2024-2025 ACT Environmental Grants Program ACT Environment Grants Program: Project Acquittal Form 2024-25. Application No. ENV2024_25/00001 From Friends of Mount Majura ParkCare Group (FoMM)

Project Title: Landscape Restoration Weed Management at The Fair

Start Date: 09/07/2024; Finish Date 30/01/2025, Sponsoring Organisation: Molonglo Conservation Group

Project Summary The project focused on work to supported a Landscape Restoration Weed Management Plan (the Management Plan) provided by the Office of Nature Conservation (ONC) to control St John's Wort (StJW) and the invasive grasses African Lovegrass, Chilean Needlegrass, Serrated Tussock and Sweet Vernal Grass, in an area of critically endangered Grassy Woodlands on Mt Majura's northwest slopes. The funding was used for the first stage implementation of weed control guided by the Management Plan.

The project area is a dynamic system driven by seasonal change, herbivore (over) grazing, loss of native and introduction of new species, and a vast weed seed bank accumulated over decades. The hard work of volunteers over the past eleven years (see https://majura.org/progress-the-fair/) is beginning to tip the balance towards a diverse grassy woodland that is attractive for wildlife and human visitors alike. To secure this gain, persistent, effective and coordinated management of StJW and other transformer weeds is required.The project area includes critically endangered Yellow Box/Apple Box and Blakely's Red Gum/Yellow Box tall grassy woodland, habitat for rare and endangered species, and sites with an exceptional variety and prevalence of native ground-covers, including orchids. Transformer weeds, such as StJW and exotic grasses threaten the area's high conservation values.

The project resulted in collaborative, coordinated and professionally guided work by the land manager and ParkCare volunteers to contain and reduce these transformer weeds. The outcomes will be evaluated by ONC for effectiveness and hopefully will inform management in situations similar to those on Mt Majura.

Has this project achieved the activities and milestones required? Yes. The project achieved all activities and milestones and included a number of experiments.

What Outcomes were generated by your project? The most significant outcome of this project was that for the first time in over 20 years of conservation volunteer work we had guidance by professional conservation expertise through ONC and experienced an exemplary, highly unusual and highly recommended coordination between ONC, P&CS and volunteer work. The main reason why this could happen was that our environment grant project was embedded in a Landscape Restoration Project run by ONC. This coordination resulted not only in efficient weed control shared by P&CS employed contractors and by FoMM volunteers, but also in a number of weed control experiments run by ONC staff and FoMM volunteers, including low intensity burns and the use of black plastic sheet covers to suppress sweet vernal grass, followed by direct seeding.

How did you track these outcomes? We tracked and will continue to track outcomes by monitoring. All activities are recorded on FieldMaps (see Evidence of Outcomes below). ONC has evaluated outcomes regarding StJW control (see graph in Evidence of Outcomes).

Attachment 1: 2025 The Fair Project Summary.pdf; Attachment 2: 2025 The Fair Weed Control Summary.pdf

Were there any challenges encountered and, if so, how did they influence the outcomes? One of the main challenges was for P&CS to find weed control contractors to support this project, due to the many other projects, including offset areas, P&CS has to attend to. There were also several occasions when small experiments with low-intensity burns were not permitted to take place.

Outline any actions taken to rectify challenges and/or improve the project outcomes: Wait and hope and see.

Do you or your organisation have any plans to continue, monitor or further develop this project beyond the funded period? Yes. We applied successfully for a follow-up grant, for continued contractor work and for displays explaining the history of The Fair and other FoMM projects and the assets at Mt Majura we are trying to protect.

What outputs did your project generate? Attachment 3: The Fair Weed Treatments.JPG; Attachment 4: The Fair Project Output Documents.pdf

What did you learn as a result of undertaking this project? We learnt how important it would be to have a partnership agreement between ParkCare volunteers, ONC and P&CS, including operational management plans.

Has the project produced any visual, audio representations, documents, or advertising? Yes. Attachment 5: 2025 The Fair Project Communication Examples.pdf; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYC6nKQR36U

Project Budgeted Expenditure Items	Budgeted Expenditure Amount ($ GST Exc)	Actual Expenditure ($ GST Exc)	Notes
		Must be a dollar amount.	
Project Budgeted Item	$14,200.00	$14,677.00	StJW Weed Control through contract spraying
Project Budgeted Item	$14,200.00	$14,080.00	Invasive grass control through contract spraying
Project Budgeted Item	$3,700.00	$3,343.00	Grass Seeds for follow up direct seeding
Project Budgeted Item	$650.00	$650.00	Administration FOMM
In-Kind Contributions	$337.60	$337.60	Management Plan supplied by ONC/8 Volunteer hours consultation
In-Kind Contributions	$12,015.36	$12,015.36	Monitoring -Volunteer hours, 12 months, 6hrs/ week @41.72

In-Kind Contributions	$5,340.16	$5,340.16	Weed Control - Volunteer labour: 4 months, 8hrs/ week
In-Kind Contributions	$1,335.04	$1,335.04	Direct Seeding - Volunteer labour: 4 months/2hrs/week
In-Kind Contributions	$834.00	$834.00	Volunteer labour (Grant acquittal/reporting 20hrs

Figure 7: The Fair – Inner and Outer Asset Areas

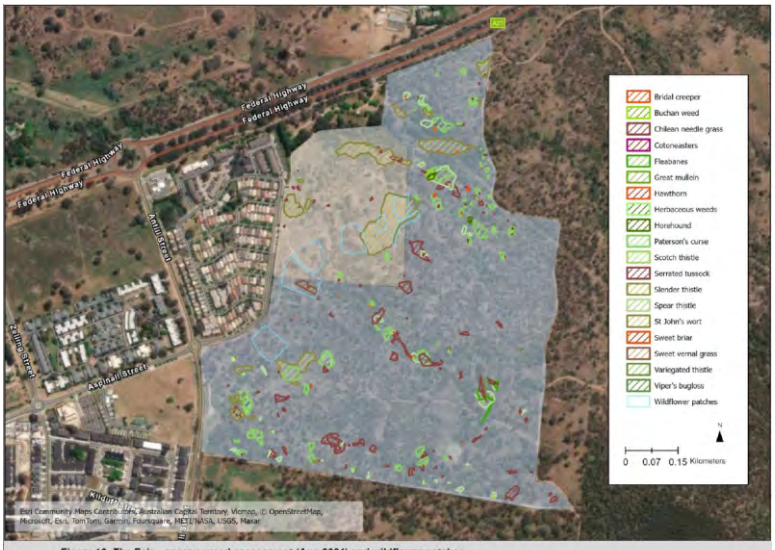


Figure 10: The Fair – approx. weed assessment (Aug 2024) and wildflower patches

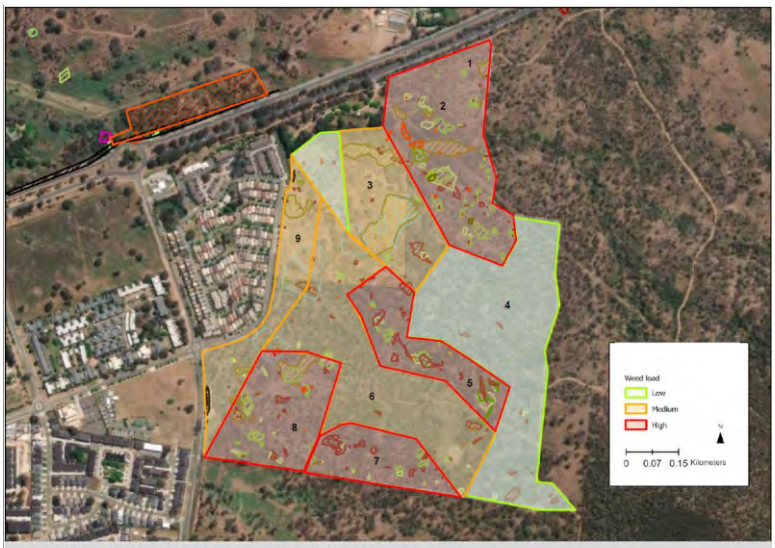


Figure 12: The Fair – Work zones in relation to weed load and condition

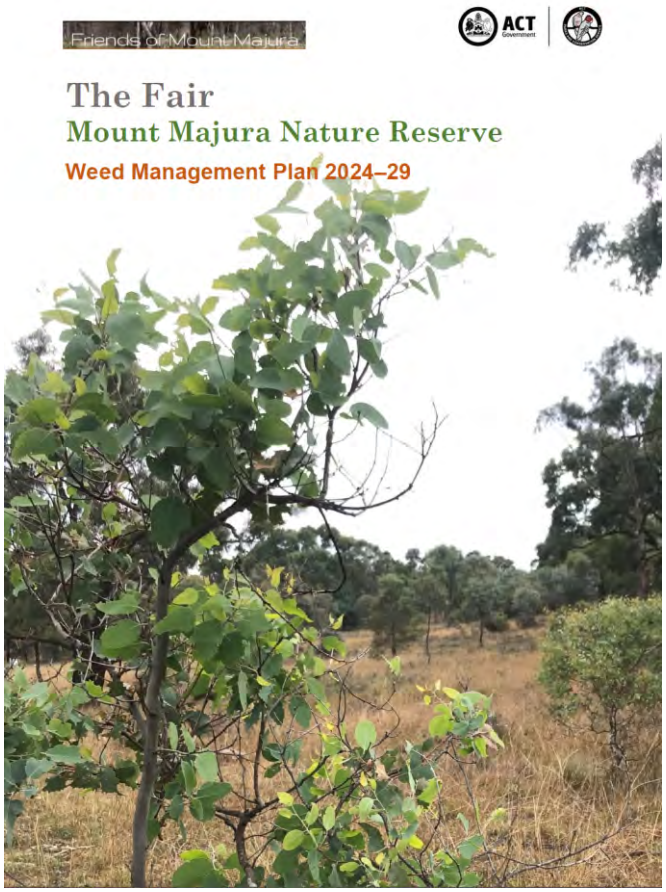
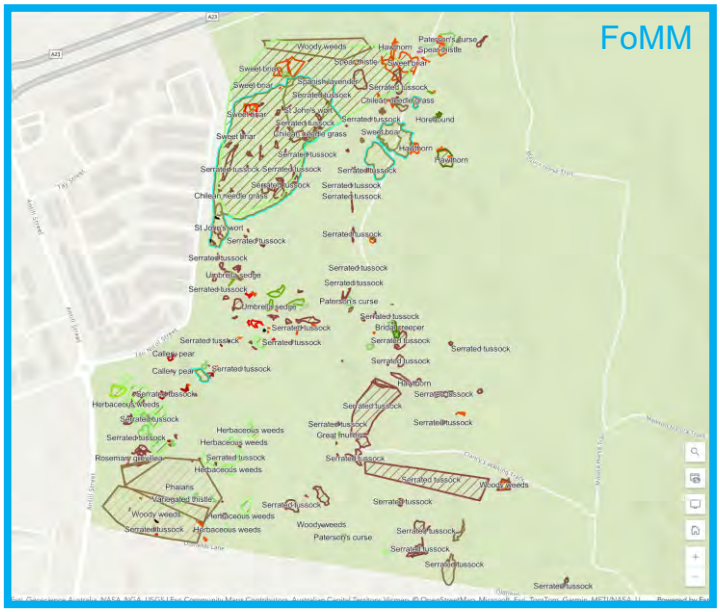


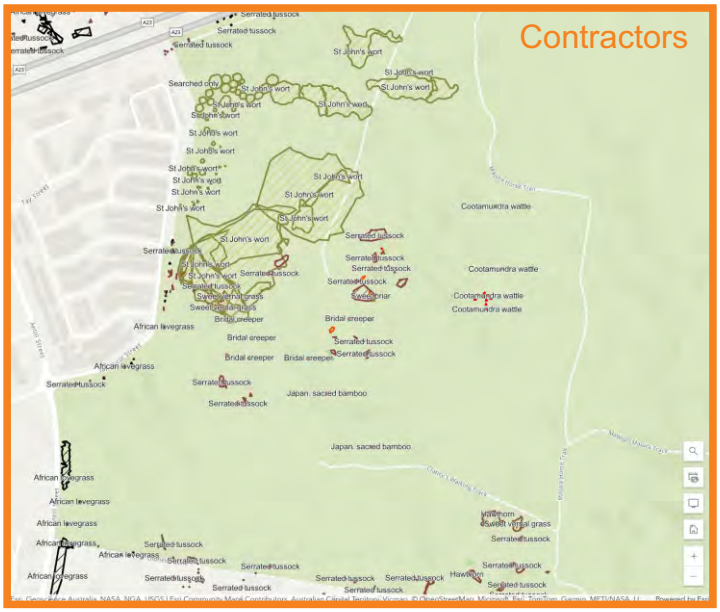
Table 1: Rare and uncommon species found at the Fair, inner and outer asset zones[6]

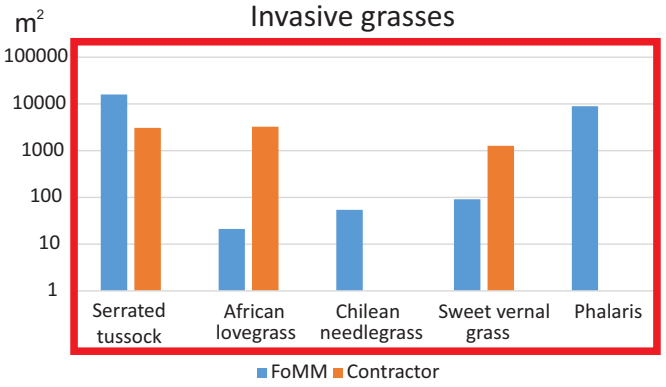
Scientific name	Common name	Status in ACT
Caladenia actensis	Canberra Spider Orchid	Critically Endangered
Callocephalon fimbriatum	Gang-gang Cockatoo	Endangered
Leucochrysum albicans	Hoary Sunray	Endangered
Rutidosis leptorhynchoides	Button Wrinklewort	Endangered
Artamus cyanopterus cyanopterus	Dusky Woodswallow	Vulnerable
Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami	Glossy Black Cockatoo	Vulnerable
Daphoenositta chrysoptera	Varied Sittella	Vulnerable
Eucalyptus aggregata	Black Gum	Vulnerable
Grantiella picta	Painted Honeyeater	Vulnerable
Petroica boodang	Scarlet Robin	Vulnerable
Pyrrholaemus sagittatus	Speckled Warbler	Vulnerable
Synemon plana	Golden Sun Moth	Vulnerable
Miniopterus orianae oceanensis	Eastern Bent-wing bat	Very Rare/ threatened
Cullen tenax	Tough Scurf-Pea	Rare or uncommon native
Dianella sp. aff. longifolia (Benambra)	Pale Flax Lily, Blue Flax Lily	Rare or uncommon native
Eurystomus orientalis	Dollar Bird	Rare or uncommon native
Falco berigora	Brown Falcon	Rare or uncommon native
Petrochelidon nigricans	Tree Martin	Rare or uncommon native
Petroica rosea	Rose Robin	Rare or uncommon native
Philemon citreogularis	Little Friarbird	Rare or uncommon native
Platycercus elegans x eximius (hybrid)	Crimson x Eastern Rosella hybrid	Rare or uncommon native
Pterodontia mellii	Hunchback Fly	Rare or uncommon native
Ptilotula fusca	Fuscous Honeyeater	Rare or uncommon native
Strepera versicolor	Grey Currawong	Rare or uncommon native
Tinzeda lobata	A Kaytid	Rare or uncommon native

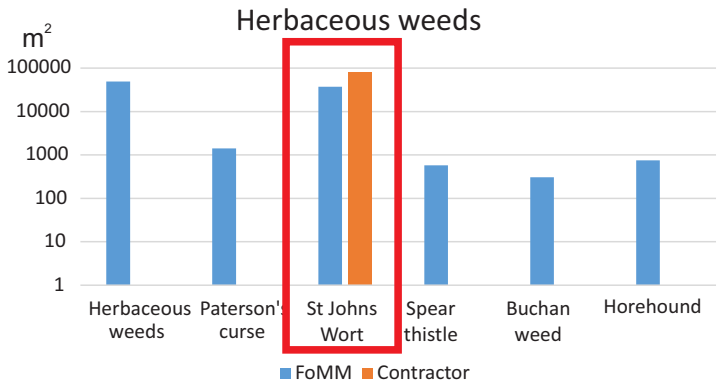
Attachment 2

2024-2025 Treated weeds

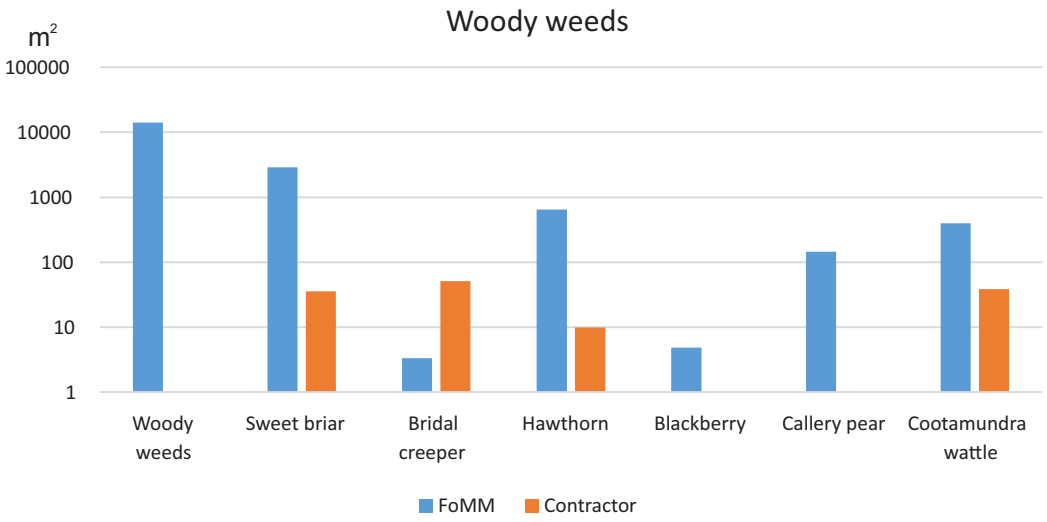








Weed control supported by grant highlighted red



Attachment 3

Number List	Type of Treatment
Area of treatment (sqm)	Weed treated by
37066.6	St Johns Wort FoMM
79107.2	St Johns Wort Contractors
15868.6	Serrated tussock FoMM
3062.9	Serrated tussock Contractors
21.1	African lovegrass FoMM
3234.5	African lovegrass Con tractors
91.7	Sweet vernal grass FoMM
1274.4	Sweet vernal grass Contractors
54.3	Chilean needle grass FoMM
8872.3	Phalaris FoMM
60 Number	Number of volunteers involved
4425 Hours	Volunteer hours 2024-2025

Data accessed in the Hub for FoMM (for 1 July 2024 – 15 May 2025):

Activity	**Hours**	**# Volunteers**
Friends of Mount Majura (gen)	2105.26	16
Mondays@ the Fair	2240.94	18
Twilight Weeding	28.58	6
Cubs & ANU Intrepids	55	20

Contractor work May 2025 (from Damon Basset ONC 88 May 2025):

Work completed by the bush regen crew this week:

- Total of 67 large weed bags were taken to Green Waste across the 3 days of work
- All work has been mapped - treated weeds 2024-25 (apart from the CNG mulched area)

Outer Asset area (Mon and Tue)

- Yorkshire Fog, SVG, ST, Spear Thistle, Horehound were manually removed near creek-line and NW boundary using mini mattocks and knives by bush regen crew (4 persons)
- Multiple woody weeds (Hawthorn, Briar Rose etc) were also cut and paint
- Any bare areas exposed from removing dense Yorkshire Fog and/or SVG were scattered with sticks and branches (to help stabilise and retain soil) and direct seeded with the following species:

Bothriochloa macra, Bulbine bulbosa, Calotis lappulacea, Craspedia variablis, Eryngium ovinum, Leucochrysum albicans, Sorghum leiocladum, Wurmbea diocia, Xerochrysum viscosum

Inner Asset area (Wed)

- ST, Spear Thistle were manually removed in upper areas using mini mattocks and knives by bush regen crew (2 persons)
- Large area of dense CNG in lower area was mulched (2 persons) to a depth of 200-300mm and a couple of deep mulched islands in amongst native grasses, forbs or shrubs.
- Multiple woody weeds (Hawthorn, Briar Rose etc) were also cut and paint and Thistle rosettes/plants chipped and flowers/seeds bagged

Ongoing actions:

- Follow up sweep and weed essential in areas treated to continue a positive site trajectory and help foster native regeneration.
- There was an area of Yorkshire Fog that was left untreated between 2 dense weeded areas to mitigate opening up too much bare ground. This unweeded area is marked by orange flagging tape tied to several trees. Recommend this patch is weeded in early – mid Spring before seeding.
- Visual monitoring over time (Spring/Summer 2025-26) of direct seeded areas to monitor any successful species.

Kim Davies

21 Blairgowrie Street
Dulwich Hill NSW 2203
mob 0419 164 212
email kimruthdavies@gmail.com
ABN 11 724 690 621

INVOICE

INVOICE #	DATE
421	14/05/2025

BILL TO:
Molonglo Conservation Group

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Bush regeneration services as per contract brief Mt Majura Nature Reserve The Fair - Weeds Grant Treatment Project ID # MMGStJW Work carried out on May 5-7, 2025 3 x days at $640/8 hour day	$1920.00
TOTAL	$1920.00

Payment details
EFT/ Direct Credit BSB 084 259 NAB Account 69 390 5012
No GST has been charged

Leonie McNamara
4 Wilga Ave, Dulwich Hill 2203
Tel - 0419 699 193
ABN - 59 148 730 422

Date 14/05/2025

INVOICE No. ACT20250514

To: **Molonglo Conservation Group**

Mt Majura Nature Reserve
The Fair – Weeds Grant treatment
project ID number: MMGStJW

Att: Patrick Harvey

Detail	Rate (hr)	Sub-total
Bush Regeneration services as per contract and project brief 5-7 May x 24 hrs	80.00	1920.00
Total Amount Payable		**1920.00**

No GST has been charged

Direct Deposit -
Leonie McNamara
BSB 944 600
ACCT 000807427

Hannah Belluccini
6/78 Canterbury Rd, Glenfield 2167
0480272572
ABN - 19541348625

Date 10/05/2025

INVOICE No. MJ02

To: Molonglo Conservation Group

Mt Majura Nature Reserve
The Fair – Weeds Grant treatment
project ID number: MMGGrasses

Att: Patrick Harvey

Detail		**Rate (hr)**	**Sub-total**
Bush Regeneration services as per contract and project brief May 5-7	24 hrs	80.00	1920.00
Total Amount Payable			**1920.00**

No GST has been charged

Direct Deposit -
Hannah Belluccini
BSB 732069
ACCT 759828

INVOICE

Kim Davies

21 Blairgowrie Street
Dulwich Hill NSW 2203
mob 0419 164 212
email kimruthdavies@gmail.com
ABN 11 724 690 621

INVOICE #	DATE
418	06/02/2025

BILL TO:
Molonglo Conservation Group

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Bush regeneration services as per contract brief Mt Majura Nature Reserve The Fair - Weeds Grant Treatment Project ID # MMGStJW Work carried out on January 22-24, 2025 Total of 24 hours at $80 per hour	$1920.00
TOTAL	$1920.00

Payment details
EFT/ Direct Credit BSB 084 259 NAB Account 69 390 5012
No GST has been charged

Cameron Elliot-Ranken
6 Wirrilda Way, Forestville 2087
Tel - 0437 594 644
ABN - 29602481433

Date 29/01/2025

INVOICE No. ACT20250129

To: **ACT Parks & Conservation Service, Resilient Landscapes Branch - EPSDD**
City Services – TCCS, & other ACT Government Directorates

Mt Majura Nature Reserve
The Fair – Weeds Grant treatment
project ID number: MMGStJW

Att: Patrick Harvey

Detail	Rate (hr)	Sub-total
Bush Regeneration Services Jan 22-24/3 x 8hr - 24hrs	80.00	$1,920
Total Amount Payable		**1920.00**

No GST has been charged

Direct Deposit -
Cameron Elliot-Ranken
BSB 082-146
ACCT 70-504-0328

Hannah Belluccini
6/78 Canterbury Rd, Glenfield 2167
0480272572
ABN - 19541348625

Date 29/01/2025

INVOICE No. MJ01

To: ACT Parks & Conservation Service, Resilient Landscapes Branch - EPSDD
City Services – TCCS, & other ACT Government Directorates

Mt Majura Nature Reserve
The Fair – Weeds Grant treatment
project ID number: MMGStJW

Att: Patrick Harvey

Detail	Rate (hr)	Sub-total
Bush Regeneration services as per contract and project brief Jan 22-24/1 x 24 hrs	80.00	1920.00
Total Amount Payable		**1920.00**

No GST has been charged

Direct Deposit -
Hannah Belluccini
BSB 732069
ACCT 759828

Leonie McNamara
4 Wilga Ave, Dulwich Hill 2203
Tel - 0419 699 193
ABN - 59 148 730 422

Date 27/01/2025

INVOICE No. ACT20250127

To: **ACT Parks & Conservation Service, Resilient Landscapes Branch - EPSDD**

City Services – TCCS, & other ACT Government Directorates

Mt Majura Nature Reserve
The Fair – Weeds Grant treatment
project ID number: MMGStJW

Att: Patrick Harvey

Detail	Rate (hr)	Sub-total
Bush Regeneration services as per contract and project brief Jan 22-24/1 x 24 hrs	80.00	1920.00
Total Amount Payable		**1920.00**

No GST has been charged

Direct Deposit -
Leonie McNamara
BSB 944 600
ACCT 000807427

Kim Davies

21 Blairgowrie Street
Dulwich Hill NSW 2203
mob 0419 164 212
email kimruthdavies@gmail.com
ABN 11 724 690 621

INVOICE

INVOICE #	DATE
418	30/01/2025

BILL TO:

Attention: Patrick Harvey
ACT Parks and Conservation Service,
Resilient Landscapes Branch - EPSDD
City Services - TCCS & other ACT Government Directorates

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Bush regeneration services as per contract brief Mt Majura Nature Reserve The Fair - Weeds Grant Treatment Project ID # MMGStJW Work carried out on January 22-24, 2025 Total of 24 hours at $80 per hour	$1920.00
TOTAL	$1920.00

Payment details
EFT/ Direct Credit BSB 084 259 NAB Account 69 390 5012
No GST has been charged

Bush regen /chem records Jan 25 - Majura

Leonie McNamara
Kim Davies
Hannah Bellucini
Cameron Elliot-Ranken
Zones 3, 6 Damon Bassett

				Weather Conditions - Kestral readings taken 2-3 times throughout day							
Site Name	Date	Operator (s)	Hours @ 8/day p/p	Temp (degrees)	Wind (Km/h)	Delta T	Weather summary	Chemical used	Spray mix used (L)	Rate	Target species
The Fair	22-Jan	LM, KD, HB, CE, DB	32.5	32-35	2-4	11-14	sunny - hot	Fluroxypyr	77+33DB	30 mL/10 L	St John's Wort
The Fair	22-Jan	LM, KD, HB, CE, DB	7.5				sunny - hot	Glyphosate 360	n/a	10-20ml	Serrated Tussock, Connifer seedlin
The Fair	23-Jan	LM, KD, HB, CE, DB	40	19-27	1-2	6-9	cloud cover	Fluroxypyr	145+55DB	30 mL/10 L	St John's Wort
The Fair	24-Jan	LM, KD, HB, CE, DB	40	21-27	0-3	5-8	sunny warm-hot	Fluroxypyr	174+55DB	30 mL/10 L	St John's Wort

Mapping - Field maps (Treated Weeds 2024-25) DB, HB, CE

Total chem load over Mapped Area 1.7 ha
539L spray mix (1.6L chem)

Date	Location	Operators	Weed Species	#Name of Product Used	*Appl'n Method	Amount of Product Used (L or gms)	Rate per Ha or Lt	Amount of Mixture Used (L)	Comments e.g. weather, temp, wind etc, stage of plant growth, chem., spillage, etc	Hours
9/12/24	The Fair	Josh	St John's Wort	Starane Advanced Uptake Oil Dye	Spot Spray	.300ml Starane Advanced .500ml Uptake Oil .200ml Dye	300ml / 100Lt 500ml / 100Lt 200ml / 100Lt	100Lt	24 Degrees Sunny Wind 9kmph	6.30am To 2.30pm (8hrs)
11/12/24	The Fair	Matt Brad	St John's Wort	Starane Advanced Uptake Oil Dye	Spot Spray	.900ml Starane Advanced 1.5Lt Uptake Oil .600ml Dye	300ml / 100Lt 500ml / 100Lt 200ml / 100Lt	300Lt	23 Degrees Sunny Wind >9kmph	6.30am To 1.00pm (6.5hrs)

ACT GOVERNMENT WEED CONTROL RECORDING SHEET

Agency Name:..Environment & Planning.....

Contractor:..J & J FRENCH AGRICULTURE PTY LTD Supervisor:...JACK FRENCH.. Phone:0477 214 389.....

Contract Supervisor:.....Pat Harvey ..... Phone:.....

Contractors: Fill in daily and return original with invoice and maps.

Agency Staff: Fill in daily and return original with maps.

Date	Location	Operators	Weed Species	#Name of Product Used	*Appl'n Method	Amount of Product Used (L or gms)	Rate per Ha or Lt	Amount of Mixture Used (L)	Comments e.g. weather, temp, wind etc, stage of plant growth, chem., spillage, etc	Hours
3/12/24	The Fair	Matt Brad	St John's Wort	Starane Advanced Uptake Oil Dye	Spot Spray	-	300ml / 100Lt 500ml / 100Lt 200ml / 100Lt	-	Site Induction With Ranger Kieran & Blaine	8.00am To 9.00am (1hrs)
6/12/24	The Fair	Matt Brad	St John's Wort	Starane Advanced Uptake Oil Dye	Spot Spray	.300ml Starane Advanced .500ml Uptake Oil .200ml Dye	300ml / 100Lt 500ml / 100Lt 200ml / 100Lt	100Lt	23 Degrees Sunny Wind 9kmph	6.15am To 12.30pm (6.25hrs)
6/12/24	The Fair	Josh	St John's Wort	Starane Advanced Uptake Oil Dye	Spot Spray	.150ml Starane Advanced .250ml Uptake Oil .100ml Dye	300ml / 100Lt 500ml / 100Lt 200ml / 100Lt	50Lt	23 Degrees Sunny Wind 9kmph	6.15am To 12.30pm (6.25hrs)
8/12/24	The Fair	Matt	St John's Wort	Starane Advanced Uptake Oil Dye	Spot Spray	.300ml Starane Advanced .500ml Uptake Oil .200ml Dye	300ml / 100Lt 500ml / 100Lt 200ml / 100Lt	100Lt	22 Degrees Sunny Wind >9kmph	6.00am To 11.30am (5.5hrs)
9/12/24	The Fair	Matt Brad	St John's Wort	Starane Advanced Uptake Oil Dye	Spot Spray	.600ml Starane Advanced 1Lt Uptake Oil .400ml Dye	300ml / 100Lt 500ml / 100Lt 200ml / 100Lt	200Lt	24 Degrees Sunny Wind 9kmph	6.30am To 2.30pm (8hrs)

J & J French Agriculture Pty Ltd

ABN: 35 163 382 161
PO Box 1281
Cooma NSW 2630
Mobile: 0477 214 389
Email: jack.jenfrench@hotmail.com

Expense Sheet - Mitchell Mt Majura SJW Pat Harvey Dec 24

Spraying Labour:

3/12/24 - x 2 Spray Operators = 1hrs
6/12/24 - x 2 Spray Operators = 6.25hrs
6/12/24 - x 1 Spray Operator = 6.25hrs
8/12/24 - x 1 Spray Operator = 5.5hrs
9/12/24 - x 2 Spray Operators = 8hrs
9/12/24 - x 1 Spray Operator = 8hrs
11/12/24 - x 2 Spray Operators = 6.5hrs

Total Spraying Labour Hours:	Hours Worked:	Price per hour:	Total (inc GST)	
x 1 Spray Operator	19.75hrs	$175.00	$3,456.25	
x 2 Spray Operators	21.75hrs	$195.00	$4,241.25	
Sub Total				**$7,697.50**

Chemical Used:	Litres Used	Price per Litres	Total (inc GST)	
Starane Advanced	2.55Lt	$55.05	$140.37	
Uptake Oil	4.25Lt	$13.00	$55.25	
Dye	1.7Lt	$44.00	$74.80	
Sub Total				**$270.42**

Grand Total (inc GST) **$7,967.92**

J & J French Agriculture Pty Ltd

A.B.N. **35 163 382 161**

PO Box 1281
COOMA NSW 2630

Mobile: 0477 214 389
Email: jack.jenfrench@hotmail.com

Tax Invoice

ACT Parks & Conservation Service - Mitchell
Environment & Planning Directorate
Attn: Angela Pusey
66 - 68 Grimwade Street

Mitchell ACT 2911

Invoice No.:	00001013
Date:	12/12/2024
Due Date:	19/12/2024
Terms:	Net 7

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE(inc-GST)	TOTAL PRICE(inc-GST)
19.75	x 1 Spray Operator Mt Majura St John's Wort Control Dec 2024 Project Manager: Patrick Harvey	$175.00	$3,456.25
21.75	x 2 Spray Operators	$195.00	$4,241.25
2.55	Starane Advanced	$55.05	$140.37
4.25	Uptake Oil	$13.00	$55.25
1.7	Vegetable Dye	$44.00	$74.80

Payment Terms are strictly 7 days.
Unpaid invoices will incur a 10% adminstration charge.

Thank you very much for your business.

Total GST Amount:	$724.36
Total (inc-GST):	$7,967.92
Paid to Date:	$0.00
Balance Due:	**$7,967.92**

How to Pay

by direct credit
To Bank Account: J & J French Agriculture Pty Ltd
BSB: 062-909
Account No: 10206890

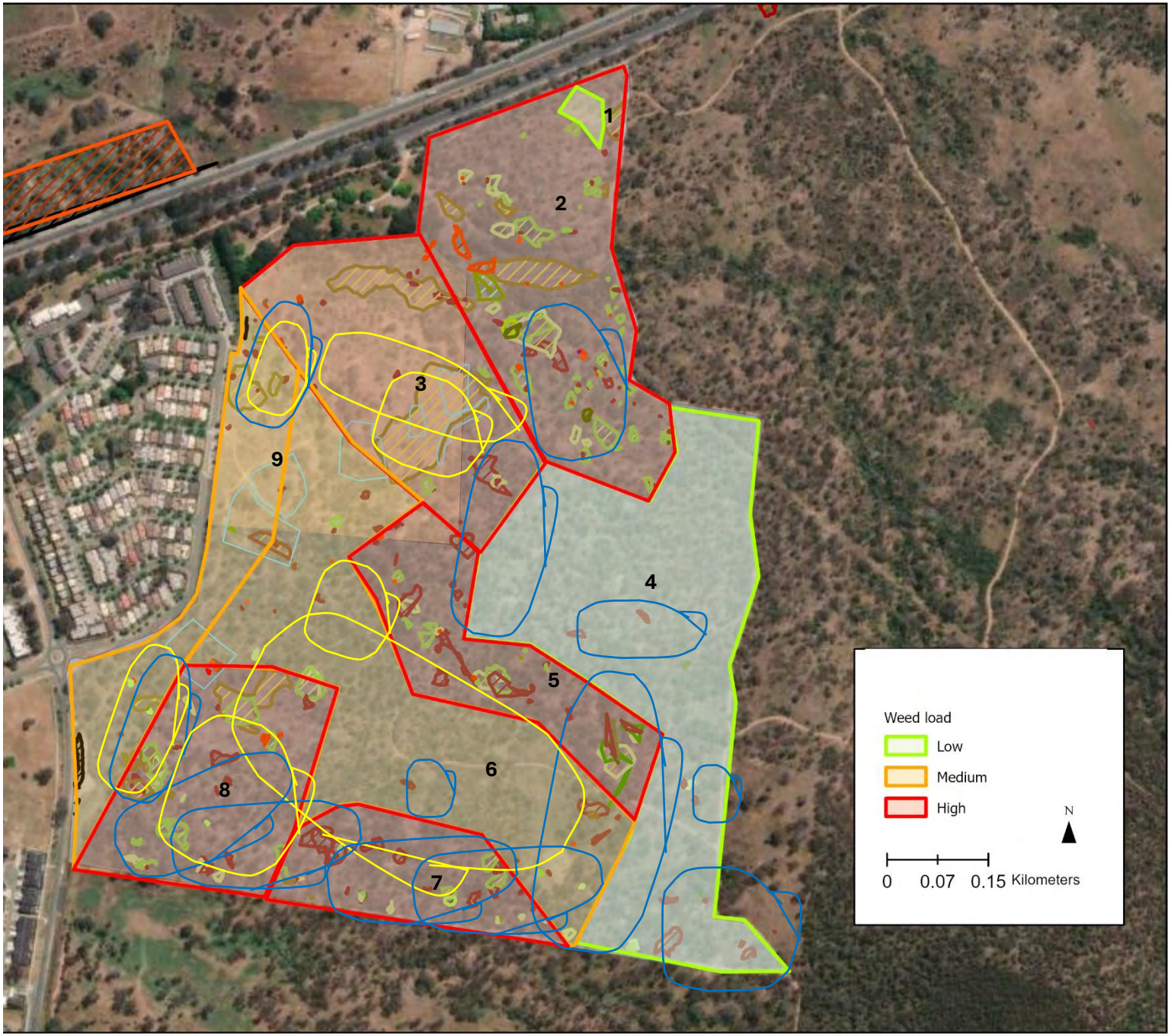
by mail

Detach this section and mail your cheque to...

J & J French Agriculture Pty Ltd

Invoice No: **00001013** Amount Due: **$7,967.92**

The Fair, Mt Majura NP - Weed Contract areas 2024-25



Zone 2 and 4

- ST patches as per Field Maps (Flupropanate + Glyphosate) x1 visit

Zone 3

Through wildflower sensitive areas

- SJW (Fluroxypyr) x2 visits
- ST as per Field Maps (Flupropanate + Glyphosate) x1 visit

Zone 6

Through wildflower sensitive areas

- ST patches as per Field Maps (Flupropanate + Glyphosate)
- SJW (Fluroxypyr) x2 visits

Zone 7

- SJW (Fluroxypyr) x2 visits
- ST, CNG, ALG (Flupropanate + Glyphosate) x1 visit

Zone 8

- SJW (Fluroxypyr) x2 visits
- ST, CNG, ALG (Flupropanate + Glyphosate) x1 visit

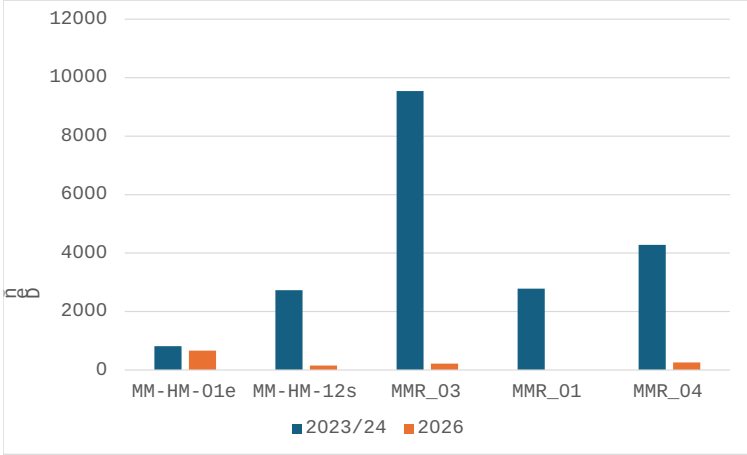
Zone 9

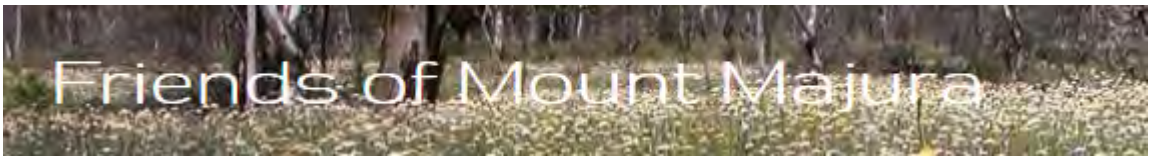
Follow up from last sprayed area through to dam

- SJW (Fluroxypyr) x2 visits
- ST, CNG, ALG (Flupropanate + Glyphosate) x1 visit
- Sheep Sorrel (Fluroxypyr)

Courtesy of Brett Howland, ONC

Plot	2023/24	2026
MM-HM-01e	811.97	663.47
MM-HM-12s	2725.91	149.26
MMR_03	9540.68	219.93
MMR_01	2781.54	0
MMR_04	4278.33	254.35





Friends of Mount Majura

Environment Grant to Manage St John's Wort and 3 Evil Grasses

majura.org/environment-grant-to-manage-st-johns-wort-and-3-evil-grasses/

Waltraud Pix

Friends of Mount Majura have been successful in 2024/25 round of ACT Environment Grants.

The project supports a Landscape Restoration Weed Management Plan (the Management Plan) which will be worked out by the Office of Nature Conservation (ONC) to control St John's Wort and the invasive grasses African Lovegrass, Chilean Needlegrass and Serrated Tussock in an area of critically endangered Grassy Woodlands on Mt Majura's northwest slopes.

The funding is for the first stage implementation of weed control actions guided by the Management Plan.

The core part of the grant application can be found at 2024 FoMM Grant Application.

The grant application is sponsored by the Molonglo Conservation Group, which is FoMM's umbrella catchment group.

Congratulations!

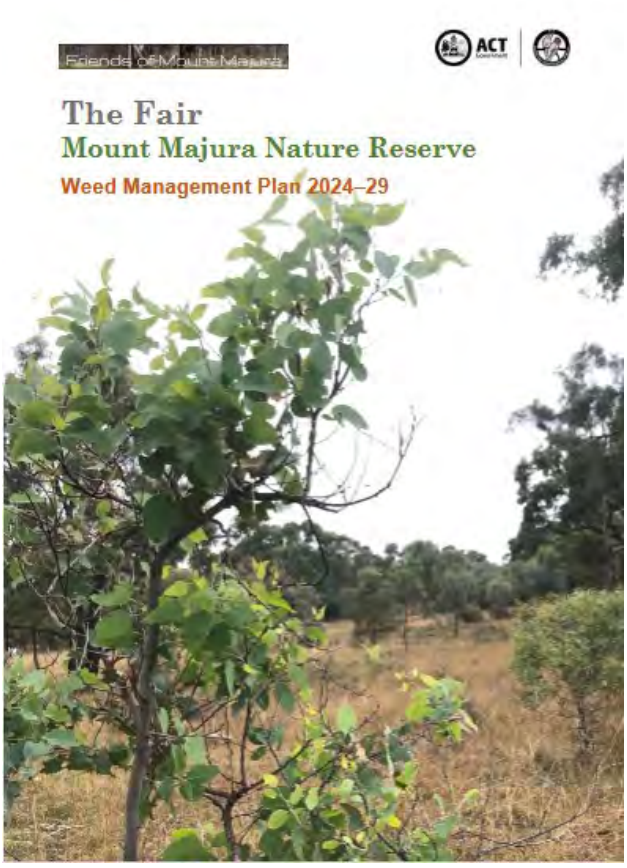
St John's Wort spread like wildfire during the past three years threatening endangered grassy ecosystems in Canberra. Recently, the environmental risk of StJW has been upgraded from 'medium' to 'high'.

A Weed Management Plan for Mt Majura

majura.org/a-weed-management-plan-for-mt-majura/

Waltraud Pix

Friends of Mt Majura (FoMM) are exited to announce a ***Weed Management Plan for The Fair***. The Plan was developed with FoMM to help manage priority weeds at The Fair using funding from the Restoration program under the Conserving Canberra Budget 2023-2025.



Over more than a decade Friends of Mt Majura worked to improve degraded grassy woodland in the nature reserve east of The Fair. In 2024 the group applied successfully for an ***ACT Environment Grant*** to manage high priority weeds St John's Wort, Chilean Needle Grass, Serrated Tussock, African Lovegrass, and Sweet Vernal Grass which have spread beyond the capacity of volunteers to manage them during the past years particularly the three consecutive LaNina events of 2020-2023.

However, these highly invasive species, listed or nominated as *Weeds of National Significance*, require a long term approach rather than one-off or ad-hoc actions and a concerted effort of all parties involved with the protection and improvement of conservation values in the nature reserve.

Thus the idea was born of a Plan that guides and integrates weed management activities beyond one year.

We are looking forward to cooperatively work with staff of the Office of Nature Conservation and the Parks and Conservation Service to implement the Plan.

St John's Wort Under Fire

majura.org/st-johns-wort-under-fire/

Waltraud Pix

St John's Wort spread like wildfire across the Canberra region over the past years, wreaking havoc on native plant species in grasslands and grassy woodlands. St John's Wort (SJW) is listed as one of the four most serious grassland weeds in the ACT Government's *Natural Temperate Grassland Endangered Ecological Community Action Plan*, emphasising the gravity of the environmental threat it poses.

Burning the Lower Seeding Node in the nature reserve east of The Fair (photo J. Marsh)

Known for its use in alternative therapies, the noxious weed was introduced to Australia from Europe in 1875 to be cultivated for medicinal purposes. Attempts to contain SJW to private land failed, and it rapidly reproduced becoming highly invasive.

Members of the Friends of Mount Majura (FoMM) and the Friends of Grasslands recently discussed control methods including the effect of cool burns (***Minutes of the discussion***).

Here we present observations of the results of burns carried out by staff of Canberra Nature Park North and the Office of Nature Conservation in winter 2024 at three small plots in the nature reserve east of The Fair, North Watson, where FoMM began work in 2012 to improve the conditions of heavily degraded grassy woodland (further information: ***Progress @ The Fair***).

The burns were carried out to study the general effects of low intensity fire on the Fair's grassy woodland as part of ONC's restoration project in the area rather than to study the response of SJW to fire. However, we think the SJW response was interesting enough to report on and to share with a wider audience.

This ***map*** shows the 10ha site of The Fair project (large green polygon) with three 10m x 20m fenced enclosures or "Seeding Nodes" (small green rectangles) built in 2020 to foster local wildflowers (further information: ***Seeding Nodes***). These fenced seeding nodes are located in different "landscape zones" (blue polygons on the map) from west to

Direct Seeding Native Grass (18/05/2025)

majura.org/direct-seeding-native-grass-18-05-2025/

Waltraud Pix

Come and help broadcasting native grass seeds at a working party held by Friends of Mt Majura in the nature reserve east of The Fair on Sunday, 18th May.

Prior to seeding we will loosen or roughen the soil at a number of selected sites to make it receptive for the seeds, remove any competitive weed such as Paterson's Curse, and scatter light mulch on top of direct-seeded sites to hold the seeds in place.

When: Sunday, 18th May 2025, 1pm – 4pm.

Where: meet at the nature park entry Tay / Ian Nicol Streets, The Fair North Watson; view this ***map***.

What: Scarify soil, spread seeds, and scatter light much at selected sites.

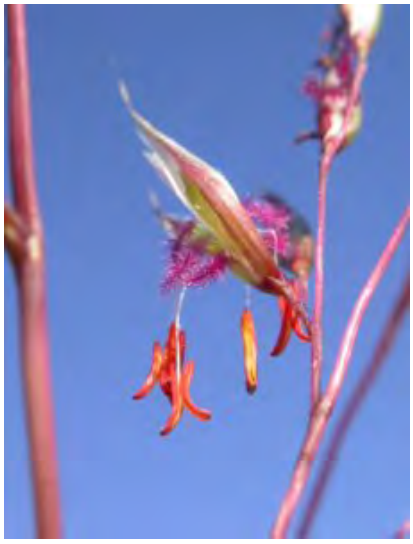
Bring: Sun protection, garden gloves, a light mattock if you have one (label with you phone number in case it gets lost); we provide seeds, buckets for collecting mulch, some tools and gloves and a delicious home made cake for afternoon tea.

The event will be cancelled if it rains.

Inquiry: secretary@majura.org

The local native grasses of Mt Majura's critically endangered Grassy Woodland protect the soil from erosion, keep weeds at bay by competition, provide important food and shelter habitat to wildlife including for insects such as the endangered ***Golden Sun Moth***, and are outrageously beautiful. Click ***here*** to view some of Mt Majura's native grasses.

Windmill Grass, *Chloris truncata*, is a good colonizer and one of the local grass species we plan to direct seed (W.Pix)



A floret of Red-anthered Wallaby Grass, *Rytidosperma pallida* with the male pollen bearing orange anthers and the purple pollen accepting female stigma (W.Pix).

The nature reserve east of The Fair residential estate (built in 2012) has a colourful history of use. Farming (19th and begin of 20th century), car racing in the 1970s, horse jumping, country riding and horse holding left marks in the landscape and impacted on the native biodiversity.

Car racing in the 1970s left heavy marks in the area. Source of the aerial photo: ACTmapi 1978. Red encircled, the big conifer marked on above ***map***, Federal Highway in the north with a double row of plantings and Antill Street on the west (left hand side of the photo)

In 2012 the Friends of Mt Majura (FoMM) opened a new chapter. The volunteers began restoration work to improve the heavily degraded grassy woodland.

Weeds (woody and herbaceous), an almost total loss of the native ground-cover layer and tree clearing, soil erosion and compaction were the major issues that the volunteers encountered.

Compacted soil prevents water being absorbed so plants can't grow. Over the past decade, volunteers used mattocks and muscles to loosen the soil and spread many truckloads of mulch to ameliorate the soil and make it a receptive seed bed for native grasses and wildflowers.

The grassy woodland east of *The Fair* with some plantings, 28th April 2013 (W.Pix).

Some patches still require assistance to improve the native ground-cover diversity.

For more information on how FoMM transformed the area visit Progress @ The Fair

The grassy woodland east of *The Fair* on the 21st June 2024 (W.Pix).

east on the lower slope with deep soil, on the middle slope surrounded by trees on three sides, and on the upper slope in a cleared area. The middle and upper slope have shallow rocky soils and larger inter tussock space with a higher diversity of native herbs compared to the lower slope.

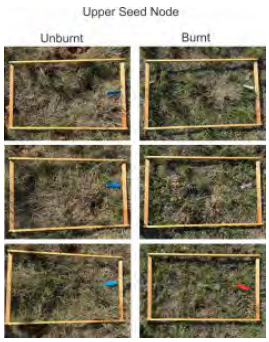
FoMM began to treat SJW in the area of the lower slope in the 2014/15 season and over time extended the treatment to the upper slope, thus, the cleared area of the upper slope is the area with the least treatment. The methods included spraying with the selective herbicide Starane, manual removal of plants and cutting-off seed heads. FoMM carried out strictly manual removal of SJW in the seeding nodes to avoid off-target damage by spraying. SJW was not controlled in the area surrounding The Fair project site.

On the 19th June 2024 the southern half of each seeding node enclosure was burnt (an earlier burn of the lower seeding node in May failed because of the wet conditions). 10 weeks later, on the 29th August we took photographs of the ***upper*** seeding node, the ***middle*** seeding node and the ***lower*** seeding node; the photos show views from north to south with the strong regrowth in all burnt plots visible as bright green.

Seeding node of the upper slope with the southern half burnt on the 19th June 2024 (photo B. Read)

We placed a frame of 1.0m x 0.6m on three randomly chosen sites in the burnt and in the unburnt plots of each seeding node and took high-resolution photographs of the vegetation inside the frame that allowed us to distinguish SJW.

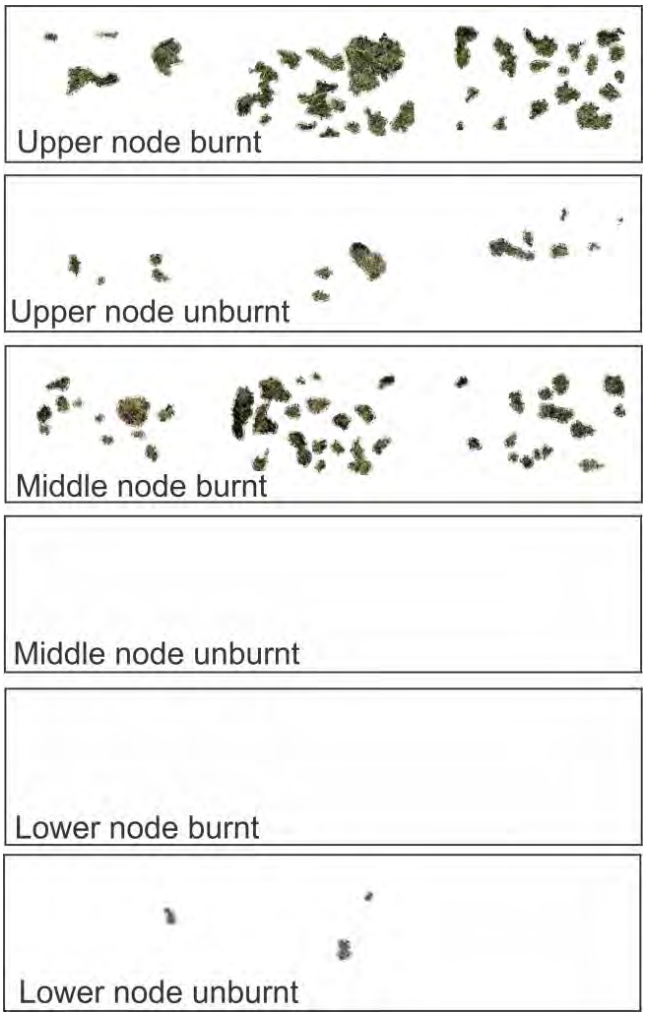
The photographs of the burnt sites are shown on the right and those of the unburnt sites on the left for the ***upper*** seeding node, the ***middle*** seeding node, and the ***lower*** seeding node, an example is shown on the left.



We then processed the photographs to highlight the SJW plants that we could identify; an example of the identification and marking of SJW within the 1.0m x 0.6m frame is shown ***here***.

Finally, we plotted the highlighted SJW of the 3 photographs taken each in the unburnt and the burnt half of each seeding node side by side. The panel on the right shows the processed SJW images (from the top): burnt upper seeding node, unburnt upper seeding node, burnt middle seeding node, unburnt middle seeding node, burnt lower seeding node and unburnt lower seeding node.

Observation (1) Difference of growth burnt and unburnt. Consistent at the upper and middle seeding nodes is the observation that unburnt plots have a lower regrowth rate compared to the burnt plots with the greatest difference between the unburnt plot and the burnt plot observed in the middle seeding node. We conclude that the shadowing by grass canopy suppressed SJW growth from lateral underground stems; the opening of the grass canopy by burning benefited SJW where it was present. At the time of this investigation, we did not notice SJW seedlings from germination.



Observation (2) Difference of growth between burnt plots

The difference between the burnt plot of the lower seeding node versus the burnt plots of the middle and the upper seeding nodes could be best explained with a longer and persistent treatment of SJW at the lower slope. If SJW in the lower seeding node was present in a number similar to the middle and upper seeding nodes it would have shown in a higher rate of regrowth in the burnt plot.

A more numerous lateral underground stem formation in shallow soils may have also contributed to the very large number of rosettes observed particularly in the upper seeding node.

Waltraud Pix, 7 September 2024

For the original data: convenor@majura.org