

Come alooong

The Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve Newsletter

comealooong@benricketts.org.au

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Working Bee March 12th and 13th

Fun on the mountain at Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve.

Join us for this working bee to get Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve ready for the winter. Let Hyone know when you are arriving to ensure a bed and let her know whether you will be there for dinner Friday night. As usual dinner will be provided Saturday night and bring something to share for lunches.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Other working bees for 2011

The following are the proposed dates for working bees for 2011, please put them in your diary now.

June 4th and 5th

August 20th and 21st

October 22nd and 23rd (including the AGM on 23rd)

Cabins

Get your booking in for the autumn and winter now. The cabins are filling fast. Contact Hyone to ensure your booking by phoning her at 02 42360208 or emailing her on bookings@benricketts.org.au

Wildlife Weekend at Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve

12th and 13th February 2011

With the expert assistance of research scientist Brad Law we learned that the bats living in the roof space of Cabin 3 are chocolate wattled bats. When Brad climbed into the roof to collect some there were two groups of approximately 50 and 30. We were able to have a close view of these amazing little mammals on the veranda.

To find out about other bats living in the forest, Brad, his wife Merrilyn and daughter Genevieve, showed us how to erect harp traps. These have an aluminium frame with 4 supporting legs and two rows of fishing lines stretched vertically. When a bat flies into this unexpected object it slides down the strings into a holding bag and is prevented from leaving by a plastic flap.

We all helped to erect four traps then returned to 'Peter's Shed' for the delicious Thai meal cooked by Karl with help from Annie and others. After dinner Brad gave a slide presentation

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Participants

Peter and Nita Kent, Karl Schurr and Annie McClusky, Keren Cox-Witton and James Cox, Jane and Steve Gye, Barry Duncan, Katherine Russell, Nancy and Rob Pallin, Bruce Taylor, Tess Noble, Sarah Elliott and friend Annie, Hyone King, John and son Jonathon from Oakflats Howard Jones and his partner whose land is also under a Conservation Agreement adjoining Barren Grounds Nature Reserve and David Butcher and partner who live at Curramore.

Everyone very much enjoyed the meal and learned lots about little bats. We thank Brad and his family very much for coming.

