



FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK INC.

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MARCH 1993 NEWSLETTER

We had an excellent attendance for the first meeting of 1993 -thanks to those who came -all took the opportunity to catch up with each other's news since we last met. The "troops" piled in the cage on the trailer and went on an exciting descent down to the creek. Ever wondered how poddy calves -WHO said old choppers?? -feel while being transported? We removed cages from suitably-developed trees from the creek section as well as a large number from the hillside planting on the opposite side of the creek (towards Tebbs Terrace). We now have a useful number on hand for re-use this year for new plantings. Despite dark and threatening clouds all around, the rain stayed off until we were almost back to our cars, and then only a few spots to cool us off.

Ken tells me that he has observed two butterflies not before sighted in the Park. Firstly the Shouldered Brown in the grass amongst the trees. This is similar to the Common Brown but is seen only in February and March. Secondly, the Painted Lady which is fairly common in the area but not been recorded in the Park before. In addition, in the newly planted area are a number of birds such as Honey Eaters, Thornbills, Blue Fairy Wrens etc. which would not have been attracted to the open farmland that it was before, so give yourselves a pat on the back -our work is "paying off" already.

Unfortunately, upon later inspection, Rob found that 20-30 of the young trees from which the guards had been removed were falling over; while the guards give wonderful protection, the young trees rely on them for physical support and tend not to form a strong root system. Staking of these is fairly urgently needed, and we will hold a working bee on **Sunday 21st March** to do this then, time and willing helpers permitting, we will go on to the Fosters Gully area to do some weed clearing. Meet 1.30 at the end of Braniffs Road.

The next item on the agenda (apart from the Friends Conference at Rawson - see your 1993 activities program) is the **Yinnar South Country Fair**. Note this is on Saturday 13th March, and NOT the 21st as in the activities program. A couple of our stalwarts are not able to make it this year I SO if you can attend at all, it would be good. We cook damper and make billy tea, and so far we have one person to attend most of the day, and one person from 1.30 onwards, so at least one other to help in the morning from say 11.00 am or a little earlier is rather **desperately needed here** (experience not needed! -it's good fun really). At least two and preferably three people are needed for this task. Also the Fair Committee asks that we help with the catering, so if you have just an hour or so to spare for this, please let Joan Sikkema (our rep. on the Committee) know, tel: 221301. The Fair Committee donate a sum to us each year, and our help serving in the catering outlets is expected in exchange.

We also need to get some firm idea of the numbers of people going to **Rotomah Island** on 3rd-4th April, so if you are considering this at all, please contact Joanna Azziz on 696496 NOW (evenings is best to find her in). Joanna has details of the accommodation and travel arrangements if you have enquiries.

Quite a lot going on this month!


WENDY NICKSON
Newsletter Editor