



## FRIENDS OF MOUNT PAINTER NEWS

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### April work party on Easter Day, 21 April from 9am to 12.30pm.



We will return to the summit area to continue weeding the recently discovered Cobblers Peg infestation before it drops all its seeds where it is growing and condemns us to weeding another crop next year.

Meet at the gate above the water tanks. To get there, enter the reserve between 20 and 22 Booth Crescent, Cook, and follow the dirt road uphill to the right. Please wear long pants and sleeves (there are some prickly weeds around) and note that it can be cool and windy on Mt Painter's summit. Please also bring some food to share for morning tea. We will provide drinks.

#### An Autumn Bird Walk on Sunday, 28 April from 8am – 10am.

The walk will be led by Nicki Taws who will take us through the developing woodland on the southern and western slopes of Mt Painter. It is the time of year when many birds are moving from summer to winter habitats so we may see some of these migrating birds as well as the usual residents.

Meet on the city-bound side of William Hovell Drive, 1km from the intersection with Coulter Drive and just beyond the large overhead, electronic sign. If you have gone under the power lines, you have gone too far. Look out for red balloons!



#### An Autumn Planting on Sunday, 19 May from 9am till noon in the Wildflower Triangle.



We need help to plant 250 grass and forb seedlings as part of our program to improve the grassland in the Wildflower Triangle.

Park on Bindubi Street 800m south of the Lytton/Bandjalong intersection where the bike path runs under the road. Then follow the bike path towards Mt Painter.

**Our monthly work parties are on the third  
Sunday of each month**

## RECENT FRIENDS OF MOUNT PAINTER (FOMP) ACTIVITIES

**FOMP's view on African Lovegrass.** In February, Sarah Hnatiuk was interviewed on ABC 666's Afternoons about African Lovegrass: what is problematic about it and what we do to curb the infestations we find and prevent it from spreading.

**A stall at St Vincent's Primary School fete.** The following month we had a stall, together with Friends of Aranda Bushland, at St Vincent's fete. We were able to use this occasion to raise awareness of our reserves and activities with a display of photos, brochures and activities for kids. Our thanks go to Greening Australia for providing the prizes for guessing the number of gumnuts in jars. The winners were Ian Brown and Oscar.

**Weeding.** The conditions over summer seem to have provided just the right amount of moisture and warmth to stimulate excellent growth of certain weeds. There was African Lovegrass and St John's Wort at the start of summer, and Fat Hen, Blackberry Nightshade and Cobblers Peg more recently. Weeding these and bagging their seeds for removal have occupied much of our time, and we despair of reaching all the areas we would like to tidy up before the seeds drop. Alongside the flourishing weeds though, the warm season native grasses also did very well and raised our spirits.

## WEEDS FOUND ON THE RESERVE THAT ARE NEW TO US

This summer we have found three weed species on the reserve that we have not noticed before. One is Caltrop (*Tribulus terrestris*), a prostrate plant with burrs through which they probably reached the reserve, perhaps embedded in vehicle tyres or on soles of shoes. Although possibly native to Australia, it is not a plant we want to see on Mount Painter.

Another weed is Cobblers Pegs (*Bidens pilosa*), the seeds of which have spines that attach themselves to feathers, fur or clothes of passers-by. There is a large, dense infestation of this weed in the summit area, especially beside the path beyond the summit and spreading downhill from there. This is where we have been doing a lot of weeding to prevent the Cobblers Pegs from spreading further and to limit the number of plants from which seeds might be picked up as walkers brush against them.



Caltrop



Cobblers Peg seed

Cobblers Peg is native to South America but may well have arrived in Australia before Captain Cook on one of the more than 50 European ships known to have sailed into Australian waters before 1770. While considered a weed in Australia, it is eaten in Africa and used as a medicine in China.

The third weed is a marigold that goes by the name of Stinking Roger (*Tagetes pilosa*).

### **A BIT OF HISTORY**

Until 1996, Nature Reserve on Mount Painter consisted of the triangular patch of land between the two gravel roads that provide access to the water tanks. In that year, the large, well-cleared paddock to the south, comprising the rest of the hill, was added to the reserve. Tree planting started later that year, as advertised in the Friends of Mount Painter July 1996 newsletter.

#### ***Upcoming events: September Spring Event – Arbor Week***

*In September 1996, the environmental education duo, ECOMAN and DR EARTH will set a world record on Mt Painter. They will be claiming a place for Mt Painter in The Guinness Book of Records for the greatest number of trees planted in 24 hours by two people, our local environmental superheroes. For the around-the-clock event, they will attempt to plant 1500 trees on the denuded lower eastern slopes of Mt Painter. These trees have been propagated by Greening Australia and local FOMPites. All trees have been propagated from seed collected locally last autumn. The event will launch the Mt Painter replant.*



*Stinking Roger*



The following photos show how some of the other Mount Painter planting has progressed between 2001 (probable date of photo at left) and now (below). The revegetation plan prepared in 2000 called for planting in clumps, one of which can be seen in the mid right of the lower photo. Also evident in that photo are naturally regenerating Hickory (a wattle) on the skyline and Grevillea bushes invading from a neighbouring planting on the lower left. The Hardenbergia in the foreground is part of another clump of trees and shrubs.



Compiled by Sarah Hnatiuk