



## FRIENDS OF MOUNT PAINTER NEWS

November 2012

### NOVEMBER'S WORK PARTY

#### CHECKING ON MOTHER'S DAY PLANTING AND CUTTING OUT WOODY WEEDS

**When:** 9am – 12.30pm, Sunday, 11 November

**Where:** **Wildflower Triangle.** Enter the reserve where the bicycle path goes through the Bindubi Street underpass, about 750 metres south of the traffic lights on Bindubi, at the intersection with Lyttleton and Bandjalong Crescents.

**The tasks:** There are many small woody weeds to cut out and thistle rosettes to dispatch.

**Wear:** Hat, long pants, long-sleeved shirt, and sturdy footwear.

**Bring:** Drinking water, a mug and some food to share for morning tea. Friends of Mount Painter will provide tea, coffee and juice. All equipment will be provided.

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

**DECEMBER'S WORK PARTY** will be held from 9am to 12.30pm on Sunday, 9 December on the western slopes of Mount Painter. We will be putting mesh guards round shrubs and small trees planted last year. Some of these plants are being badly damaged – branches have been broken and leaves chewed off. So we have removed guards from some of the shrubs and trees planted five to seven years ago, which no longer need guarding, and will re-use the guards on the younger plants.

Park on city-bound side of William Hovell Drive at the end of the metal guard rail, 800m from the intersection with Coulter Drive. Follow signs and red tapes from there on to the reserve.



Bearded Dragon at the Cook Memorial, Skinner Street

## NEWS FROM MOUNT PAINTER

**Wombat(s).** For several weeks, there was no sign of activity at the wombat hole on the hill. Now there are fresh scats and newly dug earth at the burrow entrance, so it looks as though the wombat may now have Mt Painter on its travelling itinerary.

It, or another wombat, dug a hole by the back fence of one of FOMP's members who lives on Skinner Street. Noel filled in the hole and the wombat dug another one close by. That hole was also filled in and the wombat had another go at getting under the fence, with the same response from Noel. At this point, it gave up, obviously not quite so determined a character as the one in *Diary of a Wombat*.

**Increasing awareness of Mount Painter.** Friends of Mount Painter have been involved recently in a couple of activities designed to bring attention to the reserve. We joined Friends of Aranda Bushland and the new Friends of Black Mountain in a display of their and The Pinnacle's work and reserves at Jamison Plaza in September. And last month, 12 people joined a guided walk up to the summit, with detours to look at special places and some of the work we have been doing to plant trees and shrubs and control weeds and erosion.

**The burn that did not happen.** A controlled burn was scheduled to occur on 28 August over 4.6 hectares of mainly grassland situated behind the houses on Moss and Skinner Streets and Bussell and Booth Crescents. As the day was very windy, the burn was postponed to another time.

**Damage along the Summit Path.** Greg., who has been watering grass seedlings along the Summit Path, recently discovered a number of them had been pulled out from where they had been planted two months ago and left on the path. They were growing inside a metre tall mesh guard so it seems as though people rather than animals were responsible – a sad way of having fun! Greg has replanted the grasses and we hope they will survive. Many thanks, Greg!



**Opening the enclosure gate.** The gate to the enclosure on the south-west slopes of Mount Painter was opened on 19 August to allow kangaroos to enter, graze and reduce the plant mass and make space for new growth. I had been advised that we should leave it open for a week but there was little sign of grazing after a week so we left it open for longer. Even after three weeks, it was not obvious that much grazing had happened; perhaps there was too much alternative feed elsewhere on the reserve.

What we also discovered was that the enclosure is a favourite place for two foxes. They have a day shelter in the dense, dead bush under the big tree, and their presence explains the paths that we had noticed over several months running through the grasses from the fence (see mid centre of photo). The foxes can obviously jump over the rabbit mesh at the base of the fence.

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO AND SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE NEWSLETTERS  
WOULD BE VERY WELCOME. PLEASE CONTACT ME ON [sarhnhnatiuk@yahoo.com.au](mailto:sarhnhnatiuk@yahoo.com.au) or  
0424 263 565**