

# Monash University Biological Society

**2012**

**Newsletter 12.0**

## Contents:

- **1.0 Trivia night - TONIGHT** (*5 September*)
- **2.0 Regent Honeyeater Tree Planting Weekends** (*September 8-9 & 22-23*)
- **3.0 New Scientist Writing Prize 2012** (*entries close 21 September*)
- **4.0 Biological Society Cocktail Night** (*22 November*)
- **5.0 Volunteering/Work Opportunities**
  - **5.1 Victoria Summer Ranger Program 2013** (*entries close 5 and 14 September*)
  - **5.3 RBMS Field Trip** (*Thursday 13 September*)
- **6.0 Website & Facebook page**

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## **1.0 Trivia night - TONIGHT** (*5 September*)

As you should all have DEFINITELY heard about by now, Biological Society and MUCFarm are teaming up to hold a Trivia Night at **Sir John's Bar tonight, 6.30-10.30 pm.**

Tickets are \$15 and all the money made will go towards MUCFarm's community farming project. Don't worry if you or your friends don't have a ticket yet - tickets will be on sale, at the door, so all you have to do is show up!

There will be fantastic prizes, fun questions, and other surprises to be had. To top that off, each table will also receive a FREE jug of beer, jug of soft drink, bowl of wedges and a bowl of chips.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!

## **2.0 Regent Honeyeater Tree Planting Weekends** (*September 8-9 & 22-23*)

Two weekends down, two to go! For those of you who don't know, the Regent Honeyeater Tree Planting weekends are a fun, social opportunity to join Ray and the Regent Honeyeater team and restore another 25 habitat sites for threatened species. The dates for the tree planting weekends still to come are as follows:

- September 8 - 9
- September 22 - 23

So how does it all work? It's pretty simple:

Getting there: The Biological Society are organising carpooling two and from the beautiful Lurg Hills, where the planting will take place.

Accommodation: Free sleeping quarters provided at Benalla Scout and Guide Halls. Mattresses supplied & small kitchen facilities available. BYO sleeping bag & pillow. Hot showers at Benalla Leisure Caravan Park, \$3.

What to Bring: Sun-screen, hat, boots or sturdy shoes, long trousers, gloves, rain jacket, hand-trowel.

Meals: Free meals are provided for Saturday dinner and Sunday lunch. However, make sure you BYO lunch for Saturday (in the field) and breakfast for Sunday.

Activities (besides tree planting): Bush dance on Saturday night for the energetic. Wildflower & ecology walk on Sunday afternoon, in some of our best bush remnants. See the fantastic growth in some of our older sites, a decade or more after planting.

So if you've missed out so far, or are keen to come along again, remember to **sign up** for the event at our website: <http://www.biologicalsociety.com.au>.

Also remember to like the Regent Honeyeater Project on Facebook! <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Regent-Honeyeater-Project/396903907025664>

### **3.0 New Scientist Writing Prize 2012** (*entries close 21 September*)

The New Scientist Writing Prize is awarded to university students whose submissions most effectively communicate a scientific issue to a public audience. The word limit is 1000 words - so it's not a massive investment of time and energy - and the prizes are fantastic:

- 1st prize: \$1500
- 2nd prize: \$750
- 3rd prize: \$250

All winners also receive a 1 year *New Scientist* subscription. Remember, too, that the ability to communicate science in this way is being increasingly recognised as one of the most important skills in science - an idea that is probably being drummed into your minds by many of your tutors and lecturers by now. So basically, not only is this great practice, but it is also a great opportunity to maybe show off your skills a bit :)

Entries close 21 September.

### **4.0 Biological Society Cocktail Night** (*22 November*)

A DATE HAS BEEN SET - for the 2012 Biological Society Cocktail Night.

It will be held on the **22nd of November** - so the Thursday after the last of the Semester 2 exams. It will be fun, it will involve alcohol (of course), and you will be there. You know it.

Some ideas for a theme were thrown around at the Cactus Injecting Trip earlier this year, which are as yet to be officially announced, but you will like it. We promise.

More details soon!

## 5.0 Volunteering/Work opportunities

### 5.1 Victoria Summer Ranger Program 2013

The Parks Victoria Summer Ranger program is a fantastic way to gain industry experience and be part of a team committed to making a difference to the environment.

Parks Victoria employ summer rangers in parks across the state during their peak time (November to February) for up to 12 weeks. Summer rangers deliver environmental programs, provide visitor services and undertake other park management activities.

The work is challenging and varied and provides a great opportunity for on the job training.

Parks Victoria are now recruiting for:

**6 Marine Ranger Interns** to assist local staff in the overall management of Victoria's marine protected areas based in:

- Wilsons Promontory
- Queenscliff
- San Remo
- Williamstown
- Apollo Bay
- Port Campbell

Revised closing date for Marine Rangers: Wednesday 5 September, 2012

Full details and application procedures available at <https://careergateway.monash.edu.au/ViewJob.chpx?id=190144>

**6 Summer Rangers** to assist in the overall management of a set Region during the peak vacation period based in:

- Rosebud (two positions available)
- Echuca
- Point Nepean

- Foster
- Anglesea

Closing date for Summer Rangers: Friday 14 September.

Full details and application procedures available at <https://careergateway.monash.edu.au/ViewJob.chpx?id=190135>

*If you have any queries, feel free to contact the careers staff at [careers.info@monash.edu](mailto:careers.info@monash.edu).*

## **5.2 RBMS Field Trip (*Thursday 13 September*)**

*The River Basin Management Society invites you to a field day on the Riparian Restoration Project – an experiment to evaluate the effectiveness of riparian restoration in lowland streams of the Murray Darling Basin*

The enhancement of degraded riparian zones represents a major focus of waterway management across Australia. These efforts are motivated by an understanding that the overall health of our streams is intimately linked with the condition of the riparian zone.

Despite the considerable annual investment of millions of dollars, the ecological effectiveness of riparian management is often based on scant and/or fragmented evidence. As a consequence, we have a limited understanding of how streams and their riparian zones respond to management efforts and what indicators are best measured to document change.

With the support of the Murray-Darling Basin Commission, Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and various Catchment Management Authorities, scientists from Monash University and DSE's Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research are addressing this knowledge gap.

Since 2000, an experiment has been underway in the southern Murray-Darling Basin to evaluate the ecological responses to livestock removal and replanting within river red gum-dominated riparian zones along five small, intermittent lowland streams.

The approach, results and key lessons from the work will be presented on the field day.

An itinerary for the day can be downloaded [here](#), and you can find out more about the experiment at [www.mdba.gov.au/riparian-restoration-experiment](http://www.mdba.gov.au/riparian-restoration-experiment)

The field trip fee includes transport to and from the site (ex Melbourne), lunch, snacks and refreshments.

## **6.0 Our Website and Facebook Page**

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

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

Enquiries - [enquiries@biologicalsociety.com.au](mailto:enquiries@biologicalsociety.com.au)

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