

# Come alooong

## *The Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve Newsletter*

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### **DONATIONS NEEDED - Qwerty track**

Thank you to those who contributed donations towards the Qwerty track markers. If you still want to make a donation please contact Keren (0414 362 341 or [jaskeren@optusnet.com.au](mailto:jaskeren@optusnet.com.au)). Any amount will help.

### **Next Working Bee August 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>**

Come and join us for this event at Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve. There will be some work around the Communal Centre, some walking track work and also some bush regen in some sunny spots. A great meal Saturday night will be provided in the Communal Centre.

Let Hylene know you are coming for catering and accommodation purposes. Email her on [bookings@benricketts.org.au](mailto:bookings@benricketts.org.au) or phone on 02 42360208.

The normal arrangements for working bees apply. Free shared accommodation, bring your own personal requirements (including towel, sheets or sleeping bag), supply your own breakfasts, bring something to share for lunches and Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve provides the evening meal on Saturday night, If you are there Friday night there is a simple meal at Pallin's place for all.

### **Other working bees for 2011**

The last chance to join a working bee for this year will be October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> (including the AGM on 23<sup>rd</sup>). Let Hylene know you are planning on being there!

### **A Rainforest Walk on the Qwerty track**

Join us on the Qwerty track walk on 25<sup>th</sup> September. Bring your friends and family! For further information or to let us know you are coming contact [qwerty@benricketts.org.au](mailto:qwerty@benricketts.org.au)

### **Cabins**

Get your booking in for spring and summer now. Summer school holidays are always in high demand so now is the time to make your booking and ensure you get to stay at beautiful Ben Ricketts. The cabins are filling fast. Contact Hylene to ensure your booking by phoning her at 02 42360208 or emailing her on [bookings@benricketts.org.au](mailto:bookings@benricketts.org.au)

Spring is a great time to visit Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve and walk on the Barren Grounds with all the spring flowers. The flowers are starting to put on their spring display.

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## **New Brochure for Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve**

A new brochure promoting Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve has now been printed, with a new look and format. Please pick some up from Hyone, or ask her to post you some, to pass out to your friends and acquaintances.

## **Why are we bush regenerating the forests of Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve?**

**By Rob Pallin**

One of the purposes of setting up Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve was to protect and conserve the forests of the properties.

This article discusses plants that are considered weeds of the forests of Jamberoo Mountain, and especially Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve.

Bush regeneration is removing weeds to allow the natural regeneration of the native plants and the restoration of the ecosystems.

Invasive plants, or weeds, are plants not native to the area that spread and displace the native plants in the area.

These can move by seed that can be spread by wind or animals. Seeds of moth vine, cape ivy and crofton weed can be spread by wind, whereas seeds of arum lily and ginger lily are often spread by birds or other animals.

Weeds can also spread vegetatively. Trad and mist flower are classics for this sort of spread, but arum and ginger lily can also spread this way.

Weeds have several effects on the forests. Some like moth vine, lantana and cape ivy smother plants and out-compete the native plants to access sunlight. Others like mist flower, crofton weed and trad replace native plants in the areas they grow. For example when mist flower is removed from creek lines the native spinach and fieldia recover and thrive.

It is important to ensure the forests are healthy and as free of weeds as possible to ensure the long term existence of the plants and animals that live there. Weeds are quite often successful because they are not eaten as much as the native species by the native animals.

Bush regeneration techniques have been developed over many years to ensure optimum regeneration with minimal risk of creating new problems. For example bush regenerators work from good areas to more invaded areas, and do not remove weeds from too large an area at one time.

The most common method is removal of weeds by hand, with occasional use of herbicide applied in small amounts or by occasionally spraying.

These techniques are proving very effective on Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve and we are reducing the weeds considerably, and allowing the natural ecosystems to regenerate.