



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARKCARE GROUP Newsletter December 2001

The wind was too much for us on our November meeting, making it unsuitable for spraying. We gathered at the end of Hake Street as advised in last month's newsletter, and planned a calm, mild day for December 16th. The Kambah Pony Club's parking area proved to be a convenient starting point, and from there we had a brief look at the woody weeds behind Mt Arawang. There is a liberal scattering of *Hypericum perforatum* (St John's Wort) edging the fire trail. ☼

Sunday meeting

- Sunday 16th December
- 1.30 -4 pm
- meet at the Kambah Pony Club's parking area beyond the far end of Hake Street.
- target: woody weeds behind Mt Arawang
- bring hat, gloves, drink, snack, loppers or secateurs. Spray will be available.

Please note that children must not be close to where spray is being used. ☼

Equipment minders

Many of us have Parkcare loppers and diggers that we bring when working on the Ridge. In addition:

- whippersnippers with support equipment - Malcolm (6288 4122), Kath (6288 0015), Danny (6288 3509)
- WEEDecks - Malcolm (6288 4122), Doug (0407 946 995), Janice (6288 3953, janice.paull@aph.gov.au)
- shovels, small diggers, trowels, herbicide - Janice (6288 3953, janice.paull@aph.gov.au) ☼

Waterwatch revisited

Those of you with e-mail and time were able to join us at the Kathner St dam on Friday 23rd November when Bayne Geikie let us through a monitoring session. Now we understand the programme much better and feel confident of making a useful contribution. Data go to Environment ACT and correlate with human impact.

We join the Macroinvertebrate Survey, conducted spring and autumn. Macro because we can see the creatures with unaided eye, invertebrate because these don't respond to changing environmental conditions as fast as vertebrates, thus being good pollution indicators.

Lots of different types of life (diversity) and abundance signal health.

The guide lines for the Rapid Assessment System are to be changed so we'll detail them later on.

Pollution can take several forms:

- elevated temperature, leading to oxygen loss, or literal cooking.
- acidity, resulting in chemical burn
- salinity.

The brown colour of the water is tannin, and comes from gum leaves.

In dry years water quality improves. In wet years pollutants get washed into the waterways. And as for rubbish - it is both a social and a political problem. We must learn not to litter, and until then we must be prepared to pay higher rates to cover clean-ups.

Thanks, Bayne. See you in autumn! ☼

November log

161101: A BMX trail has been constructed, with bumps, and the ground is denuded.

Where: at the site of last year's fire, between fire trail and fence. That is, between the tracks up from Chauvel Circle and Monkman Street. Reported to Athlon Drive by e-mail, 211101

181101: Park Care Sunday, 2 pm - echidna seen from fire trail above Pony Club paddocks, Arawang.

231101: midday, two riders each leading two pack horses and a riding horse. On the hoof for 2 months coming from Tocumwal via Khancoban and heading for Cooktown along the Bicentennial Equestrian Trail.

161101: Reet counts 60 (yellow) *Diuris sulphurea* spikes, and as they were fading one (pink) *D. dendrobioides* spike flowered. *Diuris*: di=2, oura=tail ☼

Activity figures

Thirteen parkcarers were involved in the 123 hours work reported for November: weeding, waterwatch, revegetation, fauna monitoring, tree survey.

Please notify Janice at the end of each month how much time you spend on Parkcare if you wish to be counted. Phone her evenings excepting Tuesdays on 6288 3953, or email her at janice.paull@aph.gov.au

What's around



Phalaris aquatic
Phalaris

Exotic grass sown as drought-tolerant perennial pasture. Comes from Mediterranean region. With a mattock blade under the shallow, compact root system it can be levered out in slabs. Anyone know an easier way? Derivation - from Greek for shining (the lema???)

Pauline Lyngå, 6288 7009, gostaL@ozemail.com.au



Dactylis glomerata
Cocksfoot

Exotic perennial grass from Europe, N. Africa, Asia. Derivation - from Greek for finger. Dactylis is clearly segmented from one view - not so Phalaris.

Tree survey

We have a year-two forestry student working with Tina behind Arawang. Megan is clocking up work experience under Tony's guidance, mastering the GPS to position the trees that Tina has already tagged, then recording measurements and observations. ☺



Looking for something different this Christmas break?

How about an **Adventure Holiday** on Coleman Ridge?????????

- Unlimited Paterson's Curse!!!!
- Phalaris galore!!!!

Coleman Ridge

There is something for everyone on