

NATIONAL TREE DAY 2011 GROWING CLOSER

Australia's largest community tree planting event is coming up on **Sunday 31 July** and the **Friends of Mount Majura (FoMM)** are calling on residents of North Canberra to join the campaign to plant a million new native trees and shrubs across Australia.

The Friends of Mount Majura are hosting their **National Tree Day** planting event at the Majura paddock behind Rivett Street in Hackett between 1 pm and 3 pm. The event will kick off with a demonstration on how to plant a tree. Hot drinks and a BBQ will be available for volunteer planters.

"Planting trees and shrubs on National Tree Day is a simple and lasting way to make a positive contribution to our community" says FoMM coordinator Waltraud Pix. "All you need is a positive attitude and a willingness to get your hands dirty. We provide you with the know-how and resources you need to get involved."

"National Tree Day brings communities together to learn about and care for Australia's unique environment. It is a great opportunity for families to experience the wonders of our natural surroundings and to make a contribution that they can watch growing for years to come".

The focus of National Tree Day 2011 on Mount Majura will be planting shrubs, ground cover plants and trees in remnant box gum grassy woodland. Volunteers have already removed many truckloads of hand pulled weeds from the planting site which has been overgrazed and degraded in the past. Planting local native plants such as Yellow box, Silverwattle and native Boxthorn will provide habitat for declining woodland birds and a link with nearby conservation sites.

In addition to National Tree Day, FoMM will be hosting a School Tree Day on Friday 29 July for students of the local Blue Gum Community School. "The future of our planet really lies in the hands of our children. Getting them outdoors and involving them in a fun and simple activity such as planting a tree, will hopefully develop into a life filled with positive environmental actions," says Ms Pix.

For the past five years FoMM, jointly with neighbouring ParkCare groups, have provided the local community with the opportunity to get together and do something good for the environment through National Tree Day planting events. Financial and in kind support came from the Molonglo Catchment Group, the North Canberra Community Council, the Hackett Community Association, Greening Australia, the Majura Mountain Scouts and rangers of the ACT Parks and Conservation Service.

National Tree Day is an Australian wide event held annually by **Planet Ark** to encourage mass plantings of trees and shrubs and to communicate the merit of trees.

For more information, visit www.majura.org.

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