



FRIENDS OF MOUNT PAINTER NEWS

June 2015

JUNE'S WORK PARTY

- Date:** SUNDAY, 21 JUNE
- When:** 9am – 12.30pm
- Location:** South West Slopes of Mount Painter
- Meet:** At the gate above the water tanks
- Tasks:** Checking on plants in pink guards and collecting guards no longer needed. We will start at the top of the hill and work downwards. Morning tea at the bottom!
- Wear:** Warm clothes and sturdy footwear
- Bring:** A sharp knife (for cutting corflute guards), some drinking water, a mug and some food to share for morning tea. Warm drinks and juice will be provided.

For more information: contact Sarah Hnatiuk on 6251 2228 or 0424 263 565 or sarahhnatiuk@yahoo.com.au

UPCOMING EVENTS

July's work party will be held on Sunday, 19 July from 9am to 12.30pm. We will once again be checking on and removing pink guards.

On **Sunday, 16 August**, Friends of Aranda Bushland will be joining us to work on Mount Painter.

Sunday, 13 September – A walk with Craig Wainwright to learn about the local European heritage of our area.

Sunday, 18 October – A spring bird walk with Richard Allen, followed by a work party.

WEEDING ALONG THE SUMMIT PATH

Friends of Mount Painter plans to put more effort into weeding along the lower part of the Summit Path than we have in recent years. Eight of us made a start on this at May's work party on a still, dry, sunny and warm day. We collected plants that were beginning to drop their seeds, especially rusty red Amaranth, Blackberry Nightshade and Hedge Mustard, and put them in wool bale and yellow bags. We hope that, by removing some of the seeds that would otherwise fall and be added to the soil seed bank, we can reduce the crop of these plants next summer. Gavin, who took the photos, said, 'The work done was satisfying and noticed by quite a few walkers using the path that morning. It was a good advertisement for the local population of what we do as a local landcare group'.



NGUNAWAL CUSTODIANS ON MOUNT PAINTER

On a cool and very windy day in the middle of May, Tyronne and Wally Bell, custodians of the country on which Mount Painter stands, led a walk on the hill. They showed a group of about 20 people some of the plants, growing on the slope behind the houses, that their forebears used as food and for making equipment and shelters.



We continued up to the summit from where, once sitting down on the lee side of the hill out of the wind, Wally told us of Budjabulya, the creator of the rivers, valleys, hills, mountains, people, animals and plants. He told us of the paths Budjabulya followed from his home in Ngungara (Lake George) which became the routes by which the Ngunawal and visiting groups travelled around the countryside.

The final stage of the walk took those who were happy to walk down the steep hillside to the bottom of Stromlo Gully (and up again). There we saw an old Yellow Box from which a sheet of bark had been cut, probably to make a canoe. There is more about Ngunawal culture and history at

<http://www.ngunawal.com.au/>.



KANGAROOS ON MOUNT PAINTER

On 28 April, a line of people walking across the reserve and surrounding paddocks counted 377 kangaroos during the morning count and 386 in the afternoon, which averages at 382. This amounts to 1.82 kangaroos per hectare which is more than the 'conservation density' regarded as appropriate by the ACT Government's Conservation and Research unit. If you would like to know how the number of kangaroos to be culled is calculated, have look at: http://www.environment.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/576715/Calculation_of_the_number_of_kangaroos_to_cull.pdf. There is also information on the results of research in the ACT into the impact of kangaroos on plants and animals available at: http://www.environment.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/715274/ACT-conservation-research-the-effects-of-kangaroo-grazing-and-biodiversityApril2015_final.pdf.

RADFORD STUDENTS WORK ON MOUNT PAINTER

A small group of Radford students has been working with one of the rangers, Craig Wainwright, to remove Cootamundra Wattle from beside William Hovell Drive and use it for erosion control on Mount Painter. They are placing the wattle in places where some existing erosion control measures in Stromlo Gully need strengthening.

A NEW PHOTOGRAPHIC GUIDE TO ACT PLANTS

Photographic Guide to Native Plants of the Australian Capital Territory has been published recently. It is A5 in size with 360 pages and has a laminated softcover. It covers most of the common flowering plants in the ACT (grasses, sedges and rushes not included). The price is \$45. See some of the pages of beautiful photos at <http://meadow-argus.com/pages/photographic-guide-native-plants-meredith-cosgrove>. To arrange cash purchases and local pickup you can contact the author Meredith Cosgrove at meadow.argus.books@gmail.com or call her on 0245 178 218.

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