



FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK INC.

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Hello,

Our November meeting was a perfect koala-spotting day. A small group turned out to cover the Fosters Gully and Stringybark Ridge walks. Three koalas were spotted by each group. Although no young were spotted, those that could be examined appeared to be very healthy. Considering the size of each group, the results were very positive.

Wanna hear some good news ? Rob revealed recently that \$30,000 has been allocated to , improving the Billy's Creek area. This will include weed removal and tree planting. The bio-degradable guards that we used this year have only been moderately successful, through stunting growth of the seedlings, and allowing grazing animals access with a minimum of fuss. Next year we will use wire guards, which will have the benefit of being re-usable once the seedlings are established. The problem for the moment, however, will be construction and moving of the bulky beasts. This will mean, more than ever, that as many hands as possible will be needed on our planting days. I know its a bit rough putting the wind up you this early on, but there is no harm in being forewarned.

On a lighter note, our break up barbecue will be held on Sunday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. Please come along; bring along your barbie tucker and a salad and meet in the Fosters Gully car-park. There's going to be a spotlight walk afterwards, so some insect repellent wouldn't go astray. Come along and check out the Gallery of Calloused Hands .

As far as next year goes, the next mail-out will contain the program for the year. Rob and Ken are keeping a close eye on the seed development in the Park for collection. It's difficult to set a date for harvesting this early on, so if you'd like to be involved let Ken know (223 137) and he'll let you know when we're going out.

Stay safe over the. break, and I hope to see y'all out in force in the new year,

Bye,

Steve Shinnars.