

Aranda Bushland news - September 2011

Hi Friends of Aranda Bushland & other parkcarers

It's Wattle Day today with lots of species in flower in our bushlands, road verges and home gardens. Also the pale mauve of the creeping *Hovea linearis* pea (now *H. heterophylla*) and fascinating patches of the tiny white flowering *Leucopogon attenuatus* and *Cryptandra amara*. We saw great drifts of white at Wanniasa Hills last week. My apologies for calling my 16 August photos cryptandra - they were leucopogon.

Renewing our Frost Hollow to Forest Walk

The new panels were installed on Tuesday 30 August. The signs are looking fantastic. We didn't realise how shabby they had got until we put the new ones up. Our grant didn't cover moving two of the signs (a tree died and we lost the juvenile leaves of another). Fortunately Parks & Conservation was able to pay for that component. Peter Ormay and myself helped Screenmakers with the installation. I'm so glad we didn't have to do the work ourselves. It makes such a difference to have the right tools and to know what you are doing. We've moved the Broad-leaved Peppermint, *Eucalyptus dives* up with the Red Stringybark, *E. macrorhyncha* where we can compare the different bark. The new Circle of Regeneration sign looks just great and we were able to get it there with less difficulty than I anticipated. There is still one sign to move and one to replace. The next step is installing more track markers both for the new sign and as we started with the bare minimum.



Proposed Centenary Trail in Canberra

This has the potential to be very good for improving the perceived value of Canberra Nature Park or very bad in promoting damaging recreation activities that impact severely on conservation values. We need a watching brief on Black Mountain as that is targeted as a must by cyclists and long distance walkers. Apparently, consultation with conservation groups is to occur in September and October (peak parkcare and wildflower season) after routes have been ground truthed by track designers. Details on TAMS website.

Work parties

Blitz on Rural Lease

Sunday 21 August was a fun work party with 15 people contributing 42 hours. We welcomed three parkcarers who don't come often and (an even rarer) ranger to remove chainsaw size hawthorns. Our parkcarers tackled impressive tangles of briar in areas we've not worked on before. There are probably enough chainsaw size hawthorns left for next's challenge. After that, it will be relatively clear of woody weeds. It's a beautiful bit of bush that we hope will soon become reserve.

Saving our Snow Gums

Sunday mornings 18 September, 16 October and 20 November

We return to the Snow Gums for spring and summer. There's recalcitrant St John's wort where we aim to eradicate under the Snow Gums, remove from forb rich grasslands and prevent any further seeding throughout the reserve. It's a real nasty as it invades good areas, not just disturbed ones. We will eradicate African Cape Weed as that is a very recent invasion. We still have Paterson's curse and thistles but they are reducing as native cover increases. Erosion control of our unsightly gullies continues as a major project.

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Put these dates in your diary

St John's wort; encalming or enraging; an Aranda Snow Gums story by Jean Geue

Thursday 13 October 12.30 - 1.30pm Friends Talk at the Australian National Botanic Gardens covering many years of weed control on our Heritage Places site.

Black Mountain wildflower ramble

40th annual Burbidge/Chippendale walk led again by Peter Ormay, Laurie Adams, Isobel Crawford and Jean Geue for NPA, U3A, Friends ANBG, ANPS. All welcome, no booking required. Bring your friends.

Saturday 15 October 2011 from 9.30am to 12 noon (or later) Belconnen Way entry

Happy parkcaring

Jean

Convenor, Friends of Aranda Bushland

1 September 2011

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