

## **Friends of Mt Majura (FoMM) July 2008 newsletter**

- FoMM meeting to prepare National Tree Day planting event - Sunday 6 July
- Masters of Deception. Fascinating Orchids - Thursday 17 July
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Dear Friends

The old sheep camp has been enriched by another 23 trees and 40 shrubs thanks to nine brave Friends who defied the cold winds at the 15 June winter planting event. The trees were planted at the lower slopes so that they will not obscure the views when they grow bigger. Preparing the planting sites in the rocky shallow soils was quite tough however a thorough prepared planting site or miniature catchment is all worth it: so far all seedlings planted at the sheep camp grow well (not counting those lost to vandalism 2 years ago). Thanks everyone for help and thanks also to rangers Murray Aston and Grant Woodbridge for support and for cutting down 5 pine trees at the day.

Please consider if you can help with FoMM events planned for July. We will have a one-hour meeting next Sunday and I'd like to encourage you to come along.

You can find the transcript of the talk held by Ian Fraser at our World Environment Day 2008 celebration on the Hilltop to Backfence page of our website ([www.majura.org](http://www.majura.org)).

Friends, we are approaching our 5<sup>th</sup> birthday! The inaugural meeting of Friends of Mt Majura took place in Julies' Café on the 20 July 2003.

Warm regards  
Waltraud  
FoMM co-ordinator  
ph 6247 7515

### **FoMM meeting to prepare National Tree Day planting event - Sunday 6 July**

**When:** Sunday 6 July from 7.30pm to 8.30pm

**Where:** Blue Gum School Friends Lounge, Hackett shops

**What:** to prepare the National Tree Day community planting event (see below announcement).

We would need people who could help with introducing and directing volunteers at the event. Please contact me if you can help at the event but can't make it to the meeting.

We also need someone who can help placing posters at the Mt Ainslie park entrances.

### **Hilltop to Backfence Lecture: Masters of Deception. Fascinating Orchids – Thursday 17 July**

Talk by Dr Dean Rouse and Dr Peter Milburn, Australian National University

**When:** Thursday 17 July 2008, 7.30pm

**Where:** Blue Gum School Friends' Lounge, Hackett shops

When it comes to sex, orchids exploit a whole range of deceptive strategies, of fraud and of disguise. You will hear about the bizarre pollination techniques and the unique ecology of this fascinating plant group.

Discover the species growing on the slopes of Mount Majura and Mount Ainslie including rare orchids and a highly endangered species known only from this area.

### **Molonglo Catchment Weed Information Pack: Launch and Free Workshop – Sunday 20 July**

**When:** Sunday 20 July 2008, 1:30pm – 4:30pm

**Where:** Majura Centre Hall, Rosevear Place, Dickson

You are invited to attend the launch of the Molonglo Catchment Weed Information Pack by ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope and a free information session on weed identification and control. The Weed Pack and information session will equip you with the knowledge required to make a positive impact on the local environment and biodiversity of the region.

**Bring** plants you believe are weeds that require identification. If you suspect the plant is likely to be a native, bring a cutting / photo. Please ensure all plants with seeds are transported in a closed container / bag to avoid seed spread.

**Snacks** provided

**RSVP** (and for more information) Zoe Wood, Molonglo Catchment Coordinator. Ph: 0408 475 970

Email: [coordinator@molonglocatchment.com.au](mailto:coordinator@molonglocatchment.com.au).

**FoMM together with the Ainslie Weeders: Plant a tree on National Tree Day – Sunday 27 July**

**When:** Sunday 27 July, from 11.00am to 3.00pm

**Where:** meet at the old Ainslie tip site off Philip Ave (see map below).

**What to wear & bring:** boots, gloves, buckets, and a mattock if you have one. Wrap up warmly.

**Enjoy:** Warm-up drinks during event and a BBQ for the working crew from about 2.30pm

We will join forces with the Ainslie Weeders for a big community outing to plant local trees and shrubs on the National Tree Day. Hot drinks will be provided during the event and the Majura Mountain Scouts will run a BBQ to reward the working crew. The good news is that most hard work will have been done already: 10 ADFA cadets will be digging the planting holes before the event.

Bring mum and dad, friends, neighbours and colleagues.