



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter July
2010

Previous Sunday meeting June 20th

We had another beautiful winter's day for our work party at Group Area Central, near Darrell Place. Malcolm concentrated on rabbits. Jenny and Arminel hoed into St John's Wort *Hypericum perforatum* - only one bagful of the blighters this time. Doug took new recruit Graham under his wing, and they attacked the usual suspects - Wild Sage *Salvia verbeneca*, and Aaron's Rod *Verbascum thapsus*

Highlights included a home-produce afternoon tea (Anzac biscuits, Peanut Butter Fudge, Kiwi fruit, Mandarines, Scroggin), a covey of quail and a pair of bronzewing pigeons (see *What's Around*).

Future programme

Next meeting, Sunday Afternoon July 18

- Group Area South Mt Arawang Summit Trail for clearing exotic growth. Plant ID
- 1.30 to 4.00 pm
- meet at the Horse Paddock entrance on Namatjira Drive or at GAS Arawang
- bring hat, gloves, hacker, drink, snack ☼

And on Sunday Morning July 18, PCL Weeds ID Training session at nearby Fisher Parkland!!!!

- Serrated Tussock *Nassella trichotoma*, Chilean Needle Grass *Nassella neesiana* and African Lovegrass *Eragrostis curvula*. ID & Treatment with Jenny Connolly & Joe Clifton. Also training in frilling woody weeds - the technique will be demonstrated on Southern Blue Gums *Eucalyptus globulus*, thinning out a dense stand.
- [Meet 11 am front red gate on Namatjira Drive.](#)
- RSVP Sally 6205 7384 by 15 July

And then on Sunday afternoon July 25, Weston Scout Group attacks *Acacia baileyana* with us!!!!

- GAC Darrell. Picnic with Scouts from 12 noon. Briefing & Kit check 1 pm. Final knock-off at 4pm. [Supervisory helpers needed - please ring 6231 7392 if you're available.](#)

Ajay and the ants (4th instalment)

Dr Ajay Narendra is part of the research team studying navigation strategies in Jack Jumpers (*Myrmecia croslandi*) in Hackett.

Arminel's account began in the April newsletter. May's article was about Meat Ants. June's was about Sugar Ants. This month's feature creature is the Bulldog Ant.

Bulldog Ants.

5 species of bulldog ant are found on Mount Majura. (No survey yet exists for Coleman Ridge.) They are large, aggressive ants with a sting like a wasp and large mandibles. Their feet are equipped with grip-pads to keep them attached to prey while they attack! Unusually for ants, they are very sensitive to movement. Some are night active. Like the sugar ants, they seek out sap-sucking insects for their sweet secretions. They will habitually visit the same trees looking for food. Nest entrances can vary from being small and inconspicuous to being large mound-like structures.

Next month - *Jack Jumpers and Greenheaded Ants*

Heritage Ahead

We've formally and informally expressed interest in running an event for our 20th anniversary in April 2011, to coincide with Heritage Week. Once the theme and dates for that are announced, we'll start planning in earnest.

'Our Water': Source Water Protection for the ACT - Teaching Resources

Congratulations to Martin Lind, Waterwatch Coordinator for the Southern ACT Catchment Group, who developed the resources. The project was funded by an ACT Government Environment Grant, Australian Government 'Caring for our Country' program and ACTEWAGL.

Contact waterwatch@sactcg.org.au

And down the track -

- Meeting after next - **Sunday August 15** at Coleman Trig to cut-and-dab the *Euphorbia* infestation.

What's around

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*

28 - 35 cm

Call – resonant, deep, repeated 'oom'.



Photo courtesy of Geoffrey Dabb, Canberra Ornithologists Group.

Chapman Primary Self-Guided Walk

After miserable weather delayed the walk for a week, Arminel and I finally succeeded in arranging to take one of the 5/6 classes onto the Ridge. We met them after recess on Thursday, 17th June, and took them up along the school trail with its splendid new posts and pamphlet box. Each child was given a pamphlet and this way they could learn some of the natural features of the trail during our walk.

The children were, as always, an enthusiastic, effervescent bunch. Some loved skidding down the steep sections of the trail and climbing on the rocks. Many questions arose about things seen on the trail, from mistletoe ('don't you have to stand under that and kiss your girlfriend?') to questions about the different weeds and ways of getting rid of them. About half of the children had helped us with weeding when they were in Years 3/4, and could recognize the weeds they had pulled out – especially *Verbascum*!

We hope that next term the Year 2 classes will join us for some simple nature study and perhaps a little weeding, using the miniature tools Rob has made for youngsters.

Jenny Horsfield

Post Script – The pamphlet box has since been vandalised, but Rob has repaired it and it's already back in service. Nil desperandum!

Tussock Talk

A new quarterly newsletter from NSW/ACT Serrated Tussock Coordinator Clare Hamilton

E: clare.hamilton@midwestern.nsw.gov.au

DRAINS - The Chapman Flood Prevention Project has received Works Approval from the National Capital Authority and all issues with PCL are now resolved. Tenders will be called forthwith – the Canberra Times on 17 July should carry the ad. Our Group has just received a letter from Peter Tait at ACT Procurement Solutions, a detailed response to our submissions. More information about that after your committee has had time to digest it!

Around the traps

No slip-ups this winter - PCL rangers have put new non-slip tape on our 2 metal bridges.

Purple fungi have appeared at Kathner Street. They're possibly *Cortinarius archeri*, going by Heino Lepp's lovely picture on the ANBG website. "*Cortinarius* is an example of a worldwide, mycorrhizal mushroom genus with many endemic Australian species," the site says. Our friend Dr Richard Windsor says they're fairly toxic.

Welcome to new member Graham, who has already annihilated a stand of *Acacia baileyana* in the reserve near his house. Welcome also to John, back from NT.

Reet saw two unfamiliar animals on the Ridge on 2 July. They may have been guinea pigs - no tails, short and squat, brown fur, snub-nosed, small. Unlikely to survive, as raptors or predators will find them a tasty tidbit.

Track Erosion Report – deepest rut in the steep section of the Management Road, Kathner St., was 30cm on 5 July.

Is that a cackle, a croak, or a ribbit?

Frog Call Identification Evening - ACT and Region
Frogwatch

Wednesday 28th July 6pm Venue: Lions Youth Haven
Functions Room - Kambah Pool Road

**RSVP: By 21 July - Southern ACT Catchment Group -
waterwatch@sactcg.org.au or 6296**

Windmill Grass *Chloris truncata* in FOG

There's an informative and readable article about colonising and restorative local native grasses in the *News of Friends of Grasslands* July-August edition. Michael Beddingfield's observations corroborate our own. His sketch of this plant is exquisite.

More information www.fog.org.au

Tidbinbilla Management Plan - Forum organised by Conservation Council ACT ☼ Havelock House ☼
Thursday 22 July ☼ 5:30 for 6 pm

National Tree Day Sunday August 1. Want to help the nation plant a million trees? <http://treeday.planetark.org/>