



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter August 2004

Bursaria

Returning from Ladakh, Reet was pleased to see Angela had organised the removal of bursaria debris from the ditch. ☼

Previous Sunday meeting, July 18th

Unfortunately Prof. Elix wasn't able to come this time, so we still have his guided lichen walk to look forward to once he has fully recovered. I suspect many people were thankful not to be enticed out of doors, whereas the foolhardy few spent some time sheltering in the Arawang ditch meticulously dissecting the guidelines for fuel assessment. Eventually there was nothing for it but to venture to the star picket marking the central GAS plot and fill out the assessment form. We then paced 50 m to the northern plot which nestled protectively in a blackberry thicket. The eastern, southern and western sub plots will be monitored by Doug at a time of his choosing. The decision to retreat to Doug's place was reached in a brisk and businesslike manner, and we all chose a warm air vent to stand over while he boiled the jug. Anna and John have since been introduced to "their" higher Arawang site and Gösta and I have sent Angela the measurements from the Fencepost Hill site. There are three more sites staked: GAN, GAC and above Lincoln Close. These will be incorporated in group activities and offers of twice yearly monitoring accepted. ☼

Next Sunday meeting, August 15th

- GAS/Arawang for weeding and a look at the fuel plots
- 1.30 - 4 pm
- meet on Namatjira Drive just before the Kambah Pool Road turn-off
- bring hat, gloves, weeder, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet ☼

Future programme

Provisionally the year looks like this:

August 15th GAS/Arawang weeding
September 19th - tree survey, Naarilla's area
October 17th - GAC/Darrell weeding
November 21st - GAN/Chauvel, weeding
December 19th - waterwatch old dam. ☼

July log

020704 rabbit up from Kathner St
090704 mouse, cat, Fencepost Hill
160704 2 rabbit sightings Fencepost Hill
8 kangaroos in Olympic Site
230704 8 roos in Olympic Site
300704 1 roo Fencepost Hill ☼

Mouse

Jenny and I stopped at what looked like a collapsed rabbit burrow on Fencepost Hill, then noticed another hole a bit higher up. There was a flicker of movement and a mouse skipped out, twitching at the weather before skipping back in again. It was far tinier than any house mouse I've ever trapped. Erika tells us it's very difficult to establish that a mouse is marsupial unless you actually find it has a pouch. Rob and Jenny sent across a picture and description of a marsupial mouse, Rob suggesting the next move would be to spread sand lightly at the hole's entrance, where distinct pathways radiate out, so that we can check the foot prints. And if it were a house mouse, why hadn't it already taken refuge in Malcolm's ceiling? ☼

Truly Madly Deeply

The UMCCC's Biennial NRM Forum

Turning plans into action - roles for local government, rural landholders, local communities and landcare groups

University House ANU Canberra

29 September 2004

Speakers include:

John Stanhope - Chief Minister ACT

Lee O'Brien - Chair Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority

Mike Lee - NRM Team Australian Government

Cr Phyllis Miller - President Shires Association NSW

Coral Love - National Landcare Facilitator

Professor Peter Cullen - Wentworth Group of Scientists

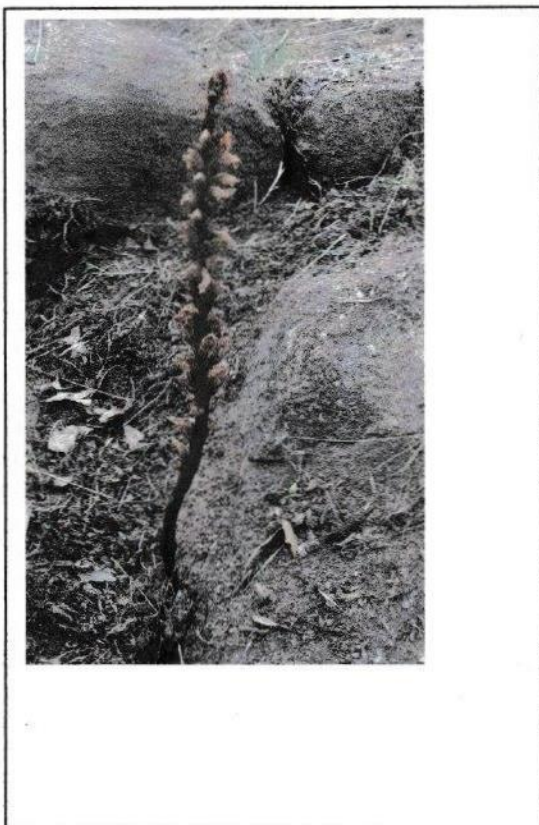
To register email the UMCCC Facilitator
kathy.eyes@act.gov.au or phone 6207 2999.
Greater Queanbeyan City Council. ☺

<http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au>

If you have trouble with this address, try omitting *nsw*.
For us it works either way, for David only without. ☺

What's around

Two parasites



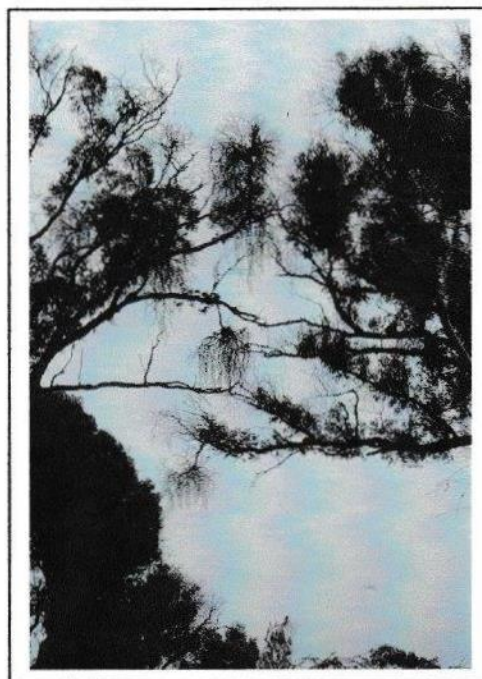
SCROPHULARIACEAE – named from use in treatment of scrophula. The Figwort family which includes Digitalis
**Orobanche minor* – Lesser Broomrape
Leafless root parasite with underground tubers (lacks chloroplast). Parasitic on *Chondrilla juncea*, *Trifolium spp.* and other plants
Orobanche – ancient name for Dodder
minor L.: comparative of *parvus*, small
Native of Europe

Park Care Coordinators' Meeting

Doug writes:

In May, a community workshop discussed a new vision for Canberra Nature Park. The key themes to emerge from that workshop were considered by coordinators at their July meeting. The Conservation Council, which co-sponsored the community workshop with Environment ACT, is to report on the overall outcome of the workshop's vision by the end of this month (August). Coordinators focussed on the themes of challenges and opportunities facing Canberra Nature Park. These were identified as:

- difficulty in managing CNP due to urban pressures (proximity to residential areas)
- different values held by multiple user groups
- difficult to estimate usage level of CNP
- limited Ranger resources, with conflicting priorities where immediate issues such as fire hazard reduction, wildlife etc. take priority, thereby reducing time available to spend with



volunteer groups, focussing on conservation value of the reserves

The outcome of the meeting was that the Conservation Council would circulate a draft set of recommendations. In short, watch this space. ☺

LORNTHACEAE – Gr. *loron thong* + *anthos* flower
Amyema miquelii
Mistletoe

Native, pendent, aerial stem-parasitic shrub
Gr. *a* not; *myeo* I point out anew ref. to a new feature having been found to separate this genus from *Loranthus*
☺

Chapman Primary

It's great to see the children from Years 1 and 2 resuming their involvement in the regeneration of Cooleman Ridge, thanks to collaboration between their enthusiastic teacher and Jenny. Thursday 22nd July provided a photo and publicity op. for the local press, when Jenny, Doug and Gösta helped the children plant three eucalypt seedlings potted on the Kathner St dam wall last autumn. Karina was there too, taking pictures for our web site. The children will tend these trees regularly as well as help clear the area of oats and other exotic grasses. Already they are proudly distinguishing oats from kangaroo grass. ☺

Draft ACT vegetation restoration guidelines, June 2004

Geoff Butler and Associates:

"High Conservation Value (HCV) generally includes vegetation communities that are relatively intact or have not degraded too badly under other land uses. The various storeys of vegetation remain even if somewhat

impacted. A high (>70%) native flora and fauna component is present. Weeds are relatively few or of species that are either innocuous or easy to manage. Useful and functional habitat is present, especially for threatened species. It can include moderate conservation value areas where they can be enhanced and are located in strategic positions (e.g. wildlife corridors)". ☼