

## **Nyah-Vinifera Park: One-year celebrations a (wet) success!**

Wadi Wadi people proudly celebrated the first anniversary of the proclamation of Nyah Vinifera Park on the first day of NAIDOC week (July 3<sup>rd</sup>) 2011. Friends of the Earth also supported the event. The day had been planned as a walk through the Park to hear stories of co-management and the Park's post-flood recovery from traditional owners and other locals including long term enthusiasts and advocates for the forest: Nic McKay from Friends of Nyah Vinifera, and Neil McFarlane from the Mid Murray Field Naturalists.

Unfortunately the thunderclouds gathered and broke the previous night and continued bucketing down through the morning. So some quick changes of plan were made to instead host the celebrations at the historic Tyntynder Homestead which is now owned and operated by the Wadi Wadi community. While the day was much damper than hoped, the enthusiasm and sharing by those people that attended was brilliant and heart-warming. Instead of a nature walk through the Park it became a day of barbequing and sharing of stories and tea, and exploring the old Homestead.

The plan to ramble through Nyah Vinifera Park was to point out and spot with folks the positive and negative impacts of the floods and environmental watering. The Park after years of drought (the last volume of environmental water was in 2005) is just beginning to flourish as a result of months of really deep soaking. It seems that the Vinifera (south-eastern) end of the Park is already starting to fill up again with water as a result of significant rains in the region.

Wadi Wadi will be keen to host more community days in the Park in the future that bring people together to better understand their country, and their role as co-managers of the Park. These occasions are opportunities for Wadi Wadi people to share their special and unique historical and contemporary relationship with the land, water, plants and animals. It also creates a space for everyone to share their observations and knowledge of the environmental changes of Nyah Vinifera. It's hoped that such knowledge exchange and story-telling about Wadi Wadi community and the Nyah Vinifera forests and Park will encourage local collaborative projects that will look after the Park, and celebrate and support the co-management between Wadi Wadi People and Parks Victoria. Keep an ear and eye out for other days of fun and learning with the Wadi Wadi community in Nyah Vinifera Park in the coming Spring and Summer. For more information or interest in contributing to the work with the Wadi Wadi community please contact Indira Narayan, the Coordinator of the Wadi Wadi co-management arrangements: [indira.narayan@foe.org.au](mailto:indira.narayan@foe.org.au) or 0409 257 354.