



## FRIENDS OF MOUNT PAINTER NEWS

APRIL 2015

### APRIL'S WORK PARTY

- Date:** SUNDAY, 19 APRIL
- When:** 9am – 12.30pm
- Location:** South West Slopes of Mount Painter
- Park:** On the city-bound side of William Hovell Drive, 1km from the intersection with Coulter Drive. Slow down when you see the new illuminated, overhead road sign and pull off two light poles further on. If you pass under the high voltage power lines, you have gone too far. See Google Earth image below for route from entry gate.
- Tasks:** Cutting out small woody weeds
- Wear:** Long-sleeved shirt, trousers, hat and sturdy footwear.
- Bring:** Some drinking water, a mug and some food to share for morning tea. Warm drinks and juice will be provided.

**For more information:** contact Sarah Hnatiuk on 6251 2228 or 0424 263 565 or [sarahhnatiuk@yahoo.com.au](mailto:sarahhnatiuk@yahoo.com.au)



## OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

**Kangaroo counts on Monday, 20 April, one in the morning and another in the afternoon, and possibly also on the following day.**

The Conservation, Planning and Research section of the ACT Government's Environment and Planning Directorate is organising some counts of the kangaroos on Mt Painter Nature Reserve and in the surrounding paddocks. If you are interested in helping, please contact Mel Snape, the organiser, on [Melissa.Snape@act.gov.au](mailto:Melissa.Snape@act.gov.au).

*Mel says, For those who haven't previously been involved, a sweep count is where a line of people stretch the whole way along one side of a reserve (e.g. from the east to the west boundary, along the southern fence) and then move as a line through the reserve counting the kangaroos as they pass between the counter and the person on their left.*

*It's usually quite a pleasant day out – with two sweeps completed (one in the morning and one after lunch). It works best if those who participate in the morning session hang around for the arvo because by then we all know the drill! We also shout lunch as a thank you 😊*

This count is part of a research project to look at the impacts of kangaroo grazing on biodiversity. The project also includes studies of reptiles, ground vegetation structure, diversity and biomass, how much pasture the kangaroos are eating, and how all these things fit together.



Kangaroo counters, with hi-vis vests, lined up along the boundary fence at the start of a count  
(photo D. Fletcher)

**May's work party** will be held on Sunday, 17 May from 9am to 12.30pm. We will once again be cutting woody weeds on the hill.

## FRIENDS OF MOUNT PAINTER PLANS FOR 2015

**On-ground work.** 2015 looks like being a quieter year than usual for Friends of Mount Painter. After many years of planting and work to control erosion, we are taking a break from any major work in these activities. The condition of the two major erosion sites has sufficiently improved, at least for the time being, that no further work is needed there. And all the tree and shrub planting stipulated in the 2000 plan for revegetating the reserve has been completed. In addition, our trials of planting grasses and other ground cover plants, for example, along the Summit Path, have shown us that it is hard to establish native species where there is abundant cover of introduced plants. We need to re-think our strategy for re-establishing ground cover – is it even possible in highly degraded areas?

**Events.** A couple of special events will be held on the reserve during the year:

- **Sunday morning, 10 May - A walk with Ngunawal elders to learn about local bush foods, artefacts and the cultural landscape.** This walk is part of Ginninderra Catchment Group's series of events focusing on Indigenous heritage. More details will be available soon.
- **Sunday, 13 September – A walk with Craig Wainwright to learn about the local European heritage of our area.**

We also hope to have a spring bird walk.



Mt Painter's scar tree

## CANBERRA NATURE MAP

Canberra Nature Map is a repository for ParkCare groups, volunteers and members of the public to report sightings of rare and endangered plant species and any of the many treasures in and around the ACT. Canberra Nature Map was founded by Aaron Clausen, a mountain biker who accidentally rode through a patch of critically endangered Canberra spider orchids and became entranced by their beauty and fragility. Have a look at <http://CanberraNatureMap.org> to see the information that has been accumulated in only a short time since the database's launch. Maybe you would like to contribute sightings and photos.



Autumnal Common Everlastings  
(*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*)

## HAZARD REDUCTION BURN ON THE NORTHERN SLOPES OF MOUNT PAINTER

Last November's burn on the northern slopes of Mount Painter behind the houses left the ground surface burnt bare, tree trunks charred, and some fallen trees. Heavy rain after the burn had both good and bad consequences. It helped the recovery of vegetation that germinated from seeds, their coats weakened by the fire, or resprouted from unharmed roots. New leaves have also shot from epicormic buds on the trunks of burnt trees. But the rain also washed a considerable amount of soil downslope from the exposed ground. You can see extensive patches of bare ground in the photos below.

New shoots at the base of the burnt trunk of a Red Stringybark (*Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*), surrounded by regrowth of False Sasparilla (*Hardenbergia violacea*)



Patches of Flax Lily on the left (*Dianella sp.*) and Leafless Indigo below (*Indigofera adesmiifolia*)



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