



# FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK INC.

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22nd November, 1988

Dear Friends,

We've had one of our busiest months on record, and I would like to thank all who helped out at the different activities.

survey for 1988 - mainly with the Orchids. A BBQ tea will be held, after which Robin will be taking us on a Spotlight Walk through Foster's Gully. BYO dinner, torch and warm clothes. \* See you at our 1988 finale, Peter Synn.

and this!!

## FRIENDS OF FRENCH ISLAND VISIT - OCTOBER 22nd

A most warm and pleasant day greeted our visitors from the French Is. Friends group. Ken Harris ably led the group of about 6 visitors, with a good representation from our Friends, around the Stringybark walk. We were all delighted with the large number of orchids flowering, as well as the high species count for the day - at least a dozen species! Following a terrific lunch (rather late) we took a stroll through our new Billy's Creek area. Some of us actually ventured past the far fence into the more bushy upstream areas. Worth a visit, but watch out for the nettles! To top off the day, at afternoon tea Ken observed a Brush Cuckoo in the Foster's Gully area, which will now be added to the Bird List for the Park.

## JUNIOR RANGER DAY - NOVEMBER 6th

About 30 children with 10 adults joined us for our first-ever Junior Ranger Day. It was a good group to begin with, with children from many parts of the Valley coming in response to our letters to the Primary Schools. At the end of lunch we presented Rohan Jones and Trina Harris with their cheques for winning the Logo Competition - a proud moment. Robin did a terrific job with leading games for the children which taught them something about conservation and the role of the Ranger. Thank-you! Yvonne helped out with organising Damper and Billy Tea which proved most popular. Thanks to her and also the other Friends who attended, too.

## NOVEMBER PROJECT DAY - NOVEMBER 13th

A group of 10 helped out on this important day in surveying Koalas and Orchids. Being an extremely hot day we were in for a few surprises! We surprised many with our Koala results: 8 very lethargic koalas, several of which were quite low in the trees and 2 were even discovered in Pittosporum trees! Altogether, 5 were found in Foster's Gully, 2 in Stringybark and 1 along the East Boundary. Ken reported a 50% increase in the number of Orchid flowers from the four Study Sites, despite no real increase in the number of plants. About 5% of the plants had open flowers, but it is expected that they will all open in the next few weeks.

At the Committee meeting preceding the Project afternoon, it was decided to move our programme onto the THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH starting in 1989. The main reason for this is to avoid quite a few public holidays (eg. Labor Day, Mothers Day) and school holidays. If you have any real concerns about this please contact Yvonne or myself ASAP.

} NOTE THIS

I still have a few copies of the 1989 VNPA Desk Calendars for \$10, the profits from which go to our Billy's Creek Appeal. They are ideal Christmas presents. Please contact me quickly as there are only a few left!

\* and this!!

## DECEMBER PROJECT DAY - DECEMBER 11th

Meet at 1.30pm at Foster's Gully Picnic area before doing our final