

# Monash University Biological Society

**2012**

**Newsletter 3.0**

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## 1.0 OGM results

Thankyou to all of those that joined us for our OGM, despite the unfortunate weather (which annoyingly cleared up right after the OGM finished). We are delighted to announce that we now have 3 new committee members, as follows:

- Catriona McCallum – First year representative
- Emma Rigoni – Assistant secretary
- Louis Gurr – Assistant treasurer

So congratulations to these people, and thankyou to all of you who participated!

## 2.0 Environmental Industry Night - postponed

We have decided that, for a number of reasons, it would be in everyone's best interest to postpone the Environmental Industry Night until next semester. Don't panic, though – in postponing this event we hope to make it bigger, better and more worth everyone's time (including yours!).

As soon as the new date for this event has been decided we will let you know, so stay tuned and have your pen poised – it will be a date worth saving.

## 3.0 Phillip Island Trip (10-13 April)

That's right – it's less than two weeks now until one of our favourite camps. The Monash Biological Society has been taking part in assisting the rangers at Phillip Island Nature Park for years and it is an incredible volunteering opportunity. In previous years we have helped with many projects around the island including habitat restoration, nestbox building and weed removal. This year, we will running a camp over the **mid-semester break** where we will be focussing just on **habitat restoration**.

As with all our camps, we will be organising car-pooling and petrol money will be reimbursed. Accommodation is free of charge but a small monetary contribution will be required for meals (which will be provided for us). To attend, you will need to **register for the event** (<http://www.biologicalsociety.com.au/events.html>). There are **only 20 places available**, so be sure to get in early so you don't miss out!

## 4.0 Nest boxing (April 20-22)

If you've missed our previous emails, here's a short spiel on this project: 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 a great chance to see

wildlife up close – with the added bonus that you are helping out an important conservation project :)

We had a group there only last weekend, so if you know anyone who went, be sure to talk to them about it! And if you would like to know more don't hesitate to email us.

If you wish to attend, you need to register at [www.biologicalsociety.com.au/events.html](http://www.biologicalsociety.com.au/events.html) (under Nest Boxing).

## 5.0 Postgraduate seminar series

The Monash Biological Society Committee recently met with a representative from the Postgraduate Committee, to discuss activities we could plan together. It's still early days for most of these, and our plans will be kept top-secret until we can reveal them to you with a majestic flourish. However, something was suggested that we can all take part in straight away: the postgraduate seminar series.

Every **Tuesday at 4pm** there are biology postgraduate seminars held in the **Sanson Room** (Building 22, G01-G02). These are seminars where postgraduates talk about their research, which is a great opportunity for you to find out what's new in the field of biology, what kind of work is involved in postgraduate research, and get to know the faces around university a bit better. After all, teaching is only a small part of what happens at Monash – these seminars will help to give you a better idea of what goes on behind the scenes.

## 6.0 Volunteering/Work opportunities

### 5.1 Urban bird feeding study

*Do you feed birds in your garden?*

*Are you interested in finding out more about the birds in your garden?*

*Would you like to help increase our knowledge about urban birds?*

If so, you are the perfect candidate for an urban bird feeding study that I am conducting. My name is

Chanaka and I am a science student doing an observational research project on Urban Bird Feeding

Stations for my honours year at Monash University. The aim is to find out which bird species use

such feeding stations, how often they visit them and how they interact with the other birds that they

encounter there. If you are interested in this study, I am looking for individuals or families with an

area in their backyard in which they regularly feed birds. For this study I will not need any volunteers

to help watch the birds, rather just people generous enough to allow me into their garden and let

me watch birds.

The study will run from April to August and exact details are to be finalized, although I aim to visit

each feeder several times throughout the study. I expect most of my work will occur in the early

morning and late afternoon as birds are typically most active then.

If you or someone you know think that this is a project you might be interested in or would like to

find out more about, please feel free to contact me.

Chanaka Ruwandeniya

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## 5.2 Fauna surveys at Nanya Station

Here's a great opportunity for part-time students of Bio Soc members who have finished university. Conservation Volunteers has an exciting new project that has just been confirmed at Nanya Station. There is a cost involved to cover accommodation and food, and it has been dramatically reduced for both full-fee paying volunteers and students so it is an amazing once off opportunity! Conservation Volunteers will provide transport to Nanya Station (in the western district of New South Wales) from their Bendigo office which is a short 5 minute walk from Bendigo Train Station.

Conservation activities will include Malleefowl surveys and mound monitoring, Kangaroo surveys, fence removal, vegetation monitoring and assistance with predator control fencing to protect critical vegetation. The trip will be 10 days (17-26 April). For more information, refer to the two flyers attached to this email – note that one has the normal cost while the other has the reduced price for students.

## 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>