

**Annual General Meeting for Friends of the Aranda Bushland
Monday 12 February 1996**

Conveners Report

The purpose of this group is to sustain and record the Aranda Bushland and thereby ensure its preservation. Ongoing long term commitment is called for.

This year can be characterised as a year of the unexpected. Finding that our photography project had significance for others, such as the offer to have a collection of our slides located with the Botanic Gardens, and an offer to put the photography project on CD Rom. Perhaps also, that through joint efforts with Mt Painter Parkcare group to raise the profile of the amenity of this bit of Canberra's open space, the Aranda Bushland became a location recognised in its own right not just a bit of bush off the side of Black Mountain.

In March this year we had a major weeding project to remove introduced plants from the *Eucalyptus pauciflora* Frost Hollow soil conservation reserve. Weeding in the Aranda Bushland was concentrated on the Hawthorn area and along the creek in the old Bushland. As well the Parks and Conservation service sprayed the St John Wort under the power line and the blackberry along the creek bank in January and February this year.

A number of people contribute to weed reduction in spare moments, Controlling blackberry, containing honey suckle, St Johns Wort, and general weed infestation in the areas they walk in. Those who do this might like to turn their attention to the honey suckle in the Hawthorn area.

The Hawthorn area is still in need of both weed removal and removal of old cuttings. Projects to do this on the scale necessary have been discussed though getting a result is still to happen.

It would have been pointless to have a beautiful weed free bushland if the importance and location of the Aranda Bushland was not also addressed. The planting of the *Eucalyptus pauciflora* Frost Hollow in late September with attendant publicity helped raise the profile of the area generally as did the publicity surrounding the unexpected burning of the Bushland along Bindubi Street earlier in September, and the Cook open day on October 15.

A number of opportunities occurred for us to display our photography project. The first occurred in May when 25 slides were shown in the Botanical Gardens theatre as part of the Australian Nature Conservation Agency environment day. In November the project was displayed to Katherine Potter who project officer for CNP. We also mounted displays at the Cook open day and at the Bushfire Management meeting, held in December 1995.

We co-ordinated with Cook Parkcare group and John Langmore, Federal MP also a resident of Cook, to hold a Bushfire Management meeting to look at resident participation in management practice. About a hundred people

attended the meeting held in December. A follow up meeting is scheduled after the elections.

In May we were notified that our application for a grant to map the Bushland was successful. We met Rob Douglas of Treeline Designs in the Aranda Bushland in September, and this January we again met, and after discussions with ourselves and Dave Rush of the CNP, Rob Douglas has been asked to prepare a draught proposal for our consideration.

The photography project is now ready to be pulled into shape. Firstly by selection of photographs for publication. The next step is identification by the Herbarium and labelling and pressing the specimens which relate to the photographs, where this is not already done. As well, now is the time to set in train a plan to raise the money required to meet the costs of publication. We have friends who can help us in this, CNP, National Landcare, the ACT Government in the public sector. Fuji films, Coles and Rotary are a start in the private sector.

Thankyou all for your committment to the Aranda Bushland.

Merilyn Evans 12/2/96