



FRIENDS OF MOUNT PAINTER NEWS

AUGUST 2014

AUGUST'S WORK PARTY

CHECKING AND TIDYING TREE GUARDS ROUND YOUNG PLANTS

When: 9am – 12.30pm, Sunday, 17 August

Where: East and south slopes of the hill

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE SLOPES ARE VERY STEEP AND ROCKY IN PLACES

Meet: At the reserve entrance between nos. 20 and 22 Booth Crescent, Cook.
Please park on Booth Crescent, not in the lane leading to the entrance.

The task: Removing guards from dead plants, securing them round living plants, and taking away or restoring ones that have been dislodged

Wear: Hat, warm clothes, and sturdy footwear.

Bring: A mallet if you can, a clasp or sheath knife, some drinking water, a mug and share for morning tea. Coffee, tea and juice will be provided.

September's work party will be held on Sunday, 21 September from 9am to 12.30pm. We will be weeding along the Summit Path and on the northern slopes.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF PARKCARE AND FRIENDS OF MOUNT PAINTER

Friday, 17 October and Saturday, 18 October. The Parks and Conservation Service is marking 25 years of Parkcare with a forum of workshops at the University of Canberra on Friday, 17 October, and reserve visits on Saturday, 18 October. There will also be a dinner, a wooden seat for each reserve – **let us know where you think the seat might be located**, and a video made – **a photographer will join our August work party to interview us and film us and Friends of Aranda Bushland at work.**

Saturday, 25 October. Friends of Mount Painter is celebrating its 25 years of operation on Saturday, 25 October in conjunction with a visit to the reserve by Shane Rattenbury, Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, to launch the new interpretive signs that will be installed shortly along the path to Mount Painter's summit. More details to come – **let us know how else you would like to celebrate.**

CAPTURING CHANGE OVER TIME: REHABILITATING THE RESERVE

Looking through old photos that were passed on to me by Philip Bell, Friends of Mount Painter's first President, we found landscape shots of the reserve taken from the mid 1980s to the mid 1990s. We have recently revisited the same locations and re-photographed them: many thanks to Irene and Keith for their detective work in finding the locations and taking the 2014 photos. The photos chronicle some of the changes over the last 20-30 years, for example, of old trees ageing and falling, planting to restore woodland on the hill, and the impact of removing woody weeds.



View from the Summit Path in 1995 and 2014: four standing trees reduced to two



The hawthorn understorey in the Old Road Reserve has been replaced by native shrubs and small trees.



Planting near the Summit Path in 2007 and 2014

VEGETATION RECOVERY ON BLACK MOUNTAIN, 1870-2011

Some interesting photos showing the recovery of vegetation on Black Mountain from the 1870s through to 2011 can be seen on the final page of this newsletter: top - about 1870, middle -1920, bottom - 2011. The building in the top photograph is Springbank Station. Top and middle photographs © National Library of Australia, bottom photograph and the composite image © Sarah Ryan. The images are taken from Sarah Ryan's History of Canberra Nature Park, page 533 of the appendices to the ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment's 2011 report, *Investigation into the Canberra Nature Park (nature reserves); the Molonglo River Corridor (nature reserves) and Googong Foreshores* (see http://www.environmentcommissioner.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/234989/Part_II_Appendices.pdf).

DAMAGE ON THE RESERVE

We were saddened to see that, compared with previous years, more damage to Infrastructure on Mount Painter has occurred this year, especially the defacing of signs. In addition, guards were removed from grasses planted along the Summit Path last March by a group of corporate volunteers. Guards were also taken from one of Friends of Mount Painter's plantings near the water tanks. In the course of removing the guards, the person(s) responsible not only scattered the guards, but also snapped the guards' stakes.



Tree guards removed



A sign defaced

Pink tape marking the sawn through legs of the Canberra Nature Park sign

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