



Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

PO Box 19
CHURCHILL 3842

President: 03 51221213
Secretary: 03 51276501

Incorporation number A0016319X

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 20 ACTIVITY REPORT

Koala survey.

At 1:30 on Sunday at the end of Kerry road about ten members turned up for the Koala survey. That wasn't what we had hoped for so we required the help of a few people whom were passing by and off we went. We split up into three groups, one going through Fosters gully nature walk, another going up Stringybark ridge track and the last going up Jumbuk road to the top of the park and walking back down to the car park. We finished off at about 4:30 and only saw eight Koalas which was about half the amount that we saw last year.

FEES

Remember if you haven't already paid your fees you should do so as soon as possible.

BARBEQUE FOR THE FRIENDS

On the 11th of October there will be a Barbeque held in honor of all people involved in the friends groups. It will start at 12:00 at the town common playground in Churchill. If you are interested contact the ranger RSVP so we know how many to cater for.

TRIP TO WILSONS PROM

From the 21ST to the 25TH of September some of my friends and I went to Wilsons prom with the ATCV (Australian Trust For Conservation Volunteers.) We were housed in old houses that are soon to be torn down to make way for development. They were quite nice and were better than camping out which later volunteers will have to do. We were supposed to replace the old fences and bring them forward to protect the vegetation near the dunes, but two hours after we begun we had to stop because there is an Aboriginal land claim for Wilsons Prom and the Aboriginal elders were concerned that there might be some sacred shell piles in the area. (Shell piles are where in the past the local Aboriginal people would eat the creatures in the shells and piles would grow over the years because they ate them in the same place.)

After this we where assigned to putting in bollards (The poles on the sides of the roads, THE BIG ONES.) After that ordeal we were quite tired from two days of digging 160cm deep holes again and again and again. We were assigned to pulling out the plant/weed, forget me knots which were everywhere. Now every time I pass a garden with Forget me knots I have to fight the urge not to pull them out, including my own garden. It wasn't all hard work. We would go on walks and drives everyday to anywhere in the park we wanted to go. Overall it was good fun. I also found out something quite interesting. You may have heard that they were moving the rangers from Tidal River to Yanki station. Well it sounded like a bad thing but actually the rangers can't wait because they no longer have to worry about the tourists at Tidal River and can concentrate on the more important things, looking after the conservation side of the park. They have now hired new staff for the management of Tidal River.

OCTOBER ACTIVITY

On the 18th of October is the next activity, which will be "creek works" that will start at 10:00am at the end of Braniffs road.

Editor Lee Theissling.

