

# Friends of Mt Majura



*Living with Nature on your Doorstep*

The Friends of Mount Majura is a ParkCare group of volunteers who donate their time to caring for the nature reserve.

## Become a friend of Mt Majura

Friends of Mt Majura (FoMM) aims to conserve and restore the natural and cultural heritage of Mt Majura and hosts events such as informative walks, wildlife exhibitions and displays. These activities are a great way to learn about and enjoy the nature reserve. The invaluable work of the group has been recognised with many awards and grants.

The group was formed in 2003 in response to concerns about the severe degradation of Mt Majura's Grassy Woodlands. FoMM works in partnership with the ACT Government, is affiliated with the Molonglo Catchment Group and supported by the North Canberra Community Council, Watson Woodlands Working Group, the Watson Community Association and the Hackett Community Association.

Volunteers of the group are involved in a whole range of activities including weed management and raising and planting wildflowers, grasses, shrubs and trees. They conduct monitoring activities on plants, animals and water quality. The group fosters close conservation partnerships with local schools and scout groups and lobbies for better management of the reserve.

Everyone is welcome to join FoMM. Just come along to activities, have fun, meet people and achieve results. You don't need previous experience or special skills, just an interest in your local environment and in making a difference.

Dragonfly project community planting day.  
Courtesy Waltraud Pix.



## Bird spotting

Bird watching is a fun, challenging and highly educational activity for young and old. All you need is your eyesight, but if you want to glam it up - get a pair of binoculars, a bird identification book and a camera.

FoMM and the Canberra Ornithologists Group are always keen to hear from you if you can report a sighting of the rare and endangered birds which may be seen at certain times of the year. You can email [admin@majura.org](mailto:admin@majura.org) or Canberra Ornithologist Group [conservation@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:conservation@canberrabirds.org.au) about sightings.

## Working parties

FoMM hold monthly working parties on the third Sunday of each month. Weeding is carried out in the warmer months of the year from September to May and planting in Winter.

The activities have a huge positive impact on the reserve and are a great way to exercise and meet people. If you can spare an hour or two come along and join in the fun!



Blue Gum School waterbug survey.  
Courtesy Waltraud Pix.

[www.majura.org.au](http://www.majura.org.au)

To find out more about any of the projects described, keep up-to-date with events and activities or join the FoMM mailing list visit [www.majura.org](http://www.majura.org)

## Bringing back nature

FoMM has been working hard to rehabilitate some of the most degraded areas of the reserve and restore native habitats.

### Project Dragonfly

The revitalisation of two dams on Mt Majura has the intriguing code-name of Project Dragonfly - as the re-appearance of dragonflies at the dam sites is a celebrated indicator of an improving environment.

FoMM is working hard to create a wetland havens for birds, frogs and aquatic insects. Volunteers have been busy establishing native plants, controlling erosion, placing rocks and logs to provide wildlife shelter and constructing pedestrian tracks and seats for wildlife watching.

### Majura Paddock

This site has been transformed by the hard work of dedicated volunteers. Since 2007, the group has been removing large stands of Horehound and Paterson's Curse and restoring Grassy Woodland vegetation.

While it will take years to fully rehabilitate the site, massive changes can already be seen. You can get involved by adopting a tree and visiting it every now and again to remove re-sprouting weeds.

### Sheep Camp

Rehabilitation of a former 4.5 hectare sheep camp began in 2003. A list of introduced and native plants was gathered - identifying those to be removed and what native plants should replace them.

Volunteers removed more than 40 truckloads of weeds by hand. Volunteers collected seeds from the reserve and are replacing the weeds with Speargrasses, New Holland Daisys, Mat Rushes, Clustered Everlastings, Drooping She-oaks, Wattles and Eucalypts.

## Environmental Studies

FoMM is dedicated to better understanding the inner workings of the Mt Majura Nature Reserve. Several studies have been established and are making important contributions to environmental science and policy.



Join in the fun - Tree planting days are a great way to meet the neighbours and significant rehabilitation works have been achieved by the Friends of Mt Majura.  
Courtesy Waltraud Pix.

### Animal sieve - explaining change

In 2009, FoMM received an ACT Environment grant to study the impact of climate and grazing on the grassy woodland of Mt Majura. Three 10m x 10m plots are being monitored on a regular basis over a period of five-years. One plot is fenced to keep out kangaroos, one keeps out both rabbits and kangaroos and the third allows grazing by both.

### Rabbit Mapping

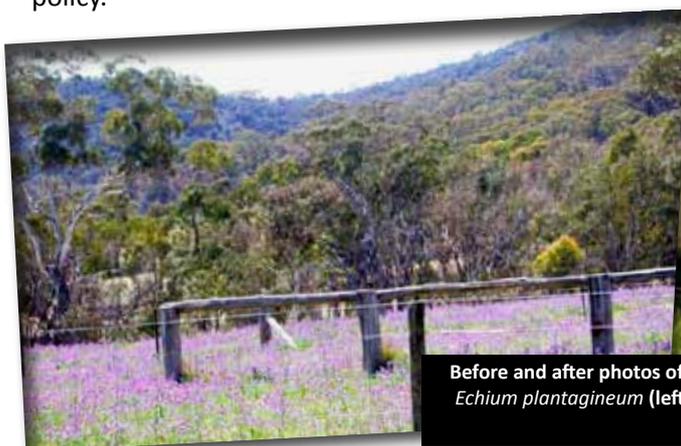
The European Rabbit was released in Australia in the mid-to-late 1800s and now poses a significant threat to native plants and animals.

Since 2008, FoMM has assisted the ACT Government with a rabbit control program. The group has since joined forces with neighbouring ParkCare groups and mapped rabbit warrens in an area that covers more than 1000 hectares.

In the most recent effort, volunteers clocked up more than 700 field hours and recorded 1167 warrens and burrows in the Mt Majura and Mt Ainslie Nature Reserves. They spent another 300 hours working with GPS, processing data and coordinating the project.



World Environment Day guided bushwalk.  
Courtesy Waltraud Pix.



Before and after photos of Mt Majura paddock infested with Paterson's curse *Echium plantagineum* (left) and right after rehabilitation by weeding parties.  
Courtesy Waltraud Pix.

