



FRIENDS OF MOUNT PAINTER NEWS

March 2012

MARCH'S WORK PARTY

WEEDING IN THE WILDFLOWER TRIANGLE

- Meet:** At the entrance to the Wildflower Triangle from Bindubi Street where the bike path goes through the underpass
- 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:** Cutting out woody weeds will be the main focus of the work party. We want to clean up the area before we plant understorey and ground cover in May as part of Parks and Conservation Service's Woodland Restoration Project.

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

At **APRIL'S WORK PARTY** we will plant grasses grown for us by the Lonsdale family. On this occasion we will meet on the third Sunday of the month, 15 April, rather than our usual time of the second Sunday. Meet at the gate to the summit path just above the water tanks at 9am; expect to finish about 12.30pm. The easiest access to the tanks is through the gate to the reserve between houses numbered 20 and 22 Booth Crescent, Cook.

This planting will extend last year's plantings when we put in Hardenbergia, common everlastings and two species of lilies along the path. By planting grasses as well, we hope to increase the cover of perennial plants at the expense of the annual weeds like thistles and hedge mustard. We will be very happy if we can gradually crowd out the annuals, especially the saffron thistles, where they threaten to block the path as they did last summer. The grasses will also help to stabilise the soil, holding it together and reducing soil erosion.



Summit path planting, July 2011. Photo by J.Geue

GREEN JOBS CORPS ON MOUNT PAINTER

On four occasions since last October, a group of young people and their leaders have visited Mt Painter Nature Reserve to gain experience in a variety of conservation and land management tasks. Friends of Mt Painter have been very fortunate to have had help with so many jobs that would otherwise have fallen to us, and with other chores that have been neglected for many months. The Green Jobs Corps has watered the plants along the summit path, laid and secured logs for erosion control in Stromlo and Horse Paddock Gully, cut out woody weeds, placed guards around young trees, and laid out grass thatch in the exclosure. Thank you!



Damon and Joel with Team Leader, Debbie



Caroline

VERNON BAILEY AWARDED AN ORDER OF AUSTRALIA MEDAL



After working overseas for many years, Vernon became a Parkcarer on Mount Painter in 1997. He spent many, many hours weeding. He also organised planting and erosion control on the hill, and led the Friends of Mount Painter from 2003-06,. His environmental interests included working on Red Hill and in the grounds of Greenhills Conference Centre and the Australian Centre of Christianity and Culture. He is now involved with establishing the Canberra Interfaith

Forum's Environment, Meditation and Healing Garden near Clare Holland House. For all this work, together with his involvement with the Prisoners Aid Society of the ACT, he received an OAM on the Australia Day this year. Friends of Mount Painter congratulate him and thank him for his enormous contribution to caring for the reserve for many years.



Compiled by Sarah Hnatiuk