

Friends of Mount Majura (FoMM) July 2009 newsletter

- Learn a new skill: training session on GPS and mapping – this Friday 10 July
- National Tree Day - Sunday 2 August

Dear Friends

There is a fantastic opportunity for you to learn a new skill and get ready for the next round of rabbit mapping that will start later this year: Sally McIntosh, the Community Programs officer with Parks, Conservation and Lands and Andy Westcott, the coordinator of the Molonglo Catchment Group (MCG) will conduct a training session on the use of GPS (Global Positioning System) and on mapping. The training session will be this coming Friday, see below for more details (apologies for the short notice, I've only learned about this opportunity an hour ago). The training will equip you with the basics of recording locations in the field using a GPS device, downloading the data and displaying them on Google Earth.

The idea for the training came up during the mapping of rabbit warrens. Most volunteers involved with rabbit mapping found it much easier to use a GPS to record the warrens rather than to locate them on a printed map. Volunteers with no previous experience were trained on a variety of borrowed GPS devices. FoMM and MCG have successfully applied for funds to purchase Garmin 60 GPS devices which will be shared and which will make the training and future mapping of rabbits (and other items) a much easier effort. You can contact me or Sally (details below) for a GPS if you want to participate in the training.

This year's National Tree Day falls on Sunday, the 2 August 2009 and preparations are well under way to plant local trees in a cleared area of Mount Majura. Please find below the announcement with more details. Please visit www.majura.org to view a map of the venue.

On Sunday, 26 July we'll conduct the final site preparation and start to water in. Drop in any time from 2.00pm to 5.00pm.

Help: We would need a few more people who could help directing participants on the planting day. Please contact me if you can help out.

Many thanks
Waltraud

Learn a new skill: training session on GPS and mapping – this Friday 10 July

When: Friday 10 July, 12.00pm

Where: Parks, Conservation and Lands Stromlo Depot, 500 Cotter Road, Weston Creek

RSVP and inquiries: Sally phone 62057384 or email Sally.McIntosh@act.gov.au

The training is free of charge, will take about 2 hours and will cover the following: Basic GPS setup, marking waypoints, finding a waypoint, marking a track, calculating an area (eg the area of a patch of Serrated Tussock), using coordinates; uploading data from GPS to computer, and displaying data on Google earth.

National Tree Day 2009 – Sunday 2 August

Join the Friends of Mount Majura (FoMM), the Mount Ainslie Weeders, the Watson Woodland Working Group and the Hackett Community Association to celebrate National Tree Day 2009 with the planting of local trees in the Mount Majura nature reserve. Boost the feel-good factor and community spirit and bring your mum and dad, friends, neighbours and colleagues. Make the event a real community tree party.

When: Sunday 2 August 2009, from 11.00am - 3.00pm

Where: Majura paddock behind Rivett Street in Hackett (visit www.majura.org to view the venue)

What to wear: Garden gloves, appropriate clothing and foot wear, wrap up warmly.

What to bring: Bucket, trowel or mattock if you have one.

Enjoy: Warm-up drinks and a BBQ including vegetarian kebab

Enquiries: ph 6247 7515 or e-mail admin @majura.org

Promote the event: download the poster from the website

The hard work has been done: Cadets of the Australian Defence Force Academy volunteered their free time between exams and their mid-term leave to dig the planting holes.

At the event rangers of ACT Parks, Conservation and Lands will provide warm up drinks, the Rotary Club of North Canberra will throw a thank-you BBQ for volunteers, and a crew of onsite planting advisers will do their best to keep everyone busy.