

## Friends of Black Mountain

In February 2014, Friends of Black Mountain (FoBM) became the 20<sup>th</sup> ParkCare Group supported by the ACT Parks and Conservation Service (PCS). Thanks to those who supported FoBM activities prior to us becoming an official ParkCare group.

This year our ParkCare activities included weeding working parties, bird surveys, brochures, displays, guided walks, and Vegwatch monitoring. The aim of these activities is to contribute to conservation and promotion of Black Mountain's biodiversity.

Our weeding work parties occurred on the first Saturday of each month. During the year, more than 30 members of FoBM and Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) were wonderful weeders on repeated occasions.

Several of our members have invaluable knowledge of weeds and the native plants. Dr Rosemary Purdie provides important advice and guidance for the weeding program and has written a report about the work done in the ANBG. The report is available at: [www.anbg.gov.au/gardens/research/library/reports/2014/Purdie-ANBG-weeds-2014.html](http://www.anbg.gov.au/gardens/research/library/reports/2014/Purdie-ANBG-weeds-2014.html)

Now we are focussing on weeding close to the Black Mountain Nature Reserve (BMNR) fences adjacent to major roads.

FOBM was pleased that Molonglo Catchment Group (MCG) received a 2014 Environment Grant for work on Black Mountain, Mount Majura and Mt Ainslie Weeders. For Black Mountain the bid included resources for weeding that is beyond the capability of volunteers, erosion management, and replacement of parts of the Summit Walk.

A CIT student is being mentored by FOBM members for a bird survey in BMNR, as a project for her studies. This is in addition to FOBM participation in

the Gang-gang Special Survey, a very special bird for PCS and Canberra Ornithologists Group.



Photo Lyn Donald

FOBM was recently awarded a Heritage Grant in collaboration with the MCG for the creation of an exhibition in the Telstra Tower. The exhibition will highlight Black Mountain's natural heritage and Ngunnawal use of plants. Ms Morgyn Phillips, who has had many years of experience with exhibitions, is kindly coordinating this project.

Our ever popular guided walks this year included the Summit Walk, and a Heritage Walk in April on the theme of the changing landscape.

The 43<sup>rd</sup> annual Spring Wildflower Walk continued the tradition established by Nancy Burbidge and George Chippendale. This popular walk attracted 92 people this year. The Orchid Walks were also fully booked. Our last guided walk this year, *Walking in the Trees of Black Mountain* was described by one of the participants "as a very enjoyable tree tutorial."



Starting out on a walk Photo LJB

FOBM is developing brochures about Black Mountain. These will highlight the beauty of walks as a recreational activity with low impact on the Nature Reserve.



Measuring out a Vegwatch site Photo LJB

Several of our valuable Vegwatchers enjoyed the Black Mountain plant identification workshop as part of the preparation for ACT Vegwatch monitoring this year. One of the FOBM sites was in a Hazard Reduction Burn in March this year, so now we have data before and after the fire.

The year has also included coordinated responses by members to some important policy issues affecting BMNR.

FOBM was one of the many ParkCare groups that responded to the ACT Draft Trails Strategy, because of concern about conservation as a priority in Nature Reserves. The submissions led to a revision of the strategy.

It is important to enhance wildlife corridors in the city. FoBM made

representation about such corridors from Black Mountain to Kama/Molonglo, and the Molonglo Catchment for Lake Burley Griffin.



*Wonderful Weeders* Photo Jean Geue



Photo Jean Geue  
*Summit walk surface needs replacement*



Photo Lyn Donald

Thank you to everyone in FoBM, Molonglo Catchment Group, Parks and Conservation Service, Australian National Botanic Gardens and Friends of ANBG, Field Naturalists Association Canberra and other organisations for the part they played in this enjoyable year for FoBM.

Enquiries about any of the activities are welcome.

*Linda Beveridge*

Convenor,

Friends of Black Mountain

[http://www.molonglocatchment.com.au/](http://www.molonglocatchment.com.au/friends_of_black_mountain.htm)

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