

February 2009

**Name of Activity:** Tuggeranong Hill Nature Reserve summit walk

**Length:** 3 km return and a climb of over 150m

**Approximate Time:** 1 Hour

**Grade:** Moderate.

(The walk is along a management trail with some very steep sections toward the top).

**The Walk:** This trail starts and finishes at Calliste Crescent in the suburb of Theodore. From Calliste Crescent, head west up the hill. Other entry points to the reserve are Tharwa Drive and Christmas Street. To avoid the heat, go early in the morning or late in the afternoon.

**Services:** The closest toilets are at the Calwell and Lanyon Shopping centres.

### What will I discover?

There are fantastic views to the Tuggeranong Valley, Rob Roy Range and Mount Tennant. This park protects threatened Blakely's Red Gum—Yellow Box grassy woodland on its lower slopes. There are also Kurrajong Trees with their leathery boat-shaped seed pods and very variable leaves. The leaves have been used as fodder for stock.

### What will I learn?

A shrub that flowers in summer is Australian Blackthorn (*Bursaria spinosa*. *Bursaria* from Latin, *bursa*, meaning a purse, referring to the purse-like seed capsules, and *spinosa* from Latin *spinus*, meaning spiny or thorny, which refers to the spiny branches). Its dense foliage and prickly branches provide protection for small native birds while nectar from the flowers attracts butterflies.

A Parkcare group has recently been formed for this nature reserve (there are many weeds on the summit). For further information on activities and joining Parkcare, phone Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.

The peak is significant as a 'hill topping' site for butterflies where at least 7 species gather for courtship display flights. Honeyeaters also use Tuggeranong Hill for their migration route in spring and autumn.

### What do I need to take?

Ensure you wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times.

### Other walks/activities links

For further information on this walk and other activities go to

[http://www.tams.act.gov.au/play/parks\\_forests\\_and\\_reserves/recreation\\_in\\_acts\\_parks\\_forests\\_and\\_bushlands/canberra\\_nature\\_park/canberra\\_nature\\_parks\\_maps](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/play/parks_forests_and_reserves/recreation_in_acts_parks_forests_and_bushlands/canberra_nature_park/canberra_nature_parks_maps).

For Further information on Canberra's native bird life go to:

<http://canberrabirds.org.au/>

### How to get there

Off Tharwa Drive which connects to Monaro Highway and Drakeford Drive.