

Monash University Biological Society

2012

Newsletter 5.0

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1.0 First Postgraduate Workshop – thankyou and feedback!

So today, history was made and the first ever Postgraduate Workshop was held at lunchtime. A big thanks to everyone who attended – we hope you all found it interesting and informative. It all ran pretty smoothly and the pizza was delicious, even though the tantalising smell was a little distracting for some of us towards the end of the presentation.

Anyone who did attend, we'd greatly appreciate your feedback on this event. As has been mentioned numerous times, it is a first and so there will naturally be bits and pieces to iron out. Also, as was mentioned at the workshop, we (and the postgraduates involved) are still working out what level to pitch at - in other words, there were probably times where things talked about that were fairly basic to you, while other times it might have been the opposite. So, if you forgot (or didn't get a chance) to fill out a feedback slip after the workshop, please do email us – we would love to hear your thoughts!

And to anyone who couldn't make it this time, don't stress – there will be others to come! Hopefully you'll be able to make it next time.

2.0 BBQ (May 3, 12-2pm)

As it's been a while since we offered you **FREE FOOD**, this **Thursday (May 3)** we will be holding a BBQ on the **Boob Lawn, 12-2pm**. There will be the usual sausages (standard and kangaroo), vegetarian options (always tasty), and drinks (including the usual soft drinks, beer, and our new option – cider!).

So come along, bring your friends, grab a bite to eat and here's hoping we have better weather than last time! See you there!

3.0 Mornington Peninsula Camp (mid-year break)

During the mid-year break, which is approaching wonderfully (and alarmingly) fast, we will be running two camps to satisfy your biological cravings. One of these will be a trip to Mornington Peninsula, where we will be carrying out activities such as weeding out the annoyingly common *Pittosporum* species that they get over there. It'll be good fun and we will have more information for you soon enough – so stay tuned!

4.0 Cactus Injecting Camp (mid-year break)

As well as the Mornington Peninsula camp, our second cactus injecting camp will be running at some point during the mid-year break. 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 went last time will be able to tell you it's heaps of fun and a great way to get involved with the club, if you haven't had the chance during the busy semester.

As always, 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).

5.0 Volunteering/Work opportunities

5.1 Marine Pest Removal - Undaria pinnatifida (Wakame, Japanese Kelp)

The Marine Pest Removal had to be postponed but we will let you know when a new date has been confirmed. You can find the Facebook event here: <http://www.facebook.com/events/172933789496032/>

If you have any questions you can contact the Monash Representative (Miles) at miles.jennings@monash.edu.

5.2 Snorkelling for seasquirts

From Amy Hooper:

I'm working in the marine evolutionary ecology lab, and I'm involved in a project looking at mating investment in seasquirts. I'm looking for people to keep me company, and come snorkeling with me whilst I collect animals from under piers around Melbourne and Geelong. I'll probably be collecting about once every week or two for the next few months, so there will be plenty of opportunities to come out with me :) You'll need to have a wetsuit and preferably your own snorkel and mask, and also be a confident swimmer. If you're interested, or would like more info, drop me a line at amy.hooper@monash.edu

5.3 Raven Watch

From Emma Hales:

Hi guys! I'm doing my honours project on raven behaviour. Unfortunately, this project involves 50+ study sites. Because I'm only one person and I only have two eyes I'm struggling to find this many locations where I know ravens hang out. You might be thinking that they're everywhere but it's amazing how fast they disappear when you're actually searching for them.

So I figured many eyes are better than two. If you see somewhere with ravens wandering around the ground please email me at ekhal5@student.monash.edu. It can be parks, roadsides, ovals, your street, your friend's street, your mum's street....anywhere but places like the Maccas car park (too obvious).

Thanks!

6.0 Postgraduate seminar series

This was mentioned in the previous two newsletters but we thought we may as well keep reminding you all :)

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.

7.0 Our Website and Facebook Page

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>