



FRIENDS OF MOUNT PAINTER NEWS

APRIL 2014

APRIL'S WORK PARTY PLANTING

- When:** 9am – 12.30pm, Sunday, 13 April
- Where:** Wildflower Triangle, south of Wybalena Grove, just downhill from the bike path. Parking on Bindubi Street near the bike path underpass
- The task:** Planting native grasses to replace introduced ones, and removing woody weeds
- Wear:** Hat, long-sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy footwear.
- Bring:** Drinking water, a mug and some food to share for morning tea. Coffee, tea and juice will be provided.



May's work party, to be held on Sunday, 18 May, will be another planting event, this time with trees and shrubs. We will plant a clump on the lower parts of the south-east side of the hill, and replace dead plants from an earlier planting a bit further north-west.

For more information about anything in this newsletter, contact Sarah Hnatiuk on 0424 263 565 or at sarahhnatiuk@yahoo.com.au.

HAZARD REDUCTION BURN IN THE WILDFLOWER TRIANGLE

A controlled burn will be carried out soon by the ACT Government's Fire Management Unit. The area to be burnt is bounded by Bindubi Street, the bike path, and the reserve boundary south of Wybalena Grove.

Several people have expressed concern to me about a possible conflict between the burn and planting. The burn will be above the bike path, the planting below, so our newly planted tubestock should be safe.

The burn has been scheduled for autumn to minimise the impact on flowering and seeding plants, small patches will be left unburnt to further reduce damage to the vegetation, and protection will be provided for some of the trees. With the rainfall of recent weeks, the burn, when the weather finally allows, is likely to be a cool one.

BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT IN THE ACT

The ACT Government's Strategic Bushfire Management Plan, which guides burning activities in areas such as Mount Painter Nature Reserve, is currently under review. Community consultations are now being carried out, with one of the sessions to be held on 8th April from 6.30pm-8.30pm at the Southern Cross Club, near Jamison Plaza. For more information, contact the Emergency Services Agency at www.esa.act.gov.au, phone 6207 4541 or use SBMPhaveyoursay@act.gov.au.

TELSTRA VOLUNTEERS ON MOUNT PAINTER

Twelve Telstra staff volunteered their labour for a day on Mount Painter last month. They planted grasses along the Summit Path, laid out logs for erosion control under yellow box trees on steep slopes, and moved mesh guards from plants that no longer need protection to smaller ones.



A MOUNTAIN BIKE TRACK IN THE WILDFLOWER TRIANGLE

Last month one of our members stumbled across the handiwork of some keen mountain bikers. They had constructed more than 50 metres of track, including jumps, a cambered bend and two gully crossings. The track surface had been compacted and smoothed, using water from the nearby water cube.



As it is illegal to damage a nature reserve in this way, the ranger who looks after our reserve has mashed up the track to deter its use: important for the environment but unfortunate for the hard-working constructors of the track.



Above: the mountain bike track crossing the gully, with a jump on the further bank constructed by mounding dirt over a fallen log. Right: the track damaged and the jump destroyed (right)