

Monash University Biological Society

2012

Newsletter 7.0

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1.0 BBQ (May , 12-2pm)

So here we are, into our final week of semester. And what better way to celebrate but with **FREE FOOD**? This **Wednesday (May 3)** we will be holding our final BBQ for the semester 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...and the time before. See you there!

2.0 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. The first 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 they get over there.

While the specific dates are yet to be confirmed, the camp will be running over 4 days (3 nights) sometime during the second week of the mid-year break (so **sometime between the 2nd and 8th of July**). It'll be good fun and we have more information for you soon enough – so stay tuned!

3.0 Cactus Injecting Camp (mid-year break)

As well as the Mornington Peninsula camp, our second cactus injecting camp will be running sometime during **the third week of 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).

4.0 Regent Honeyeater Tree planting weekends (August & September)

While this may feel like months away (well, it is...) we now have for you the dates for the Regent Honeyeater Tree planting weekends!

They will be as follows:

- August 11/12
- August 25/26
- September 8/9
- September 22/23

It's never too early to save a few dates, so keep these ones in mind as we move into the next semester. We have also attached a flier about these weekends if you're interested in finding out more.

5.0 Volunteering/Work opportunities

5.1 Tree Planting with Landcare (26-27 May)

From Matthew Lee:

Hi there biological fellows!

The tree planting weekend is at my families farm at the blackwood forest in Ryanston on the 26th of May. We are planning on planting 4500 trees in the gully in an attempt to improve water and habitat quality. It should be a great day out with lunch (and dinner if you decide to stay for the festivities in the evening) provided. It's going to be great to get out of Melbourne into the fresh air. The planting will be undertaken in a beautiful and historically rich area, home of the densest forest in the world and the tallest recorded living tree found in living history. This event is an attempt to restore small portions of this once great forest from a degraded, over utilized pasture to a glimmering reflection of its former wonder.

There will be a large handful of fellow biology students heading up in the morning from Monash as well as other volunteers from Melbourne and the 3 creeks land care helping out. It would be great to get as many volunteers as possible attending.

You can contact me directly to organize a lift to the farm at mjlee10@student.monash.edu

Look forward to seeing you there guys :)

5.2 Yellingbo Tree Planting (26-27 May)

Yes, we know this on the *same* weekend (unfortunate, hey?) – so it will just have to be your own choice!

From the President of Friends of Leadbeater's Possum

Join us...

... for a fun weekend planting LBP habitat trees in **Yellingbo** Nature Conservation Reserve. We are seeking approx. 15-20 fit volunteers each day to help us accomplish this task. Many hands make light work! This is a great way you can help restore critical habitat for the lowland population of Leadbeater's Possum living only in this reserve.

Dates: 26/27 May Back up dates: 2/3 June

If weather is poor we will adjust to the second weekend. We will give volunteers 3 days notification of a change in dates.

Meeting location: **Yellingbo House Mel 305 G11**

(Shaw Rd – enter through ' Friends' gate)

Time: 9.30am start, returning 4pm each day

If you sign up for 2 days of planting we will provide you with a BBQ dinner on Saturday night and breakfast on Sunday morning. **Plus...** you can come out with us for a LBP stagwatch in the reserve on the Saturday night. This is a very special experience not many people have done – and it is certainly different to stagwatching in the large forests. In **Yellingbo** the trees are much smaller and the LBPs potentially much closer! In the past volunteers have even had LBPs jump on their heads!

After the stagwatch we will unwind back at **Yellingbo** House with a fun trivia game before retiring to our tents for the evening.

What to bring: *(please name any equipment your bring)*

- Wear grubby clothes with good coverage (recommend long sleeves and long pants)
- Gumboots recommended and a second pair of dry shoes
- Clothing for cool days or rain

- Gardening gloves
- Digging tools if you have them: mattock, shovel etc
- Head torch or torch if stagwatching and a camp chair or mat
- All personal camping equipment (tent, sleeping bags, plates and cutlery, mug, camp chair)
- Lunch for Saturday and Sunday, and a water bottle.
- *Please note: toilets, but not showers, are available at Yellingbo House.*

To sign up please [email](#) us with the following details:(or ring Sera on 0418 258 808)

1. Which days you are attending
2. Names of everyone attending each day
3. Contact email and phone / mobile for everyone attending
4. Any special dietary needs or medical needs we should be aware of
5. Will you be okay for the back up weekend if we have to switch?

These have always been fun weekends so we hope you can join us!

Please note: space priority will be given to current members, and people who can attend for the two consecutive days. But, as this is a joint Parks Victoria event we are also able to take non-members over 12 years old (volunteers under 18 must be accompanied by a family member over 18).

Disclaimer: This activity involves working in uneven terrain, heavy lifting, digging, and frequent bending over. A moderate level of fitness is required. Other potential hazards include leeches mosquitos, and wire grass and sedges.

Acknowledgements: these planting days are gratefully supported by grants from Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria.

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

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