

Come alooong

The Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve Newsletter

comealooong@benricketts.org.au

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Qwerty Track

Thank you to those who contributed both money and time to the marking of the Qwerty Track. It is now well marked. We had a successful Qwerty Track walk as part of the Festival of Nature. Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve got an article in the Illawarra Mercury and mentions on several websites.

What has been happening at Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve?

Three little goats are leaping around the rocks and are adorable. Two will be going to other homes shortly.

Karl and Annie have put wire on the ramp and steps of the house to make them safer. Some extra shelter has been built over the chook house to try and give a larger dry area for the chooks. Work has been carried out in the garden to build better compost heaps and reduce the weeds. A lot of general maintenance like checking fences, cleaning out the chook and goat houses has been carried out.

Alison Jones (a horticulturist) has offered to put together a garden plan for the Board to consider.

Caretakers

Thanks to those who have offered to caretake during this period, including Karl Schurr and Annie McCluskey, David and Chardi Christian, Peter and Nita Kent, Rob and Nancy Pallin, Alison Jones, Stephen Gye and Barry Duncan.

Next Working Bee October 22nd and 23rd and the AGM

As is usual not a lot of work will happen on the Sunday but there is plenty to do on the Saturday.

Alison Jones is caretaking between now and the AGM so let her know you are coming for catering and accommodation purposes. Email her on 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. Let Alison know if you will be there for the Friday night.

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Working bees for 2012

We will put out the dates for the 2012 working bees in the next issue of Come Aloong.

Cabins

Get your booking in for 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 the caretaker to ensure your booking by phoning Ben Ricketts at 02 42360208 or emailing on bookings@benricketts.org.au

Spring and summer is a great time to visit Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve and walk on the Barren Grounds with all the spring flowers. Also swimming in the streams at Carrington Falls and visits to the beaches are attractive over the next few months.

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, or ask for some to be posted to you, to pass out to your friends and acquaintances.

Out in the Forest

Rufous fantails have returned after their winter migration north. The pimelias and clematis have flowered well. A male satin bower bird had to be removed from the chook shed.