



FRIENDS OF MOUNT PAINTER NEWS

November 2011

NOVEMBER'S WORK PARTY

MAPPING RABBIT BURROWS

We have agreed to a request by the Parks and Conservation Service to help them map the location of rabbit burrows on the reserve in preparation for some fumigation activity in late November or early December. So ...



When? Sunday, 13 November from 9am – 12 noon

Where? Ideally the whole reserve needs to be covered. Pairs of volunteers will be assigned a particular section of the reserve to comb. You will not be expected to walk through last year's patches of dense, dead saffron thistles that are still standing on some parts of the reserve.

Meet: By the noticeboard at the Booth Crescent entrance to the reserve between houses nos. 20 and 22.

Wear: Wear sturdy long pants and long-sleeved shirt, hat and stout shoes. The dead thistles are not too much of a problem if you are wearing pants made from strong fabric, and the good news is that there is not much germination of new saffron thistles this summer. However, if you own gaiters, you might like to bring them with you, in case.

Bring: Water and a snack. We will not be having our usual communal morning tea.

Parks will provide instructions and all the equipment we will need.

It would be helpful if you would let me know if you are coming so Parks can know how much equipment is needed.

For more information: Contact Sarah at sarahhnatiuk@yahoo.com.au or on 0424 263 565 or 6251 2228.

DECEMBER'S WORK PARTY

December's work party will be held on Sunday, 11 December, from 9am – 12 noon in the Wildflower Triangle. Meet where the cyclepath leaves the Triangle through the underpass under Bindubi Street. We will be cutting out woody weeds, and celebrating Christmas and another year of productive work on Mount Painter. Please bring some Christmas fare to share for morning tea and water to drink. Other drinks and equipment will be provided.

NEWS FROM MOUNT PAINTER

Mount Painter was recently in the news, including on the ABC and in the Canberra Times. This followed the release of the report by the ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment on her investigation of Canberra Nature Park. Mount Painter was found to be the reserve in the most critical condition of all the Nature Park reserves: the 'loss of vegetative cover leading to soil erosion is so severe that the ability of the land to recover after removal of grazing pressure is unlikely without significant intervention'. You can see the full report at http://www.envcomm.act.gov.au/investigations/nature_reserves_investigation.

A team of 10 young people from Green Jobs Corps and their two team leaders came to help out on Mount Painter on 31 October as part of their training program. They watered the plants along the summit path until the water in the tank ran out, and chopped out woody weeds on the south-west slopes of the hill. A planned activity in the enclosure was called off when a swarm of bees or wasps from a tree hollow began swarming near us. (National Green Jobs Corps is a 26-week environmental training program that offers young people, aged 17 to 24 years, a combination of work experience, skill development and accredited training to ensure they are ready for employment in emerging green and climate change industries.)

Friends of Mount Painter joined with the Friends groups from Aranda Bushland and The Pinnacle from 14- 16 October to hold **a display at Jamison Plaza** about our reserves and our activities. A slow but steady stream of people stopped to look, talk and collect brochures. The general view of those who staffed the event was that it was a worthwhile activity in raising awareness of the reserves and the Friends' work on them. Thanks to Dick, Lynne, Marian and Irene for helping.

LOTS OF EVENTS

This seems to be the season for guided walks, training and workshops. Here are some of them:

The Great Walk: life on the river from The Pinnacle to the Molonglo River and back, Saturday, 5 November, 10am – 3pm approx.

Pax will lead you past grass restoration experiments, woolsheds and barns from recent land use and through reserved woodland habitat in Kama Reserve to the Molonglo River. Adrian Brown, Ngunnawal Park Ranger, will speak about Ngunnawal life beside the river and some technologies used by his ancestors.

Meet at the Dungowan St entrance in Hawker. Bring all your own food and drink. Please come prepared to climb fences and traverse various terrains. Come appropriately dressed for the weather, bring cameras, water, food etc.

Contact Pax on pax.fotpin@gmail.com

Imaging Connection: The Pinnacle and Kama Nature Corridor, Sunday, 20 November

Photographer, Andrew Trousdell, will lead a 2 hour workshop to explore connection between The Pinnacle NR and Kama Reserve through imagery. The outcomes of your efforts will appear on the fotpin website.

Suitable for all levels of expertise. Meet at the Springvale Dr carpark in Weetangera. Bring whatever photo equipment you have, food and drinks, sunblock etc. Please contact Heather to register your interest by Sunday 13 November on 6254 5979 or heather.fotpin@gmail.com

Chemcert. Chemcert training, that provides accreditation for handling herbicides such as we use on the reserve, will be arranged if enough people are interested. Please let Sarah know if you are interested.

African Lovegrass workshop for Parkcarers and Landcarers, Friday 18th of November, 9:00am – 12:30pm followed by lunch at Westwood Farm, 244 Kambah Pool Road, Kambah. The workshop will cover different aspects of the African Lovegrass invasion in the ACT: the extent of the problem, the biology and ecology of the species, and its control.

Biodiversity Monitoring Project

Community groups in the ACT region are invited to participate in a new Biodiversity Monitoring Project which is initially being implemented over two years with assistance from both the Australian Government's Caring for our Country program and the ACT Government.

The project involves free training sessions for up to five people from each community group (maximum of eight groups) to provide them with the necessary skills and equipment to undertake simple vegetation monitoring that is directly relevant to their needs while also providing meaningful long-term information about different sites across the region.

To be involved and fully trained group representatives would need to complete three stages of training. These half day training sessions (9.30am-12.30pm) include one planning day (16th or 22nd Nov), one field training day (25th or 26th Nov) and one monitoring day (Dates coordinated with each group).

Once groups have completed the training and commenced monitoring the organisers will provide follow up support including review workshops, technical support and a web page for simple data entry and automatic generation of results graphs and reports.

Please let Sarah know if you are interested so Friends of Mount Painter can try to attend on the same days.

Greening Australia plant sale

Next Wednesday, 9 November, the Greening Australia nursery will be selling excess stock that has not been required for our revegetation projects this year. All plants will be selling for \$1.00.

There will be a variety of local native species available, including several *Eucalyptus* species and a range of shrubs and understorey plants. As we are selling only our excess stock, our full range of species will not be on sale. Please come along to see what we have available!

The sale will take place at Greening Australia's nursery at 1 Kubura Place, Aranda. 12 noon until 6 pm or until all plants are sold. Minimum sale will be \$10. Unfortunately, EFTPOS facilities will not be available, cash and cheque only.

Sarah's contact details: phone 6251 2228 or 0424 263 565 or email

sarahnatiuk@yahoo.com.au.

Compiled by Sarah Hnatiuk