



MOUNT ARTHUR RESERVE NEWSLETTER

Issue 1, Autumn 2010

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Mount Arthur Reserve Trust

Who are we?

We are a small group of dedicated volunteers from the local community responsible for the management of the Reserve on behalf of the NSW Land and Property Management Authority or 'LPMA' (formerly the Department of Lands).

What do we do?

The Trust holds meetings every month, and undertakes works within the Reserve between meetings. We also employ a part-time Ranger.

The Trust faces many management challenges including weed and pest control, facility maintenance, rubbish dumping and vandalism, to name just a few.

The Trust has little regular annual income with which to undertake the basic management of the Reserve. Management of the Reserve is dependant on volunteer labour and government grants when available.

How can you help?

We would love to have more volunteers willing to help with working bees in the Reserve.

If you would like to contribute please provide your details to the Trust so that we can compile a register of potential volunteers.

You can also help us by 'treading softly' in the Reserve – obeying any notices, staying on established trails, using the rubbish bins provided, and respecting the facilities.

Why is the Mount Arthur Reserve Special?

The natural values of the Reserve are recognized nationally, with the Reserve being listed on the Register of the National Estate. The following values of the Reserve are of particular importance:

- Vegetation communities recognized as Endangered under state legislation;
- The Mountain-Swainson Pea (*Swainsona recta*), a State and Federally listed endangered flora species occurring within the Reserve;
- Habitat for a number of threatened fauna species; and
- A high diversity of native orchid species.



L to R: Red-capped Robin and *Swainsona recta* (photos courtesy of Tony Layland)

More information on the values and interesting features of the Reserve will be provided in later editions of this newsletter.

Rubbish Dumping & Vandalism

Unfortunately rubbish dumping and vandalism significantly impede the work of the Trust, and increase our management costs.

Rubbish dumping is becoming more frequent, and removal of this rubbish takes up a large proportion of our Ranger's time – time which could be spent on facility maintenance and weed control tasks.

Dumped rubbish is unsightly and can be a hazard to visitors. Some of the rubbish dumped includes green-waste, it may seem harmless to leave green-waste within bushland, but this type of waste can introduce new weeds and increase fire risk.

The Reserve also experiences a large amount of vandalism. This has recently expanded from graffiti and damaged facilities, to include cutting fences and demolition of gates. Repair of vandalised fixtures is expensive and disappointing for those volunteers who donated their time to help install them.

In addition, damage to fire trails by 4WDs is costly to rectify and can impede access for management purposes.

If you observe someone dumping rubbish or vandalizing facilities within the Reserve, please inform the Wellington Council Ranger on 0418 636 968

Plan of Management

Over the past 12 months we have been preparing a Plan of Management for the Reserve. This Plan sets out the Reserve's values, management issues and management strategies for the next 5 years.

We hope to have the draft completed and ready for LPMA review very soon. Once LPMA have approved the draft, it will be exhibited for at least 28 days, so that you can have your say.

Thank you to those who have already helped us in the preparation of this plan by responding to our Visitor Survey last year.

Following exhibition and consideration of submissions, the Plan must be approved by the Minister for Lands before it can be adopted.

Revegetation Project

Thanks to a much appreciated grant from the Central West Catchment Management Authority, we have been working on a revegetation project over the last 12 months.

With assistance from the Girl Guides and a small number of other volunteers, we have planted approximately 6,000 trees and shrubs on former agricultural land within the Reserve. We hope that this area will eventually increase the linkage between the existing vegetation in the Reserve and the Macquarie River.

The species planted have been carefully selected, and most of the seedlings were grown from seed collected within the Reserve.

This project has proven to be a huge task, including extensive weed control efforts, scalping and ripping of the soil, planting seedlings by hand and follow up watering.

Considering climatic conditions since planting took place, and kangaroos munching on some plants, we are pleased that overall plant losses have been minimal.

A big thank you to all those who have volunteered their time!



Photo courtesy of Tony Layland

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