



FRIENDS OF MOUNT PAINTER NEWS

FEBRUARY 2013

A BUSY MONTH WITH THREE EVENTS!

Our Monthly Work Party Sunday, 10 February, 8.30am – 12 noon (details in box on page 2)

and

Ginninderra Catchment Group's Trivia Night, Friday, 15 February, 7.30pm – 9.30pm (see notice on page 2)

and

A new activity for us: two Kangaroo Counts on Mount Painter for the Parks and Conservation Service, Sunday 24th February with a choice between the morning count starting at 8am or the afternoon one at 1pm. Or stay for both, 8am – 5pm, with a break for lunch in the middle. Please register your intention to help with Sarah by Sunday, 17 February, and tell her which count(s) you would like to join (sarahhnatiuk@yahoo.com.au or phone 0424 263 565)

What we will be doing:

The aim is to count all the kangaroos in the area using the Sweep Count method. This basically involves a line of people walking through the area and each person counting all the kangaroos that pass between them and the next person in line on their left. At times things do get a bit more complex than that, but you will get a full briefing on the method before each count.

Meet: At the end of the dirt road off Coulter Drive that goes between Tully's paddocks towards Mt Painter. The dirt road is half way between the roundabout with Springvale Drive and William Hovell Drive.

Please bring/wear: hat, sunscreen, good walking shoes/boots, protective clothing (e.g. long pants/gaiters if you own some, long sleeved shirt), raincoat (!), water (lots if it's hot!), and lunch and snacks

Please note:

If people are concerned about the steep terrain, they should let the organisers, Claire Wimpenny and Don Fletcher, know on the day so that they can be assigned to easier areas. Similarly, those people willing and able to do the steep stuff speak up!

All training will be provided on the day.

If you'd like to learn more about how volunteers in this part of the ACT have assisted in Kangaroo Counts please check the Friends of Pinnacle website: <http://fotpin.hussat.com.au/kangaroos.html>

FEBRUARY'S WORK PARTY

WATERING AND WOODY WEEDING

- When:** 8.30am – 12 noon, Sunday, 10 February
- Where:** **Summit Path and Northern Slopes above the track to the tanks.** Enter the reserve at the Booth Crescent entrance between houses nos 20 and 22. Follow the road uphill to your right.
- The tasks:** Watering some of the plants along the Summit Path and cutting woody weeds on the northern slope of the hill.
- Wear:** Hat, long pants, long-sleeved shirt, and sturdy footwear. If you own gaiters, you might like to wear them as protection against scratchy grass seeds. Some gaiters will be available for those who do not own them.
- 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.

FUTURE WORK PARTIES

Starting with our March work party, we will be meeting on the THIRD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH. We hope the change in timing will suit you as well as the old arrangement of the second Sunday of the month.

March's work party will be held on Sunday, 17 March from 8.30am – 12 noon. We will be cutting woody weeds on the eastern slope of the hill. Meet at the Booth Crescent entrance to the reserve between houses nos 20 and 22.

Future work parties will be held on Sunday, 21 April, 19 May, 16 June, 21 July, 18 August, 15 September, 20 October, 17 November and 15 December.

ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT

Ginninderra Catchment Group's Annual Trivia Night is being held on the 15th February 2013 at the Belconnen Labor Club to recognise and thank all the volunteers and members for a fantastic and successful year in 2012.

We are invited to a great night in support of Ginninderra Catchment Group and the chance to win fantastic prizes. For the first table of 8 that we fill, there will be no charge for tickets – a reward for our hard work! Please contact Sarah for one of the free tickets.

Otherwise, tickets are \$25 per head, available from GCG on 6278 3309 or via their website at www.ginninderralandcare.org.au

The Trivia Night goes from 7:30 to 9:30 and will be hosted by TIM THE YOWIE MAN!

FRIENDS OF MOUNT PAINTER'S 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Each year we contribute a report on our activities to *Scribbly Gum*, the Parks and Conservation Service's compilation of reports from Parkcare and Landcare groups in the ACT. What follows is our 2012 contribution. You can see the full *Scribbly Gum* publication at <http://www.tams.act.gov.au/about-us/volunteers#parkcare>.

FRIENDS OF MOUNT PAINTER

One of the highlights of the year for Friends of Mount Painter (FOMP) was the launch by the Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) and Greening Australia (GA) of the ACT Government's 4-year Woodland Restoration Project in the reserve's Wildflower Triangle. Thirty-five local people joined PCS and GA staff on Mothers' Day to plant understorey plants that will enhance the quality of the existing woodland on the site. As part of the project, GA has also planted trees and shrubs in neighbouring areas that will link the woodland of the Wildflower Triangle with other plantings near and on Mount Painter.



Mothers' Day planting in the Wildflower Triangle

We have been tracking the survival of the tree and shrub tubestock we have planted on the reserve since 2005 to find out how successful we are in revegetating the hill, and to figure out what we might do to improve our planting technique. We recently posted a summary of the results from this study at:

<http://www.ginninderralandcare.org.au/sites/default/files/files/Tubestock%20survival%20on%20Mt%20Painter%202005-2011%20-%20summary.pdf>.

With abundant grass cover over most of the reserve this year, the saffron thistles that seriously limited our activities in 2011 are far fewer, and we have been able to access the whole of the reserve again. We were able to thoroughly map the rabbit burrows for PCS' control activities, and weeding has been easier. We have continued to concentrate our weeding on areas that have good native vegetation and others that have been recently planted. Our efforts were complemented by the spraying of blackberry patches and African lovegrass that was undertaken as part of Ginninderra Catchment Group's grant for the control of Weeds of National Significance. African lovegrass appeared along tracks on the reserve for the first time at the end of last summer. We hope we managed to catch the 'invasion' before any of the plants set seed; frequent monitoring of tracks and spraying plants at entrances to the reserve are now on our program for this summer.

Last winter we discovered wombat holes on Mount Painter for the first time in the memory of current FOMP members. One of our members was somewhat less impressed though when several holes were dug very close to his back fence! In addition, we have recorded four species of frogs in the dam in the Wildflower Triangle that is now full of water after being completely dry and frog-less during the drought. And we were intrigued to discover that part of the northern slopes of the hill, where drooping sheoaks grow, has been designated Glossy Black Cockatoo habitat.

We continued the tradition of holding a joint work party with Friends of Aranda Bushland, this year on their patch. We also joined with them and Friends of Black Mountain, at Jamison Plaza in September, in a display of our reserves and work. FOMP further promoted awareness of Mount Painter with a guided walk in October, the first for a number of years. It was attended by 10 newcomers to FOMP.



Vernon Bailey and logs for erosion control

We were delighted that Vernon Bailey, who worked tirelessly on Mount Painter from 1997 to 2010, was awarded an OAM earlier this year for his environmental work and other activities.

DAMAGE FROM THE RECENT STORM

Branches and trees came down in several places on the reserve during the recent thunderstorm. Here are a couple of photos of damage in the Wildflower Triangle.



Shattered Candlebark



Fallen branches in the gully

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