

Monash University Biological Society 2012

Newsletter 1.0

N.B. Those of you who were members last year will have received this email twice. We apologise for this but assure you it will only happen the once - after this newsletter, all those on the mailing list from last year will cease to exist to us unless they have signed up for this year :)

Contents:

- **1.0 Welcome members!**
- **2.0 BBQ (March 6th, 12-2pm)**
- **3.0 GradFest (March 8th)**
- **4.0 Cactus Injecting (16-18 March)**
- **5.0 Nest-boxing (23-25 March, 20-22 April)**
- **6.0 OGM (Week 4)**
- **7.0 Volunteering/Work Opportunities**
 - **7.1 Stream sampling in central Victoria**
 - **7.2 Internship with Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS)**
 - **7.3 Foraging behaviour of swamp wallabies**
- **8.0 Our Website & Facebook page**

1.0 Welcome members!

Hello and welcome to all of our members, new and old! There are more than 200 of you already, which is fantastic. For those of you who are new, we look forward to getting to know you at this year's events - some of which are already less than a week away! If you have friends who are yet to sign up, or were a member last year but have not renewed your membership, membership costs are the same as last year:

- **\$5** if you are a member of MSA
- **\$10** if you are not a member of MSA

Remember, if you show your Monash Biological Society membership card at *Cinque Lire* you receive the exclusive deal of **10% off all hot drinks**. *Cinque Lire*, renowned for having the best coffee on campus, is located over on the 'Science Strip'. If you're having trouble finding it, be sure to let us know and we'll help you with directions (because if you don't get a chance to try their coffee, you really are missing out).

There will be sign-up sheets available at our first BBQ, next week (see below), so be sure to bring along your friends!

2.0 BBQ (March 6)

To kick off the semester, we will be having our first BBQ of the year **next Tuesday** (March 6) from **12pm until 2pm**. Like practically all of our BBQs it will be held on the Boob Lawn (the one with the rather suspicious looking lumps, in case you're a first year and don't know these things yet). There will be sausages, vegie burgers, drinks, sign-up sheets and many fellow biology nerds, so be sure to come along! And we have a **special offer for first-years** - if you are already a member, and you bring along a friend who signs up to be a member, you will receive a **free t-shirt!**

Remember, too, that all Bio Society events are put up on our Facebook group (<http://www.facebook.com/groups/297976276924389/>). Join the group and you'll be notified of the details of all events for the year (ideal for those of you that are keen, lazy, forgetful, unorganised, or anything in between).

3.0 GradFest (Thursday, 8th March)

Graduating this year? Or starting to have a good think about what happens when you do? GradFest is the biggest careers event on campus, where you can meet over 100 employers looking to hire graduates for 2013. This is a great opportunity to learn about potential job opportunities and explore possible career pathways. Plus, entry is FREE with your Monash ID card.

The Science session will run from 2.30 - 5pm. To learn more, take a look at the organisations attending (all 100+ of them) and book to attend, visit www.tinyurl.com/gradfest.

4.0 Cactus Injecting (March 16-18)

That's right; it's that time of year again. For those of you who haven't been, this is one of our regulars - a cactus-injecting trip, where you get to march around injecting Wheel Cactuses

(an introduced species) with lethal poison in the name of conservation. Anyone who has been can tell you it's heaps of fun and a great way to get to know other members of the club. Since this is our first camp of the year, as well, we particularly encourage first-years to get on board!

Our 'Death Squad' will be heading up to Maldon on Friday and returning on Sunday afternoon. Saturday will be spent annihilating cactuses, while Sunday will be a bit more of a social fun day. We will be organising carpooling both there and back.

More information will be provided closer to the date, but if you have any questions you're welcome to email us (activities@biologicalsociety.com.au). Also check out the Facebook event, which is available from our Facebook group (see 6.0). If you want to attend this event, **please register** at www.biologicalsociety.com.au/events.html.

5.0 Nest boxing (March 23-25, April 20-22)

This Autumn we'll be running two camps up to Benalla for nest-boxing, as part of the Regent Honeyeater project. Each year, the Regent Honeyeater Project monitors nest boxes in the Lurg Hills, checking for use by Squirrel Gliders, Sugar Gliders and Brush-tailed Phascogales. The Monash Biological Society has been taking part in this project for years and it is an incredible volunteering opportunity.

As with the cactus-injecting camp, we will be organising car-pooling and will have more information for you closer to the dates. Once again, though, if you have any questions please contact us at activities@biologicalsociety.com.au. To attend, you will also need to register for the event at www.biologicalsociety.com.au/events.html

6.0 OGM (Week 4)

We will be holding an OGM in Week 4 of this semester to elect a **first-year representative** for the committee. Being on a club committee is a great way to get involved with university life and learn essential management skills - plus, the Biological Society has to have one of the friendliest committees (in our opinion). The only requirement for being the first-year rep is that you are studying first year biology units, so we encourage anyone who is interested to come forward.

7.0 Volunteering/Work opportunities

7.1 Stream sampling in central Victoria

Darren Giling (PhD student, School of Biological Sciences)

I'm working on a project looking at how riparian vegetation replanting affects organic matter dynamics in streams in central Victoria. Looking for some field assistance for a number of short (likely 2-3 days) field trips from late February through to April to conduct

some stream sampling and run a number of salt injections. We'll be staying in the caravan park at Benalla and the accommodation will be covered. The dates are currently subject to change based on stream flows and equipment but at the moment may be 27 Feb - 2 March (longer trip), 7-9 March, 13-15 March, 27-29 March.

If you're potentially interested/available in helping out for any of the dates let me know (Darren.Giling@monash.edu), would be much appreciated!

7.2 Internship with Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS)

WDCS North America (NA), headquartered in Plymouth, Massachusetts, is accepting applications for internships providing experience in working for an international organization in the conservation and research arena. The intern program is offered to qualified applicants throughout the year, allowing each participant / student to customize their learning experience based on their interest and availability. Successful applicants will become proficient at research, educational outreach, and conservation of marine mammals; they will also be expected to contribute a more focused project furthering professional development.

WDCS is willing to help qualified students obtain credits for the program through their college or university. The program typically requires a minimum commitment of 3 months, with the possibility of extending the term.

All interns are trained in photo-identification, data-collection and management, public speaking, and marine mammal policy.

If you are interested in finding out more about this internship and/or how to apply, simply reply to this email and we will forward you the full details.

7.3 Foraging behaviour of swamp wallabies

Angus Williamson is doing a Masters project on the foraging behaviour of swamp wallabies and is currently looking for volunteers to help him out. For more information refer to the flyer attached to this newsletter.

8.0 Our Website and Facebook Page

EDIT: The Facebook page remains the Monash Biological Society.

Website -

<http://www.biologicalsociety.com.au>

Facebook -

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/5414408187/>

Enquiries -

enquiries@biologicalsociety.com.au

Event Registration:

<http://www.biologicalsociety.com.au/events.html>