

# Come alooong

## *The Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve Newsletter*

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### **2009 Working Bees on the Mountain**

#### **Put them in your diary now! All welcome!**

Please note that the AGM has moved so as not to conflict with the “Gong Ride”. Please also note it has changed from previously advised.

**March 21 & 22**

**May 23 & 24**

**Sept 19 & 20**

**November 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> with the AGM on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November at noon.**

### **New livestock at Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve**

With the death of Sandy before Christmas we lost a friend and a grass mower.

The Board assessed the livestock requirements for managing the grass and the value of having livestock for visitor enjoyment.

It was decided that we could acquire three new goats and a small cow to achieve these aims, without the need to increase the pasture areas of Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve.

This number of animals is considered to not put too much grazing pressure on the area available outside the dedicated conservation area. It is possible that we will lose Louis and Jenny to old age in the next couple of years. The new goats Tilly (the milking one), Lizzy and Dora are settling in well.

A fencing working bee has been underway to ensure the new arrivals stay off the road. Thanks Barry Duncan, Trisha Dean, Peter & Jeanne Crozier, Hyone King and Rob Pallin.

The idea is to milk some of the goats. Unfortunately we cannot sell the milk as it will not be pasteurised.

Swamp wallabies, wombats and echidnas are also being seen more often around the cabins, possibly due to fox baiting.

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Dora, Lizzie and Tilly meet Louis and Jenny

### **Cabin Occupancy**

The cabins have been fully booked over December and January with lots of new families enjoying Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve.

### **A special offer for Friends of Ben Ricketts**

*Friends of Ben Ricketts* can book mid weeks over the period from March to October 2009 outside of school holidays for 1/3<sup>rd</sup> discount off the normal rate.

If you are not a Friend of Ben Ricketts and you wish to become one, please contact The Secretary, Rob Pallin [secretary@benricketts.org.au](mailto:secretary@benricketts.org.au) for information.

### **Sandy – The cow who came home**

The book is now in its second printing and is selling well. If you want to buy some you need to get in early to ensure your copies.

An order form is available on the website or ask Rob Pallin or Hyone King to send you one.

See you at Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve soon!