

Friends of Black Mountain July 2022 to June 2023

Friends of Black Mountain (FoBM) celebrated the tenth anniversary of their monthly weeding work parties. In that time more than 160 volunteers have removed more than 105,000 mostly woody weeds. Sixty-one of the volunteers were regular wonderful weeders at the 11 work parties this year.



Weeding woody weeds

Photo Ernestine Kirsch



Photo Rosemary Purdie

Jubilation in November 2022 after several months of clearing the woody weeds from the grasslands area.

Many attended the mid-winter talk in June by Dr Dianne Firth about how Black Mountain is an inspiration to her. The Oral History project is close to completion and the interviews will shortly be available via the ACT Heritage Library.

Weather and the state of the trails caused the cancellation of 2 of our most popular spring walks. Nevertheless, we held 15 walks led by 19 volunteers for 280 participants on themes of

Butterflies, the Summit, Ngunawal and National Capital Cultures, Fire and Plants, Wattle and Orchids.



Vegetation survey at BM-NE-C site Photo L. Beveridge

Fifteen (15) **Frogwatchers** (including helpers from other areas when our regular Frogwatchers were ill in October, and we were very grateful for that), **8 Vegwatchers**, and **3 Bird Observers** provided data to related organisations. Among the more than 30 species recorded in the reserve in the last 12 months, a highlight was the sightings of painted button quail returning 9 years after a control burn to an area that they used to frequent before that.

The annual 3-day ParkCare display at Jamison was held by FoBM and several active ParkCare groups near Jamison Plaza. Each of the groups benefited by several new members joining up after discussing their respective activities.

FoBM recorded more than **1860 voluntary hours** this year in relation to the above activities as well as policy consultation.

FoBM was awarded an Environment Grant to reprint the interpretive signs on the Forest Loop Walk.

All of FoBM extends **our heartfelt thanks** to our **126 volunteers**, 15 helpful community organisations, other organisations, radio and print media, and support by Parks and Conservation Services, for their respective roles in another very enjoyable and productive year.