



FRIENDS OF MOUNT PAINTER NEWS

April 2012

APRIL'S WORK PARTY

PLANTING ALONG THE SUMMIT PATH

When: 9am – 12.30pm, Sunday, 15 April

Where: Along the summit path above the water tanks. Enter the reserve between nos 20 and 22 Booth Crescent and take the uphill track to your right

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

Bring: Water (for yourself), a mug and some food to share for morning tea

The task: Planting grass seedlings and grass seed and thatch to increase the native grass cover in weedy areas along the path where we planted flowering plants last winter



For more information contact Sarah Hnatiuk on 0424 263 565 or at sarahhnatiuk@yahoo.com.au

MAY'S WORK PARTY is on Mother's Day, so come and celebrate by helping to plant grasses, flowering ground cover plants, and a few trees in the Wildflower Triangle, south of Wybalena Grove. The holes will be already dug to make the planting easy for you.

Enter the Wildflower Triangle on the bike path, either from between Wybalena Grove and the houses on Mackellar Street, or from Bindubi Street where the bike path passes under the road. Wear sturdy footwear and long trousers, and bring drinking water, gardening gloves and some food to share for morning tea.

We are doing this planting as part of the ACT Parks and Conservation Service's program to improve the quality of the Territory's woodlands and to connect up isolated woodland patches.

A RAFFLE TO HELP BUY AN AUGER FOR GINNINDERRA CATCHMENT GROUP

This is the auger that will dig the holes for our planting in May, so please buy a ticket.

Tickets are \$1 each and will be available at our next two work parties. The prizes are:

- 1st McCulloch Trimmer – I'm told this is a type of whipper-snipper
- 2nd Nylex rain gauge and \$50 voucher from Provincial Plants, Pialligo
- 3rd \$50 voucher from Provincial Plants, Pialligo

If you would like a book of tickets to sell, please let Sarah know.

GETTING RID OF MOUNT PAINTER'S BLACKBERRIES



There are not many blackberry patches on Mount Painter; I know of only 11. But they are spreading and now is a good time to get rid of them before they become more numerous. Ginninderra Catchment Group, to which Friends of Mount Painter belongs, has obtained a funding from the Federal Government to remove blackberries in the catchment. A contractor will be working on the reserve during April to spray all the patches with herbicide.

One condition of getting the money is photographing the plants before and after spraying. I have taken the before photos but wonder if there is someone who would like to re-photograph them during May and/or again at the end of the year?

KANGAROO COUNT

Kangaroos are being counted on Mount Painter Reserve and in surrounding paddocks on Tuesday, 10 April from 9am – 3.30pm. Would you like to help? More details from Sarah.

ACTIVITIES IN LOCAL NATURE PARKS

FRIENDS OF THE PINNACLE (fotpin)

Saturday 21 April 9 am (approx 2 hours)

Third Saturday walk with Rosemary Blemings

Meet at the Springvale Drive entrance (opposite de Salis Street, Weetangera)

Sunday 6 May 8-30 am (duration approx 6 hours return)

Down by the River - and Beyond with Pax

The Pinnacle Nature Reserve is part of a nature corridor across the Belconnen Hills, with connections to Black Mountain and the Murrumbidgee River. This is the first of a series of expeditions to explore those corridors. River levels permitting we will cross the Valley to the magnificent views of the Murrumbidgee Valley and the little known Uriarra Travelling Stock Route.

Please note level of difficulty is high with challenges in crossing the river and negotiating riparian zones. Wear sturdy hiking boots, bring water, snacks and lunch.

Bookings essential. Phone 6255 1095 or email Pax at fotpin@optusnet.com.au. Meet at the Springvale Drive entrance (opposite de Salis Street, Weetangera)

Saturday 12 May 9 am (approx 2 hours)

Grass Experiment Walk with Don Driscoll

We will visit two of our grass experiment sites. Don will explain what the experiment is for, talk about some of the preliminary results, and teach small children the actions that go with some of our native grasses. Fun for all ages.

The walk will finish by climbing up back to the car park. Bring over-energetic children to wear them out.

Meet at the Springvale Drive entrance (opposite de Salis Street, Weetangera)

ARANDA BUSHLAND

Heritage Festival Walk from Frost Hollow to Forest

When: Thursday 26 April from 10am to 1pm

Guided walk: Join Peter Ormay (Friends of Aranda Bushland) on a journey through frost hollow grasslands, heritage listed remnant Snow Gums edging the grasslands, open woodland and Aranda Bushland's closed forest. Find the ten species of eucalypts each carving its own niche in the resilient landscape. Stop to read the many interpretive signs along the track. On the walk you will encounter stiles, slip throughs and a short uphill climb – a great way to explore local natural heritage! Gold coin donation

Meet: Stile before Black Mountain carpark, Glenloch Interchange, on road off eastbound lane of William Hovell Drive.

Please book with Peter on 0424 612 912.

EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE INDICATED, CONTACT SARAH FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Compiled by Sarah Hnatiuk