

Come alooong

The Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve Newsletter

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Merry Christmas and Happy Chanukah to all and wishing you all a great 2012

Dates for working bees in 2012

The working bees for 2012 are:

March 10 and 11

March 24 and 25 (Wood splitting weekend)

June 23 and 24

August 4 and 5

October 20 and 21, with the AGM on the Sunday.

Please put these in your diary now and if you have not been to a working bee, we would love to welcome you to a fun weekend.

Hi from the Caretakers

Hi to everyone! We are the new caretakers, Jake and Jeddah. We are absolutely loving the new role and getting to know more about farm life. It is quite a change for us!

Perhaps you might like to know a little bit about our background and how we ended up here? We are mostly from Newcastle. When we say mostly we mean that is where our home is, but we have spent the last six months or so in Tasmania. Who would have thought that it would be colder here in December than it had been in a Tassie winter! We loved Tasmania, such a beautiful awe inspiring place. We lived in the Huon Valley under the watchful gaze of "The Sleeping Beauty", a magnificent rock feature shaped exactly like a face in profile. But we knew we didn't want to stay there forever, it was too far from our family in Newcastle. So we wondered what to do next. We knew we wanted to live rurally (we have a house in the inner city of Newcastle) yet be closer to our family, so we ended up here. Don't panic - we have done this kind of thing before, but in Canada. We were in charge of a ski chalet for an entire ski season. Pure ski in ski out heaven! Since we enjoyed that so much we thought this job would be just as great.

So far we have loved it but would have preferred some summer weather! We haven't been all about yet but our favourite spot is the Blue Pool near Carrington Falls which would be one of the nicest swimming holes we have ever been to in our lives. We haven't yet made it to Jamberoo Action Park (much to our children's dismay) but hope to go on the next sunny day.

Mostly when the weather is nice we like to go out into the bush for a walk and a look about. We hear there are some really beautiful walks around here? We are looking forward to going to the Minamurra rainforest one day soon.

So next time you visit Ben Ricketts, you might find things are slightly different, perhaps you will hear the cheerful sounds of children playing, but mostly we aim to make your stay warm and welcoming - just like all the caretakers have done before us.

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We come with fresh eyes and open ears so let us know what you think we could do to improve your stay. If you have any questions, just come on over to the house or give us a call.

See you soon,

Jeddah and Jake.