

COMMUNITY REVEGETATION PROJECT

Old speedway returning to native glory

By Mark Sawa

It used to be part of the Mt Ginn speedway in North Watson but where the dirt circuit once stood in the '50s, '60s and '70s now stands a batch of environmentalists on a mission to regenerate the area.

Friends of Mt Majura and the Watson Woodlanders are embarking on the third stage of a community revegetation project that started in 2012.

On Mt Majura, just east of The Fair, they will kick stage three off to coincide with the National Tree Day Planting Party on Sunday, July 27.

National Tree Day co-ordinator Waltraud Pix said where they were working was badly degraded.

She said the area was used for car racing, then equestrian events and also horse adjustment.

"It was originally critically endangered grassy woodland," she said. "It is one of our last big project sites where we hope to improve the environmental conditions."

Encouraging the return of native flora and fauna will take decades. But the groups have already unearthed some promising signs through their work.

"There are some very rare plants in this area. There are endangered species. We found a Golden Sun Moth last year, which is a listed [endangered] species in federal and ACT legislation. It was the first record on Mt Majura so we were very thrilled about it."

She said the first indications of native flora returning to the area were also being seen with endangered species discovered that had self-seeded.

Meanwhile experienced and novice



planters are welcome to join the National Tree Day Planting Party.

Volunteer registration starts at 12.45pm. Member for Ginninderra Shane Rattenbury will kick off the event at 1pm. There will be hot

chocolate and Tim Tams while the Majura Mountain Scouts run a barbecue at 3.30pm.

For more details about the National Tree Day Planting Party visit majura.org

Volunteers Lynne Alexander and Deb Hall with National tree day event organiser Waltraud Pix.

Photo: Elesä Kurtz.