

Friends of Mount Majura (FoMM) June 2009 newsletter

- World Environment Day celebration with a Walk Talk and Tea – this Sunday 7 June
- Erosion control sightseeing at Mt Painter - Saturday 13 June
- FoMM meeting - Sunday 14 June
- Grassy Ecosystem Workshop - Sunday 21 June
- Working Bee - Sunday 28 June

Dear Friends

The swift parrots spotted by a FoMM member (my email of 13 May) were most likely rather un-swift king parrots seen from afar. It seems that swift parrots haven't been around this year. Given that their breeding habitat in Tasmania is being destroyed for woodchips who knows whether we will see them ever again weaving through the canopy of tall box trees? Closer to our doorstep, Majura Parkway threatens to cut its way through grassy woodland and grassland at the eastern foot slopes of Mt Majura and Mt Ainslie. Government has released the Environmental Impact Statement available from the TAMS website for public consultation. The proposed Parkway is not the upgrade of the old Majura road as many of us thought but a new carriage way with two lanes in each direction. It will impact on listed grassy woodland and temperate grassland sites and on known earless dragon and the golden sun moth habitat.

Now, seems that I worked myself into a corner. How to find the right words to invite you to celebrate World Environment Day? May be I can say come along and celebrate our small successes.

Warm regards

Waltraud

Celebrate World Environment Day 2009 with a Walk Talk & Tea

When: Sunday 7 June 2009, 1.00 – 3.30 pm

Where: Meet at Mackenzie Street Nature Park entrance opposite Grayson Street, Hackett

Come for a gentle winter walk, enjoy afternoon tea at the Majura ridge and see how the weed infested old stock camp is transforming into a bush habitat with great views. We will plant a couple of Bursaria shrubs as a growing acknowledgement of the day. A gold coin donation would be much appreciated.

Erosion control sightseeing at Mt Painter - Saturday 13 June

Friends of Mt Painter FoMP employ an interesting erosion control method using brushwood placed along contour lines. Sarah of FoMP has kindly agreed to show and explain the method on site. ACTEW will conduct vegetation control on the power line easement this winter and we might be able to use brushwood for erosion control on the steep west slopes. Please contact me if you are interested to learn the method and further details.

FoMM meeting – Sunday 14 June

When: Sunday 14 June 4.00-5.30pm

Where: 9 Selwyn Street, Hackett

Please RSVP by responding to this email

Agenda items: Preparation of National Tree Day (2 August) community planting; volunteer involvement in further rabbit control work; funding of projects through ACT Environment Grant (coming up this month) .

Grassy Ecosystem Workshop Sunday 21 June, Royalla, further details tba

The workshop will include a free copy of the Grassy Ecosystem Management Kit (rrp. \$30), discussions, field sessions, morning and afternoon tea. If you are interested to attend please contact me for car pooling.

Working bee: Horehound Blitz and West Slope Challenge

When: Sunday, 28 June, 2009, from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm

Where: Meet at the water reservoir behind Rivett / French Streets, Hackett.

Bring your favorite weeding tool, preferably household gloves with long cuffs or garden gloves, wear sturdy boots and wrap up warmly. All other tools and material will be provided; hot drinks will keep you warm from inside.

We have planted native shrubs along the drain line behind the water reservoir to assist the restoration of a wild life corridor. At this working bee we will remove as much as possible of the existing weeds to give the seedlings a good start. We will also continue to re-vegetate the bare west slope with local scribbly gums – this will be a true challenge given the steepness of the slope and the shallow soils.