



FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK INC.

PO Box 19
Churchill
3842

Ranger 03 51221478
Secretary 03 51221046

APRIL NEWSLETTER 1997

MARCH ACTIVITY REPORT

YINNAR SOUTH COUNTRY FAIR.

About 10 members turned up during the day and all helped with the various jobs and activities, such as countless numbers of dampers made for the kids to cook; and helping to serve in the food tent. Seven books were sold at the fair and many information sheets handed out to a lot of interested people.

The dampers were a big drawcard with the kids, many of which came back again and again absolutely delighted that there was something which didn't cost anything at all and they could cook it themselves.

CHURCHILL COMMUNITY FAIR

This was a quite day compared to the previous weekend but much more interest was shown about the book and all of our maps and information sheets were handed out to a lot of interested people. The weather was much cooler and considerably wetter, this made a few quick moves of our display necessary during the day till we had it worked out which way the stand was going to work best.

WILLOW REMOVAL ALONG BILLY CREEK.

The day after the Yinnar South Country Fair several members and one new family member walked up as far as we could past the weir and commenced to pull, cut and poison all of the remaining willow trees all of the way back to the first creek crossing (along the vehicle track). This had been done about three or four years ago and it was good to see that there were no more than a small load of willows removed along this stretch of Billy Creek.

Many a good trout was seen swimming away from the workers who were carefully walking along the creek. This was up to a point for me at least as my gum boots suddenly shrank three or four inches in water which was well up to my thighs! Oh well it was nearly our last sunny day and the water was fine. Also it wasn't long before I was joined Ken who agreed that it was much easier to walk up the creek without the fear of getting wet.

The day however finished up on a somewhat lower note when one of our members accidentally got the top of his finger cut off by the tree loppers when helping to tidy up the overhanging branches of willow extending out the end of Rob's truck. I hear that the finger is healing well and wish that all keeps going on well with the recovery.

After mentioning this I feel there is a need to express that safety is an item which we have to think of at all times whether it be at work, home or our leisure time. This is the second accident which has happened this financial year during one of the friends group activities. I also hope this will be the last for some time, and take the opportunity to stress the importance of working safely and carefully when participating in the friends group activities.

FLOWERS AND FERNS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK BOOK RELEASE

For those who didn't attend the book launch on 21 March, the launch went off very well with an excellent turn out of interested people, about 50 in all. As well as the invited guests we were also blessed with some of the residents of the park being represented by a wallaby with a pouch baby who fronted up just as all of the presentations were being done. This was appreciated by all who could see them.

Keith Hamilton gave a very good speech in launching the book, which was, as he said, the only one published of that format and quality a great achievement for Victoria's third smallest National Park.

Billy tea was served after the formalities and the rain held off long enough to allow all to be said and done.

DONT FORGET TO SAVE YOU BOTTLES AND CANS !

When you have saved enough bottles and cans (glass and aluminium) dont forget to take them along with you to the next activity so that Rob can get them recycled and raise some more money.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome to the Friends of Morwell National Park David and Laberta Forys, who joined on March 16.

APRILL ACTIVITY

April 20

Peel's Block fire site walk.

1:30 pm

It is intended to do a car shuffle from Fosters Gully car park to Brewsters Road and walk in back to the Fosters Gully Car park (Kerry Rd picnic area).

This should only take about one and a half hours to walk the distance which is probably a fairly good walk with some down hill and just as much up hill as well.

But if you decide to drive up to Brewsters Rd and return that way again it will be a much easier walk and you could spend more time looking around at the site where it was burnt out by the fire last year.

Hopefully we will be able to see some new plants regenerating there which we dont get to see very often.

Dont forget to take a drink, food and suitable clothing along with you as appropriate to what the lovely Autumn days of Gippsland can deliver, see you all there.

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