



FRIENDS OF MOUNT PAINTER NEWS

MARCH 2016

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

MARCH'S WORK PARTY

- Date:** SUNDAY, 20 March
- When:** 8.00am - 12 noon. Beat the heat by coming at 8am and finish after morning tea (10.30am). Or if 8am is too early for you, come later and stay later. Call 0424 263 565 to find out where we are working when you arrive
- Location:** Wildflower Triangle. (If we run out of work there, we will move on to the Old Road Reserve just south of the Community Garden further down the road.)
- Meet:** At the entrance to the reserve on Bindubi Street where the bike path goes under the road
- Tasks:** Cutting out woody weeds (mostly small hawthorns and sweet briars)
- Wear:** Hat, long pants and sturdy footwear
- Bring:** Please bring some drinking water, a mug and some food to share for morning tea. Other drinks will be provided.

Friends of Mount Painter's monthly work parties are held on the morning of the third Sunday of the month. April's work party will be on Sunday morning, 17 April.

There's lots happening during the Heritage Festival;
2-18 April: have a look here:

http://www.environment.act.gov.au/heritage/heritage-and-the-community/heritage_festival.

Australian Bindweed, photographed February 2016 by Cate Aitken



FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES ON MOUNT PAINTER



At February's work party, we worked on the eastern side of the summit path, just uphill from the summit gate. We took out the Verbascum over quite a wide area and paid special attention to the planted area near where the path runs steeply uphill.

Students from Years 5 and 6 at Macquarie Primary School paid a visit to Mount Painter. As it was a very hot day, they abandoned their plan to climb to the summit but went out on to the Western Ridge, where they could take in the view from the shade of the Yellow Box trees.



The Green Army was working on Mount Painter the same day took time off from their spraying to talk to the students about what they do.

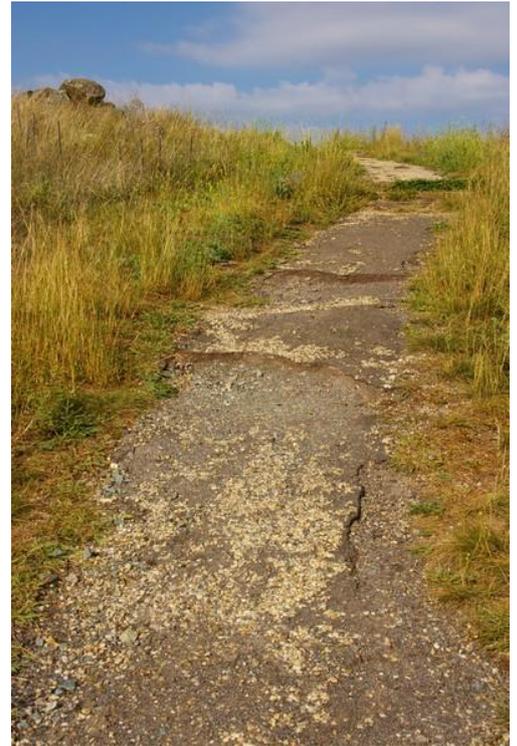


The photos of the work party were taken by Gavin and those of the students by Cate.

TRACKS AND TRAILS

Contractors have been engaged to repair the summit path. Recent heavy rain has expanded the existing holes in the hard surface, and eroded runnels in the earth beside the path on the steep stretch up to the summit. They are in need of repair before the damage worsens. The contractors will also lay down a made path out to the interpretive sign nearest to the summit gate, which will make it easier for walkers to reach the sign when grass and thistles grow tall.

In addition, a couple of other well used paths have been identified by the Parks and Conservation Service as needing attention at some stage in the future. They are the path that runs east from the trig point on the summit down to the dirt road round the base of the hill, and the short cut from the Cook Memorial on Skinner Street to the gravel road servicing the tanks. There is erosion or the likelihood of erosion on both paths



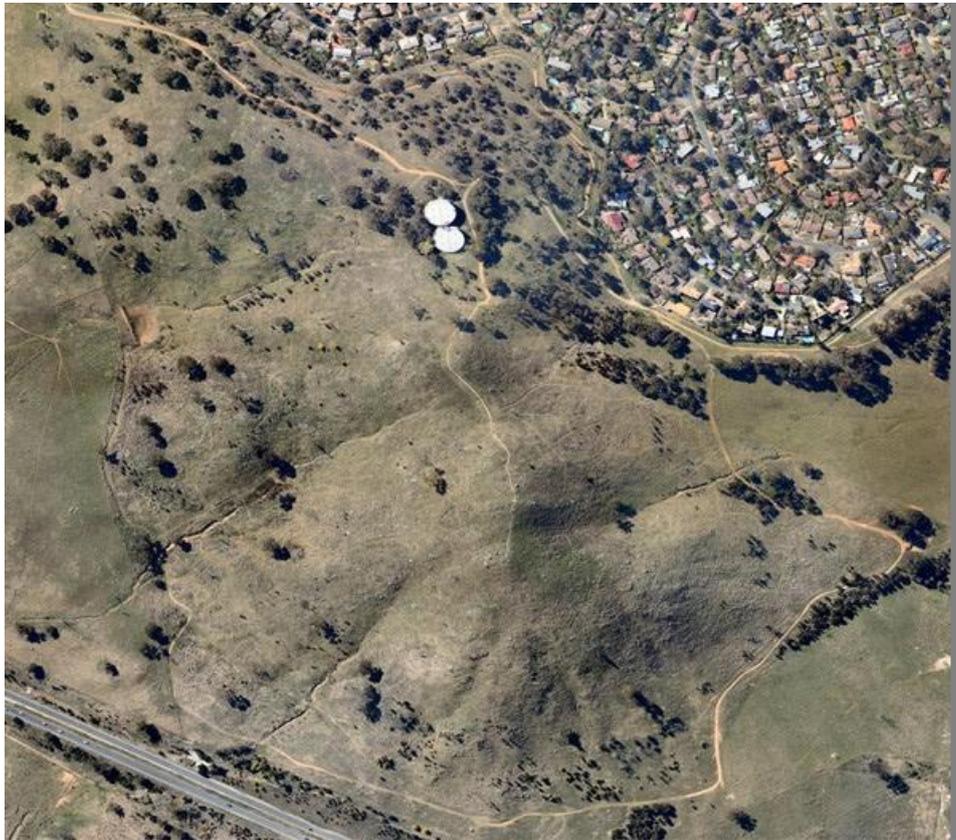
Summit path, March 2016



Path running south from the Cook Memorial

Friends of Mount Painter have been talking to the rangers about establishing a loop walk round the reserve. At present walkers can follow the dirt road all the way round the base of the hill from near the noticeboard at the Booth Crescent entrance as far as the gully below the water tanks – see image on the next page.

There the road stops. It would be good to link up that road's end to the vehicle roads near the tanks. But what route from the dam would be best? Let us know what you think. Up the gully? Or up the north side of the gully to the ridge whence there is a good view of the Molonglo valley? Or what?



The road is visible on the east, south and west sides of the hill, ending at the dam at the base of the gully running west from the tanks.

OLD PHOTOS OF MOUNT PAINTER

Do you have any photos of Mount Painter that were taken some time ago?



We are putting together a collection of then-and-now photos to show how the reserve is changing as time passes and the rehabilitation of the hill unfolds. We would love to see any photos you have, scan them and return them to you. Photos like these can tell a story more dramatically than any set of words. These two were taken in 2007 and 2014 east of the summit path.

Photos of events would also be good, especially if the people captured are named.

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www.ginninderralandcare.org.au (go to 'Landcare', then 'Landcare Groups')
Search for us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com>