



FRIENDS OF MOUNT PAINTER NEWS

AUGUST 2013

AUGUST's WORK PARTY

LAYING COCONUT FIBRE LOGS FOR EROSION CONTROL ON STEEP SLOPES

When: 9am – 12.30pm, Sunday, 18 August

Where: Horse Paddock Gully

To get there: Enter reserve entrance between 20 and 22 Booth Crescent, Cook. Follow red markers half left, through gate on perimeter track to first gully

The task: Laying coir logs under mature yellow box trees to reduce erosion from ground disturbed by camping kangaroos

Wear: Warm clothes and sturdy footwear.

Bring: If possible, a mallet. Also: drinking water, a mug and some food to share for morning tea. Friends of Mount Painter will provide tea, coffee and juice.

September's work party will be held on Sunday, 15 September. Meet just inside the reserve entrance between 20 and 22 Booth Crescent, Cook. We will be checking on and caring for plants planted in 2011 along the Summit Path and on nearby slopes.

DISPLAY AT JAMISON PLAZA

Once again, there will be a display at Jamison of the local nature reserves and the work of the local Parkcare groups. It will run from Friday, 6 September to Sunday the 8th and is a way of increasing awareness of the reserves, what they offer to visitors, and what is happening on them. Look out for us if you are in Jamo then and, if you can spare a couple of hours to help staff the display, it would be much appreciated. Contact Sarah if you can help – details at the end of the newsletter.

MALLET IN NEED OF REPAIR

Is there someone out there who would mend a mallet for us? We have the head and a handle and the two need to be put together.

Congratulations to Friends of Aranda Bushland who were commended in the Australian Sustainable Cities awards for their work in the bushland/snow gums and their educational activities (Environmental Stewardship Section).

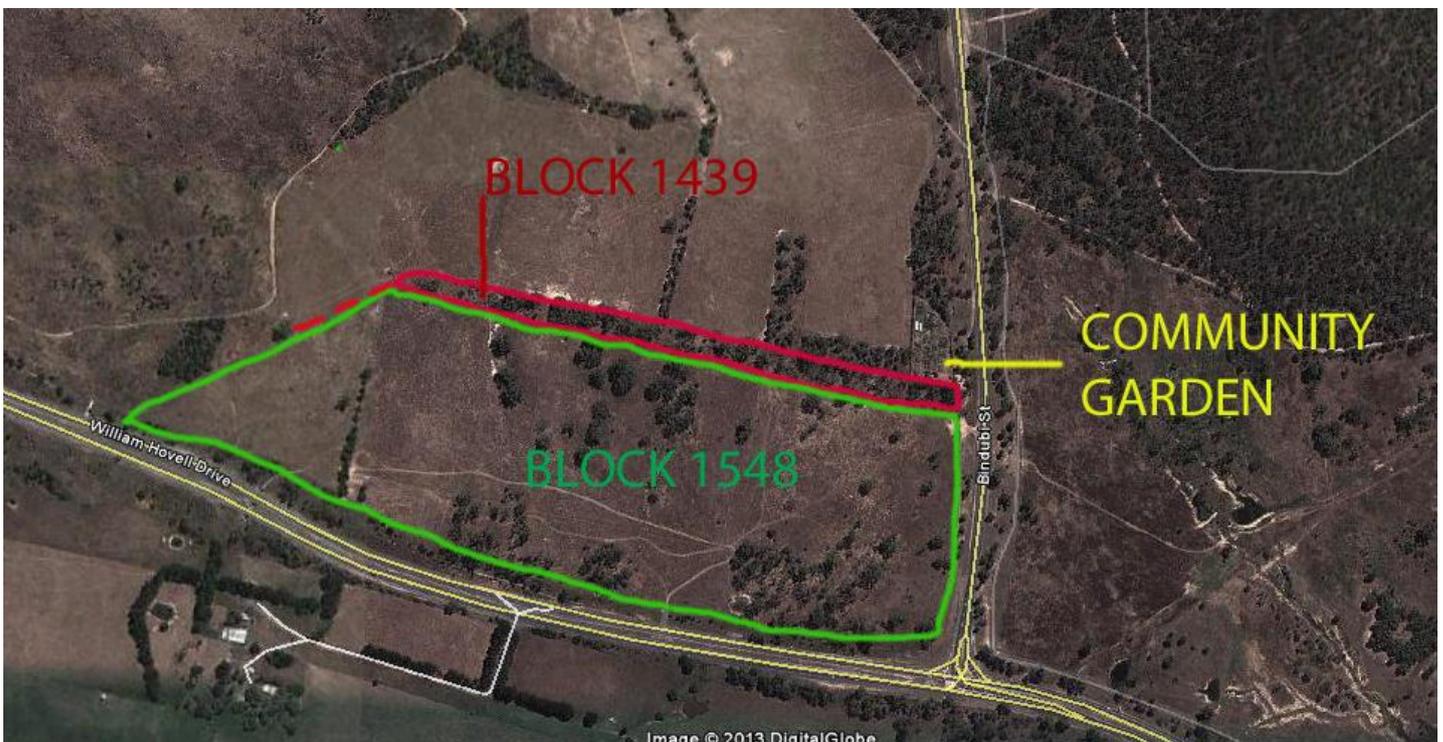
BLOCKS OF LAND AT THE BOTTOM OF BINDUBI STREET

There are two blocks of land near the bottom of Bindubi Street, between the Community Garden and William Hovell Drive, that are of interest to Friends of Mount Painter. One is the Old Road Reserve (Block 1439), a strip of eucalypts on public land next to the Garden and the horse paddocks. Friends of Mount Painter have done a fair bit of weeding on this block over the years, and last year clumps of bushes and small trees were planted among the mature gums as part of the Government's Woodland Restoration Project.

Block 1548 has been part of the Glenloch rural lease until recently when the Government resumed it from the landholder. It is now the responsibility of the Economic Development Directorate and, according to an article in a recent issue of The Chronicle, might be used for recreational purposes.

The block on the opposite side of Bindubi Street and another near Caswell Drive have also been resumed, and are being considered for inclusion in Aranda Bushland.

With the projected changes in land use in this part of our local area, including the nearby development of new suburbs in Stage 3 of the Molonglo development, this might be a time for Cook residents to provide input to our local ACT politicians if they want to influence how these blocks are developed. For example, what do Friends of Mount Painter think of the idea of lobbying for the extension of the Old Road Reserve, as shown by the red dashes in the Google Earth image below? Such an extension, by linking with the track round the bottom of the hill, would provide with an option for walkers additional to those that already exist. And making a walk-through in the fence of the Old Road Reserve where it meets the line of trees across the horse paddocks would also provide more options.



And what is a weed? A plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered.
(Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Fortune of the Republic*, 1878)

ACT CENTENARY BIOBLITZ

Atlas of Living Australia, ACT Government, Inspiring Australia and Molonglo Catchment Group have come together to organise the ACT Centenary Bioblitz !

Join them for Canberra's first ever collaborative race to identify as many kinds of plants, animals, algae and fungi at Black Mountain between **Friday 25th October morning and late Sunday 27th October afternoon**. A bioblitz comprises scientists, naturalists, citizen scientists and members of the public working together to record a snapshot of the region's biodiversity. Headquartered at the CSIRO Discovery Centre, all information collected will help assist the national 'Atlas of Living Australia' online portal to ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy and benefit from Australia's remarkable biodiversity.

How you can be involved:

Lead a survey! If you have experience in collecting data on specific flora or fauna and would like to take a small group of people on a survey on Black Mountain then we would love to hear from you.

Assist a survey! We need volunteers to help with the surveys. This will involve being paired up with a leader and assisting them with recording, organisation and OH&S.

Come along! Come along during the event to join one of the surveys! The Bioblitz will be launched on the Saturday morning after a free breakfast.

For more information or to register for the event contact Rachel at Molonglo Catchment Group, email – projects@molonglocatchment.org.au, phone – 6299 2119 / 0422 881 685.

WHAT HAS BEEN LEARNT FROM THE 2003 CANBERRA FIRES?

2003 Canberra Fires 10 years after: What have we learned? Hear the leading ACT fire researchers and emergency service personnel discuss the implications of their findings about the devastating ACT fires in 2003. The session will be held at the CSIRO Discovery Centre lecture theatre on Sunday, 18 August from 1.30pm – 5pm. It is free and no bookings are necessary. **Enquiries:** info.discovery@csiro.au or 02 6246 4646

SCARLET ROBINS

Scarlet robins are more visible this winter on the hill than they have been in previous years, and a pair even visited my vegetable garden recently. It's great to see them!



Photo by Rhonda Abbott

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

Compiled by Sarah Hnatiuk