park, as well as any visitors who are helping out too.

Fire in the park on 26 April. A small fire which got away from a burn off next to the park burnt about one hectare of park land located in the southern end of the park.

During an after dark check of the burnt area Rob found some lumious fungi growing nearby.

### **MORWELL NATIONAL PARK HISTORIAN**

We needed an historian for the Friends group to enable the parks history to be compiled.

This information will be included in the next project which Ken Harris is working on which is a CD ROM on the park, also it will serve as a record of the park for future reference.

A volunteer was found during our last activity and it is Dianna Alweyn. So if you have any information to contribute please forward it to us.

Dianna has also expressed an interest in updating the information board at the park, so we should see some new and up to date information there soon.

### **CD ROM**

This is the next project which is a follow on from the book as a lot of the information which is on computer can be used for inclusion on a CD ROM. ( A CD ROM is a compact disk for use with computers )

Students at Monash University are doing a project on the programming of the CD ROM which requires absolutely no funding at all.

It is intended to get a sponsor to cover all costs for this project which will take about two years to complete. The CD ROM will be an educational and informative package on Morwell National Park.

### **BOOK REPORT**

Attached is a report of book sales as to the end of April.

I hope to get more updated information in the next newsletter.

### **MAY ACTIVITY**

The first tree planting session at Junction Rd. ( next to Billys Creek )

18 th May 10:00 am.

This may be relocated to Braniffs Rd. depending upon the amount of rain we get in the lead up to this weekend and some tree maintenance wil be done instead.

You will need to take with you, suitable foot wear, gloves, a drink and your lunch.

See you all there for the first tree planting session for the season.

### **THE NEWSLETTER**

If you have any comments to make or contributions to the newsletter please send them to Martin Gwynne , 1 Townsend St Churchill 3842 ; or phone 03 51223364