

## The past 50 years informing the next 50 ...

*Black Mountain Nature Reserve is nearly 50 years old. Come to the symposium on 24-25 August 2018, then 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations in 2020.*

A major project for 2017 was a Heritage Grant for interpretative signs along Black Mountain's Woodland track, which were launched by Mick Gentleman, Minister for Environment and Heritage, during the 2017 Heritage Festival.



People loved the woodland and Arboretum landscape views from the ParkCare 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary seat on the Woodland Walk.



Heritage Festival woodland **walks and talks** were popular, as were the new butterfly walks led by Suzi Bond, co-author of a field guide to butterflies in ACT and region.

The 46<sup>th</sup> annual *Spring Wildflower Ramble* continued the tradition of Dr Nancy Burbidge and George Chippendale. Our warm thanks to the sponsor organisations and the guides for 70 ramblers in separate groups. Fewer plants were in flower than last year; was it the dry and cold weather in winter and early spring?

The Summit track is a cooperative project between ACT Government and the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG); officially opened in July 2000.

Summit Walks, led by guides from FoBM and ANBG, were popular in winter and at Australasian Botanic Gardens Volunteer Guides conference in October 2017.

More than 200 people came on our "walks & talks" this year, and

we appreciated publicity on radio, PCS's Explore, by Conservation Council, and in newspapers

This year 30 **wonderful weeders** gave 465 voluntary hours to remove more than 6,460 woody weeds.



2015: Woody weeders pause for morning tea



2017: A large cluster of *Leptospermum multicaule* thriving where woody weeds were cut and dabbed in 2015!

Thank you to PCS-North rangers for using chain-saws on large woody weeds in several places where they were too large for our pruning saws.

**Frogwatch** found fewer frogs croaking in much shallower dams and ponds this year.

Dollar Birds, Sacred Kingfishers, several young Golden Whistlers, plus many other birds were busy at their nests and nesting hollows at **BirdBlitz** time. Overall about 30 species were recorded.

And **vegetation surveys** (Vegwatch) were done at two sites in November; the third was cancelled several times because of rain! So we shall do an autumn survey of that site for a change.

Members of FoBM attended the Bushfire Management Symposium in July, and later in the year submitted the environment concerns we had about **fire burns** proposed for spring (!)

Thank you to everyone in FoBM, MCG, Green Army, PCS, FNAC, ANBG and Friends of ANBG, ANPS, NPA, ACT Heritage Unit and other organisations for making this a very enjoyable year for FoBM.



We warmly thank the Woodland Walk project team, along with our valuable botanic advisers, and guides on walks this year; Dr Rosemary Purdie, Isobel Crawford, Michael Doherty, Jocelyn Fitzhardinge, Jean Geue, Cecilia Melano, Andy Russell, and Brigitta Wimmer.

Would you like more information about our activities? We would be happy to provide it.

*Linda Beveridge*

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