

Friends of Mt Majura (FoMM) February 2008 newsletter

- FoMM Meeting - **changed date: Sunday 17 February**
- Working Bee - Sunday 17 February
- Along A Trail With Ants. Talk - Thursday 21 February
- HilltopToBackfence. Celebrating 5 years of ParkCare on Mount Majura. A free lecture series
- Walking With Ants. Expert-guided Walk - Sunday 24 February
- FoMM 2007 Statistics
- Forbs to give away for revegetation

Dear Friends

FoMM Meeting: The meeting previously announced for Sunday 10 February has to be postponed to Sunday 17 February. My apologies! We will meet at 7.30pm (sharp) to 9.00pm at 9 Selwyn Street, Hackett. Everyone is welcome; please RSVP to me.

Agenda item 1: FoMM activities for the first half of 2008, identification & distribution of work.

There is a clear and urgent need to distribute and share work. Please see our draft program at our fledgling website http://majura.org/members/FoMM_Draft_Program_2008.pdf and the list below and consider where you could / would like to help.

Volunteers wanted to help with the following events: 2008 lectures series (see below), the working bee on 18 May (installing erosion matting; 3rd stage) for which we've secured a Conservation Volunteers Australia crew, and World Environment Day celebration on 1 June. We also need volunteers to help prepare and man a FoMM stall on Saturday, 3 May at Hackett's Birthday party.

Tasks at events involve:

- collect donations and look after activity sheets at events
- write up reports
- put up and take down posters at prominent points and community boards
- help with wording of advertisements
- monitor and maintain seedlings planted at various sites

Agenda item 2: Monash Drive. The parkway running through endangered grassy woodland in the back of Rivett, Richard and Mackenzie Streets - is raising its head again. I propose a brief discussion on whether - and if yes - how we should get involved in actions to abate this threat to Mt Majura.

Working Bee with Morning Tea - Sunday 17 February

When: Sunday, 17 February, from 8.30am onwards

Where: meet at the lower dam off Mackenzie Street park entrance

Bring & Wear: sun protection, sturdy boots and full body covering clothing; all equipment will be provided.

Please don't forget to fill in and sign the activity sheet at the rangers' trailer.

Four of us did a marvellous job on the last working bee in January however we haven't finished and therefore will revisit the same area around the dams to remove woody weeds, mainly regrowth of briar roses, and do some maintenance work at the erosion matting.

A trial to kill large shrubs and small trees by wounding the bark and injecting round-up has been successful and we will fine-tune the technique as proposed by Noel for a quick and efficient job.

Along A Trail With Ants

Talk by Dr Ajay Narendra, The Australian National University

When: Thursday 21 February 2008 7.30 - 9.00pm

Where: Blue Gum School Friends Lounge, Hackett shops

Join Dr Ajay Narendra of the Australian National University for a glimpse into the fascinating world of ants and be surprised about their amazing navigation skills.

HilltopToBackfence. Celebrating 5 years of ParkCare on Mount Majura. A free lecture series

The talk on ants is the first talk of the free lecture series HilltopToBackfence presented by FoMM to celebrate five years ParkCare in the Nature Reserve.

The lecture series covers a range of local environmental issues and explores biodiversity at our doorstep including research on eastern grey kangaroo in the ACT, the bizarre sex techniques of orchids, and the language of lizards.

Lectures are held on the third Thursday of the month from February to November 2008 from 7.30pm to 9.00pm at the Blue Gum School Friends Lounge, Hackett shops. Entry is free, however a gold coin donation to support our volunteer work at Mt Majura would be much appreciated. For more information or for enquiries please visit our website at www.majura.org, e-mail admin@majura.org or phone 62477515.

Please contact me for a poster to promote the HilltopToBackfence lecture series and events.

Walking With the Ants – 24 February

Discover the ants that live on Mount Majura on a walk guided by Ajay Narendra.

When: Sunday 24 February 2008, 4.30 to 6.30 pm

Where: meet at Helms Place park entrance off Rivett Street, Hackett

Bring: sun protection, sturdy boots and a magnifying glass if you have one.

Kids (with adults) are especially welcome.

Booking essential! e-mail admin@majura.org or phone 6247 7515

FoMM 2007 Statistics

The statistics (see table below) were drawn from our monthly reports to Government and summarize FoMM volunteer work conducted in 2007 (for a more detailed report please visit our website http://majura.org/members/2007_FoMM_Annual_Report.pdf). FoMM spent about 1655 hours to assist conservation work in the Mt Majura nature reserve, the bulk of which - about 640 hours - was spent on weeding and 369 hours on collecting seeds, and raising, planting and maintaining seedlings. We held 21 working bees with an average attendance of 10 volunteers. Tree planting at the National Tree Day attracted most people, with 44 volunteers having signed our activity sheet. In addition we organised two talks and four expert-guided walks and celebrated World Environment Day with a walk, talk and tea on Mt Majura. The walks & talks have attracted on average 30 participants and together with the National Tree Day planting event they were clearly 2007s' front-runner.

Forbs to give away for parkcare revegetation

For those of you who's garden abuts the nature reserve and who want to improve the weedy back of the backyard: Greening Australia has forb seedlings to give away for parkcare revegetation projects (not for gardens). Please contact me if you consider having a go with planting seedlings at the back of your garden. All species can be found at the lower slopes of Mt Majura and are quite pretty: Bulbine lily, Hoary sunray, Scaly buttons, Common buttons and Sticky Everlastings.

That's it for now.

Warm regards

Waltraud

FoMM co-ordinator

ph 6247 7515 or admin@majura.org

FoMM Year 2007 Statistics									
	Working hours			Working Bees			Walks (5) and Talks (2)		
months	total	weed	seed & plant	number events	avg people	rate	number events	avg people	rate
Jan - Mar	288.3	125.8	35.5	4	26	6.5	1	60	60.0
Apr - Jun	337.5	108.8	56.5	7	55	7.9	3	95	31.7
Jul - Sep	434.5	70.5	206.5	5	86	17.2	1	29	29.0
Oct - Dec	594.5	334.3	70.5	5	44	8.8	2	31	15.5
Total 2007	1654.75	639.25	369	21	211	10	7	215	31

New on our website

Report: How native plants respond to fire. Talk by Michael Doherty, 14 November 2007:

http://majura.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/01/fire_talk_14-11-07_report_fv.pdf

Report: Water bug sampling Spring 2007 (Project Dragonfly).

http://majura.org/dragonfly/monitoring/bugs/Bug_sampling_Majura_Dams_Oct07.pdf

Visit www.majura.org to stay informed on latest FoMM news and events.