

Ben Rudd's Management Trust

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Benjamin Rudd

Friends of Ben Rudd's Newsletter, No 3

13 October 1999

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- Welcome to the third Friends of Ben Rudds Newsletter. Did you spot the change in our letterhead? The signature is from an 1887 survey plan detailing a boundary adjustment affecting Ben's 'Woodside Farm' property at the top of Rudd Road.
 - Also this month, is a sheet with maps showing Spiers Road and things of interest associated with it. The maps speak for themselves. Ken Mason will be leading a Forest & Bird trip there on Saturday 17 October meeting at 9 AM at the Museum's Gt King St entrance. The trip will visit the Ben Rudd's property and return via the Davies Track. Ben's stonewalls are worth seeing!
 - This month we are happy to print the complete address list of the Friends. Thank you to those who contacted us to say that you were keen for this list to be printed. If there is anyone you know of who might be keen to join our ranks, please let them know.
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PICNIC

The BIG EVENT coming up, is our second attempt at a picnic. This will be on Sunday 14 November. The rain date for the picnic will be 21 Nov. Not since the Club's 75th will so many be assembled at Ben Rudd's hut site. This could end up a reunion of the reunion sort of thing. The OTMC day trip will arrive via Spiers Road (getting popular!), and will descend via the Davies Track.

Things to do while there include a visit to the Big Rock, or a look at Bruce Campbell's dell of delights down the Jim Freeman Track. It may sound like we're just name-dropping, but the rhododendrons will be a sight at this time of the year. Get amongst it, everyone.

Bring gloves, loppers or saws if you like. There's no obligation to actually use them, but we know how people can feel when they spot an unwanted tree as they munch on their sandwiches. (One does, doesn't one?) People will be leaving from the Bullring from 10.30 onwards. If in doubt about the weather, phone Theresa's phone, 477 4987. She or Arthur will have left a message, if they aren't home.

Also coming up before Christmas: the preparation and/or sale of yet more Christmas Trees

It is intended to hold a Christmas tree pruning/harvest/collection day on 11 December, with a tree sale day on 12 December. Pre-orders for trees will be welcome, for selection and pick up from the sale point. Phone 487 9488 for details. But, more importantly, we are looking for volunteers to help; and actually (ahem) still looking for a willing weekend co-ordinator. If you think you can help, please let Richard know. With a lot of people, this will be lots of fun, will take little effort and return some cash. The small crowd last year had to work hard, and did little better than break even. Let's make this a big success, OK? Even if we only get enough people to prune trees in preparation for next year. It has the obvious spin-off benefit for the property of getting rid of unwanted foreign trees.

BEN RUDD'S SHELTER

Over the years the Ben Rudd's Shelter has had more use by non-members of the OTMC than by members, demonstrating its value as a day destination or as a stopover while using the Jim Freeman track.

The shelter has proved a good place for social events, sleep-overs and general lazing about while being only twenty minutes from the nearest road. This is good, as it is providing easy access for families and other uses. This has, however, brought on problems from some of the less educated users of the shelter and its facilities.

There has been a decline in usage of the fire place outside of the shelter and an increase of lighting fires *inside* the shelter which has caused a major deterioration of the brick work and timbers. For this reason, the fire wood has been removed from the shelter, also the grates and the saw.

The Trust will start work in the near future to upgrade the shelter, repairing the damage that has occurred, and installing some other improvements. I would like to hear from any persons who may have any suggestions as to what facilities they think the Ben Rudd's Shelter should have. The following are some suggestions that have come up:

- Improve the fire place or install a fire place in the shelter;
- Remove the fire place completely;
- Improve the water supply;
- Install some form of seating.

Regards, Bevan

With this newsletter, we welcome a new Friend: the XY Tramping Club. We look forward to seeing you on the hill! At the stroke of midnight, 31 Dec, not only might the lights go out, and the smart ones might be seen leaving the cockroaches behind and heading for the hills, but also your 2000 calendar year subscription for Friends-ship will also come due. Unless, of course, you have already subscribed for 2000, we will welcome your \$5 for the year. And you can get more newsletters!

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- **A BIG THANK YOU TO THE MANY GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE KINDLY MADE DONATIONS TO OUR WORK! (Too many to mention individually.)**
 - The Trust wishes our Friends a Merry Christmas and a safe, exciting and happy new year / decade / century / millennium).