

Friends of Mt Majura (FoMM) April 2008 newsletter

- Survey of Tree Hollows at Mt Majura – Tuesday 8 April
- Talk: Research on the Eastern Grey Kangaroo in the ACT – Thursday 17 April
- FoMM Working Bee: Autumn Planting – Sunday 20 April
- Native Plant Sales – Saturdays, 29 March and 5 April
- Planting the Cotter with Greening Australia – Sunday 6 April
- Sustainable Gardening. Canberra Workshop & Tour – 12 April
- Talk: Eucalyptus Tree Rings as a Potential Source of Climate and Hydrological Data – 10 April
- Weed Swap – Weekend 12/13 April
- Talk: Are We Missing the Point on Global Warming? – Wednesday 23 April

Dear Friends

There will be plenty of opportunities in the coming month to get active, involved and to learn about environmental and sustainability issues. Please find below FoMM and non-FoMM events, which I hope keep you entertained and busy.

Could anyone help with collecting seeds of native boxthorn (*Bursaria lasiophylla*) and *Cassinia*? Come for a leisurely late afternoon stroll this Sunday, 30 March, meet at 5.00pm, Mackenzie Street park entrance opposite Grayson Street.

We need new bags for weed collection. Magnet Mart which sells my favourite bags - the Big Garden Bag (Dynalink 70x70x77cm) - run out of stock. They hope to restock within the next couple of weeks. If you go shopping in MM within the next weeks and you spot the bags in the garden section please buy 10, keep the receipt for reimbursement and inform me.

Could I also ask those of you who have done work outside group activities during the period from 1 January to end of March to fill out and sign your activity sheet and drop it at my place? You can find a copy on the members page of our website www.majura.org. Activities for reporting include writing articles and reports, putting up posters, building islands, work on the website.

I've learned from a number of people that our website drops out from time to time, which affects also mail to admin@majura.au. Please be patient and try again. We hope that we can fix the problem over time.

Many thanks. That's it from your co-ordinator

Waltraud

Survey of Tree Hollows at Mt Majura

When: Tuesday 8 April, 12.00 - 5.00 pm

Where: Meeting point tba

Bring and wear: sun protection, good shoes and binoculars, if you have them.

Places are limited, please book by email admin@majura.org or ph 62477515.

Join Dr Philip Gibbons and students of the Fenner School of Environment and Society at the ANU and learn how to conduct a survey of tree hollows. The data recorded at the survey in the Mt Majura nature reserve will be presented in the Hilltop to Backfence Lecture "A Hollow Existence" in September 2008 (for more information on the talk please visit www.majura.org). Phil Gibbons together with David Lindenmayer published the book "Tree hollows and Wildlife Conservation in Australia" (CSRIO Publishing 2002).

Hilltop to Backfence Lecture: Research on the Eastern Grey Kangaroo in the ACT

Talk by Dr Don Fletcher, ACT Parks, Conservation and Lands

When: Thursday, 17 April 2008, 7.30 pm

Where: Blue Gum School Friends Lounge, Hackett shops

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

Learn about recent ACT research on the ecology of a key native species – the eastern grey kangaroo – and its role in biodiversity conservation. Find out about plans for kangaroo research to commence in 2008, including at Mount Majura.

The talk is part of FoMM's lecture series Hilltop to Backfence - Celebrating 5 years of ParkCare on Mount Majura. You can find a program of the lectures at www.majura.org

FoMM Working Bee: Autumn Planting

When: Sunday, 20 April 2008, from 10.00am to 13.00pm

Where: meet at the lower Hackett reservoir off Rivett and French Streets, Hackett

What: planting of natives along the drain line and removal of some weeds.

Bring & wear: sun protection, sturdy boots, a bucket or watering can, a mattock, if you have one, and your best smile.

Enquiries: ph 6247 7515 or e-mail admin@majura.org; find a map with the meeting point at our website www.majura.org.

Come along for a cuppa and help with the planting of natives along the drain line. Work includes clearing the planting sites of weeds, digging holes, watering in, planting, and mulching.

Native Plant Sales (1) Australian Native Plant Society

When: Saturday, 29 March from 8.30am

Where: Australian National Botanical Gardens (ANBG) southern car park

A list of plants for sale will be available on the website or use the link

<http://www.nativeplants-canberra.asn.au/Uploads/Mar08%20plant%20list337.pdf>

Native Plant Sales (2) Growing Friends of the ANBG

When: Saturday, 5 April from 8.30am to 11.00am

Where: ANBG car park at the rear of the Crosbie Morrison Building.

A list of plants for sale will be available from the ANBG Visitor Centre and on the website at

<http://www.anbg.gov.au/friends/growingf.html>

Planting the Cotter

Team up with Greening Australia (GA) for a community planting in the Lower Cotter Catchment on Sunday 6 April. Bring family and friends and enjoy a fun day caring for the environment.

When: Sunday 6 April, 9:30am to 12:30pm, followed by BBQ lunch

Where: Bullock Paddock Road, Lower Cotter Catchment, about 40 minutes drive from Canberra.

What to bring/wear: hat, sunscreen, long sleeves & pants, gardening gloves, sturdy boots, water

How to get there: CATCH A BUS OR CAR POOL. You can catch a bus from Acton Park (just west of Commonwealth Park, at Lake Burley Griffin), corner of Barrine Dr and Albert St, or Deeks Forest Park, corner of Cotter Rd and Uriarra Rd at 9:00am. Please reserve a seat on the bus when you RSVP. If driving, head west on Cotter Rd, cross the Murrumbidgee, turn right into Brindabella Rd, drive to the intersection with Uriarra Rd (approx. 7km), turn left, drive for 1.3km, then turn left into Bullock Paddock Rd. Follow the GA signs from there.

RSVP essential: phone 6253 3035 or email admin@act.greeningaustralia.org.au

Canberra Workshop & Tour on Sustainable Gardening

Local landscape architect and FoMM member, Edwina Richardson, is leading a workshop and tours on sustainable gardens in Canberra on Saturday 12 April 2008

Information and booking: www.opengarden.org.au or ph (03) 9329 8273.

Talk: Eucalypt Tree Rings as a Potential Source of Climatic and Hydrological Data

By Matthew Brookhouse

When: Thursday 10 April, 12.30 pm

Where: Australian National Botanic Gardens Theatre

Weed Swap

Swap woody weeds growing in your garden for FREE Australian native plants

When: weekend 12/13 April, between 8.30am and 4.00pm each day.

Where: *Canberra Sands & Gravel* in Belconnen and *Corkhills Brothers* near the Mugga lane tip.

Privet, cotoneaster, firethorn, hawthorn, wild olive, periwinkle and honeysuckle are some of the most abundant woody weeds found in the bushland of Mt Majura. The latter two are spread by illegal dumping of garden waste, the former by birds that eat the berries and transport them into bushland and neighbour gardens. Weed Swap offers a range of native ground cover plants, small and large shrubs suitable for Canberra gardens. Volunteers on site will assist with advice.

For more information please contact Weed Swap coordinator Rosemary Blemings on 6258 4724

Sustainable Hackett Talk: Are We Missing the Point on Global Warming?

By Emeritus Prof. John Newton, FAA, The Australian National University

When: Wednesday, 23 April 2008, 7.30 pm

Where: Blue Gum School Friends Lounge, Hackett Shops

The media debates revolve mainly around global warming and the energy crisis, without ever addressing the driving forces behind them. These are directly related to the exponential increases in population and consumption of resources and energy, wealth accumulation, waste creation and land-use stresses. In this talk, Prof. Newton will review these driving forces and the impact they have on life on earth.