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TREE PLANTING WITH RAY THOMAS & THE REGENT HONEYEATER PROJECT

at Lurg Hills (near Benalla) Saturday 16 - Sunday 17 August

It's not just about planting trees! Have fun with friends, meet new people, help threatened species and participate in a BWV 75th anniversary event.

Many bushwalking clubs and individual club members have over a number of years assisted Ray Thomas with his outstanding Regent Honey Eater revegetation project in the Lurg Hills near Benalla. Last year, 17 Bushwalking Victoria (BWV) groups contributed to this wonderful community project, helping to plant 13,500 seedlings over four separate weekends.

In this BWV anniversary year, it would be really special to see as many clubs as possible working together at the same weekend on August 16-17. It will be a great way to unite BWV clubs and members of all ages, so come along and work alongside fellow walkers. Although the planned weekend is not exclusive to BWV members, with strength in numbers, BWV would send a powerful message to many like-minded people in the community and promote BWV and our individual clubs.

So, mark this August date on your programs, in your diaries, post this note in your club newsletter and website, and organise a group. You will not be disappointed; it is an extremely fulfilling weekend.

For the uninitiated — give it a go! If you are unsure about what is involved, Ray will happily come to a club night and give a presentation about what the project aims to achieve and how much has already been done in the past 13 years. Regular attendees don't need any prompting, they just reappear each year!

All will enjoy a very satisfying and fun-filled weekend, planting trees, socialising over a sumptuous Saturday evening meal and Sunday BBQ lunch along with an offer of a guided wildflower walk, spotlight walk and a bush dance too. All this plus Saturday night accommodation for FREE, as organised by Ray Thomas and his trusty band of volunteers.

For those who cannot come along on the chosen weekend, the alternative weekends of August 2-3, August 30-31 and September 13-14 are also available.

- **Contact:** Ray on (03) 57 611 515 or email raydavidthomas@hotmail.com
- Ray needs to know numbers by 9 August at the latest so that he can organise catering.
- **Meeting time:** at the Benalla Post Office at 9am, Saturday and drive in convoy to the planting sites.
- **Bring:** lunch for Saturday (in the field) and breakfast for Sunday morning (or try Hyde's Bakery for an excellent alternative breakfast), sleeping bag and pillow, towel and personal hygiene items. A nominal charge applies for a shower at the Benalla Aquatic Centre after planting.
- **Further information** on the Regent Honeyeater project is available at <http://regent.org.au/index.php>

Hope to see you there.

If you know you will not be able to go on one of the planting weekends, consider going to one of the Nest Box Checking weekends on 5-6 April 2008 and 3-4 May. Contact Ray if you can go. See also the article on nest box checking on page 8 of the March edition of BNV.)

Bushwalking Victoria: Promotes bushwalking, engages in activities that add value to the community and proactively represents the interests of all recreational bushwalkers

Bushwalking Victoria Inc. A0002548Y ABN 88 344 633 037
Formerly Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs (VicWalk) Inc.