



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter January

2009

Previous Sunday meeting December 14th

The December work party was advanced a week so as to pre-empt the Christmas frenzy, and it was rewarding that many members were relaxed enough to come. Most are now familiar with Group Area Central (GAC) up from Darrell Place and can appreciate the rapid improvement (for which some of the credit must go to the long Dry).

This familiarity is one of the advantages of rotating through our designated Group Areas which now total 4 (with the inclusion of the new section of the Nature Trail). Flexibility allows us to schedule specific trouble-spots – like the Euphorbia infestation on Cooleman Trig.

Our Group Areas are quite deliberately situated in the very North (GAN/Chauvel) and very South (GAS/Arawang) of the Ridge, and at GAC/Darrell in the centre, to make it quite clear that the whole of the Ridge is of significance. It will be a great day when we have enough members to make this clear to all. One source of worry is the resurgence of woody weeds, particularly on the western slope. For years these were kept in check by Bess and David Sledge.

A sketch map showing the Group Areas and access points is attached – please keep this for reference. ☼

Future programme

Note that during the summer months of January and February we will, as in previous years, meet at 8am.

Next meeting, Sunday January 18th

- GAS/Arawang – weed removal and plant ID.
- **8.00-10.30am**
- meet on Namatjira Drive just before the Kambah Pool Road turn-off, or

GAS/Arawang

- as usual bring hat, gloves, hacker, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet. ☼

Season's Greetings

Our president, Arminel, received a card on behalf of Cooleman Ridge Park Care Group from Jon and Robyn Stanhope.

We appreciate the recognition. ☼

A letter from Anna

"For the past month I have been watching and helping contractors with rock clearing and fire control. The sites where they have been working are Urambi Hills, Cooleman Ridge and Tuggeranong Hill. Basically they are removing rocks from behind houses in order to make a clear passage for a grass mower to run over. They are also removing dead/dangerous trees and trimming low branches. This is part of a fire control plan.

"Unfortunately these areas are home to the Pink Tailed Worm Lizard, a threatened species. My role is to watch out for these lizards and relocate any that we find. I have also managed to rescue a small bird's nest and numerous Bearded Dragons and Marbled Geckos. The damaged areas are then topped up with soil and seeded with native grass seed such as Kangaroo Grass.

"Cooleman Ridge is by far the most diverse area out of the three sites. The many native plants around certainly seem to be agreeing with our native fauna. Well done Cooleman Ridge Park Care Group!

"I managed to replant some of the disturbed grasses and Lomandras, while some of the rocks were moved to other areas to create new habitat. I really hope the area recovers and the seeds take hold so that soon the Ridge will be back to its beautiful self."

Chapman, 8th December 2008

Anna See, member of Cooleman Ridge Park Care Group. ☼

New Year resolutions

Recent weeks have brought us new members:

Heather & Dan Buchler, Rose and Tony Jurd, Adam Meadows, Martha Sear, and Shaoying Wang.

For those who didn't read the minutes of our October AGM, new member Fred Hart is already treasurer.

Pat Ryan has made it official, after quietly carting garbage bags of weeds to Green Waste at the conclusion of work parties.

Need it be said? – a warm welcome to you all. ☼

Verbascum

Reet started her campaign against verbascum in 2006, working from her own area through Bess's hillside and into the Olympic Site, removing in:

2006 - **8 300** plants

2007 - **8 000** plants

2008 - **22 700** plants

It shows, and we're speechless. ☼

What' around

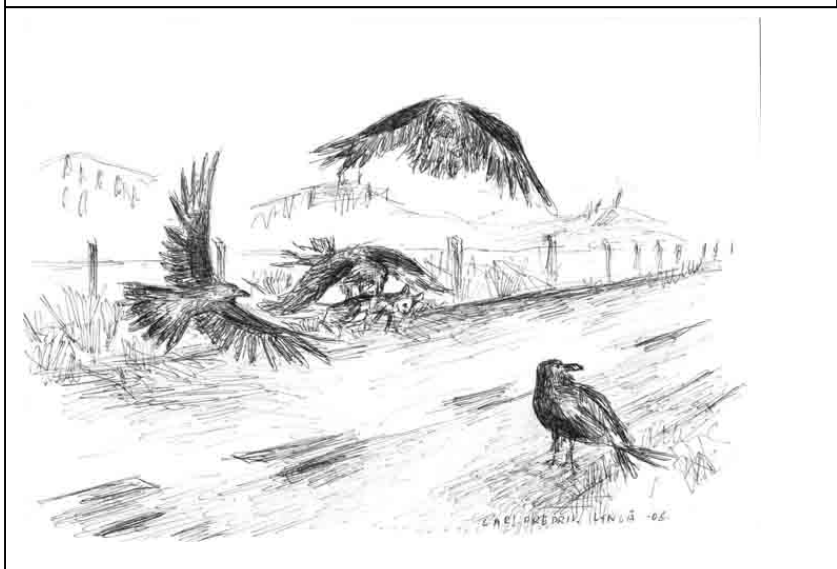
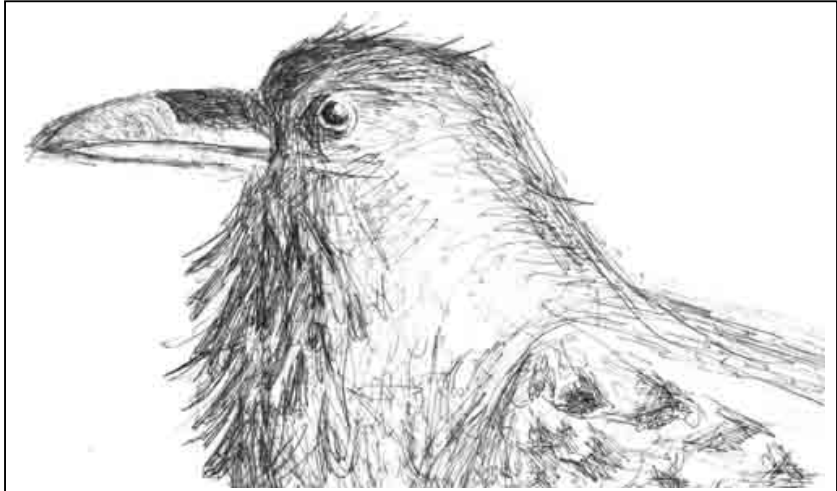
Australian Raven – ink drawings by Carl-Fredrik Lyngå

Christmas brought us some avid birders. Fortuitously we strolled into Tobias who cheerfully agreed to guide our party on a quick, early-morning introduction to the birds of Cooleman Ridge.

The galah was a favourite of Sebastian's. Carl-Fredrik found the Raven irresistible, and he took time out from sight-seeing to make some lovely sketches.

On 29th December Tobias had written:

"This morning, at around 8am, I went out to Cooleman Ridge, where I quickly found a male Speckled Warbler, which was surprising to me. It was in the same patch of woodland as the Regent Honeyeater was earlier in the year, immediately up and over the ridge from Freebody Pl, Chapman. In the process of tailing it, I nearly trod on a Red-bellied Black Snake hanging out near the pond at the bottom. Not a lot else, a female Rufous Whistler, lots of Buff-rumps, Red-browed Finchs and a Kestrel, two Pipits near the Kathner St end, and a Pallid Cuckoo calling."



Changes

Rebecca Dawes, our Community Coordinator following the departure of Samantha Ning, organised an excellent Christmas Party for volunteers and staff on 10 December. Gösta, Reet and Arminel attended. Rebecca has now left the ACT Government to take up a position with the Commonwealth in the *Caring for Our Country* programme, *Landcare Futures* section. We wish her well, and enjoyed working with her, as we did with Samantha Ning.

The wire at Kathner Street was removed on 22 December - months after having been notified to Athllon Drive depot. Good, too, finding that the gates closing off sections of the Walking Trail were again unlocked.

Sally McIntosh, who is working temporarily at Parks, Conservation and Lands, came out to look at our regeneration work and took the tangled mess of wire away in the official ute. We hope to see more of her in the coming year - Jenny, Malcolm and Arminel found her very down to earth and knowledgeable. ✨



Still flowering end of December

ANTHERICACEAE – these genera have often been included in LILIACEAE

Dichopogon fimbriatus –
Nodding Chocolate Lily
Erect native herb to c. 1 m high
dichos Gr: double + *pogon*
beard