

Come alooong

The Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve Newsletter

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November 2006 – Issue 23

Dates for 2007 working bees. Put them in your diary now!

March 3 & 4

May 12 & 13

July 21 & 22

November 3 & 4 This will also be the AGM weekend

Please put these in your diary now!

Bookings

There are several weekends available and lots of mid weeks between now and Christmas at Ben Ricketts. Take a quiet break to recharge those batteries before the silly season, and while you are there buy some Ben Ricketts eggs! (It is best to order in advance with Hyone)

Annual General Meeting and Landcare Weekend

The second Annual General Meeting of Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve Pty Ltd was held on Sunday 5th November in wet and windy conditions. The Board's proposal on water tanks was endorsed by the meeting and two new tanks will be installed. Also it was accepted in principle that we need a communal area for meetings and activities. The general feeling of the meeting was to refurbish the garage and carport for this purpose.

Lots of work was done on the weekend including removing a fallen tree in Duncania, weeding trad on the edge of the pasture in Duncania, weeding trad near Treefern Swamp and near the main gate and removing timber and bark from near the house and on the fenceline.

Roof gutters were cleared on the cabins and house, water filters replaced and the Misty Lane fence repaired.

Thank you Annie for a great meal on Saturday night.

Thank you all who contributed over the weekend. For those who did not attend you missed a great weekend.

Those who worked over the weekend were Judy and Rymill Abell, Barry Duncan, Fred Lind, Nancy and Robert Pallin, Peter and Nita Kent, Hyone King, Karl Schurr and Annie McCluskey, Keren Cox-Witton and James Cox, Trisha Dean and Jeanne Crozier.

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Chooks

The chooks are very happy scratching in the forest and consuming large amounts of trad. Several people were lucky enough to be able to buy some eggs at the AGM

The chooks urgently need new laying boxes. Any squarish wooden drawers would be great. Let Hyone know if you can supply some.

Anna

Anna the goat has come to the end of her life. Anna was sick for some time but still part of the herd. She will be missed.

VCA

The Voluntary Conservation Agreement is still on track to be signed by the end of this year. This will not only permanently conserve a large part of the properties for future generations but will reduce our Land Tax burden, money we can otherwise use for conservation.

The owners at the Birdhouse are also putting a large part of their property into a VCA. Maybe we can celebrate together!

Plan of Management

The revised Plan of Management for the properties was approved by the Board on 5th November 2006, after useful input from several Shareholders and Friends. If you would like a copy please let the Secretary know.(rbpallin@bigpond.net.au)

Hyone would like to share this with you! (Please note the names have not been changed to protect the innocent!)

All this drama in the kitchen and not a word got through to me and I was just around the corner of the house, in the carport.

Things had calmed down when I did come to the kitchen and then poor Leona had to tell me what had happened. I looked at the heap and all I could see was my broken big brown mug.....so I did a song and dance about my mug that I had had for YEARS.....I have always felt that when I break something it is like loosing a friend.....I don't break much at all.....so I'm wailing away at the lose and that started Leona up again...Oh My God...What Have I Done.....I'll buy you some more.....

Could have been an Opera.....Me doing my wailing....Leona coming in with her lament...onlookers being the chorus in the background.....in the end I saw the funny side of it all and told Leona it was a culling of my over stocked crockery cupboard..."Look", says I, and pulled out two more big cups out of the cupboard.....".Do NOT buy me more"!

What a wonderful finish to the OPERA.....Triumphant at last.

But no..... a bit more of the Opera....as I was tipping the bucket contents into the garbage bag I saw two mugs smashed, of my set of mugs that I had brought all the way from England.....so my wailing started up again and Leona's lament, in wonderful timing, came in and out, weaving the drama into another pitch of anguish on both side of the kitchen.....so

much drama over a few broken bits of china.....tears in my eyes....then a rumbling laughter in the depths of my stomach which slowly came to the surface to break the tension once more....."Goodbye dear friends.....I can let go of you and be at peace within myself."

P.S .Super Glue was holding the door together and I had warned people on Saturday but forgot to warn people on Sunday. Sorry, Sister Leona.