

Friends of Mount Majura (FoMM) January 2009 newsletter

- Working bees - this Sunday 18 January & Sunday 1 February
- News from the rabbit front
- Holiday hint: Snakes Alive

Dear Friends

I hope you'd a wonderful break and can start the New Year recharged and full of energy.

I'd like to invite you to our first working bee this year on the coming Sunday with a focus on woody weeds growing in the vicinity of the lower water reservoir off Rivett / French streets. Currently there is no water flowing down the drain ditch which provides us the opportunity to get rid of the remaining woody weeds growing at the bottom.

Please come early for a cool start.

If there are enough hands around we'll also cut and bag herbaceous weeds (Paterson's Curse, mustard weed, horehound) using a brush cutter and rakes.

When: Sunday, 18 January from 8.00am to noon or until temperature rises to uncomfortable levels

Where: meet lower Hackett reservoir off Rivett / French streets in Hackett

What to bring and wear: sun protection, light body covering clothing, gloves if you have them

Tea, coffee, cold water and soft drinks and all equipment will be provided.

Don't despair if you can't make it this Sunday. The Mt Ainslie Weeders will hold a Working Bee on Sunday, the 1st February at the old Ainslie tip site targeting woody weeds from 8.00 am onwards. There's also a need to look after the seedlings planted there last year - so come along if you can.

News from the rabbit front.

The first records of rabbit warrens are rolling in. The picture is worse than feared. For instance 71 warrens were recorded in a 50 ha area behind Mackenzie Street. That is about 1.5 warrens per 10000 square meters.

Just a reminder of the mappers:

1. Please make generous use of the orange tape to mark the locations of warrens on ground; allow at least a tail of 30cm hanging down.

2. If you use a GPS (highly recommended) please set the position format to UTM UPS and the map datum to WGS 84. Please contact me if you need a GPS unit or help with the use of it.

I'm planning to publish the data on our website i.e. a map that shows the locations.

It would be great if you could send me the data as a text file or excel file with the following items (see below example)

id	date	time	easting	northing	elevation	collector	block
1	16-Dec-08	6:04:08PM	696380	6096362	624	Collis, O'Neill	Ains11
2	16-Dec-08	6:16:07PM	696300	6096286	629	Collis, O'Neill	Ains11
3	22-Dec-08	5:38:39PM	696488	6096393	626	Collis, O'Neill	Ains11

A holiday hint for kids and adults - Snakes alive.

Snakes, lizards, turtles, crocodiles and frogs are on display in the Australian National Botanic Gardens this week from 12-18 January. Inquiries: 6250 9540 or www.anbg.gov.au

That's it for now.

Warm regards

Waltraud