



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter September
2004

Previous Sunday meeting, August 15th

Despite the Olympics, we were seven at GAS/Arawang, enjoying the spring weather. Before knuckling down to weeding we ran through the fuel assessment form at the central fuel plot so that more of us should become familiar with the assessment procedure.

Angus worked with us through the afternoon, gathering detail for his assignment. Then we settled on the flat rock to answer his questions and tell him about the Group's past, our present aspirations and future hopes. It was an interesting review for all of us, and we hope it helps launch him into his career as marine biologist. It chilled rapidly as the sun left us so we called it a day. ☼

Next Sunday meeting, September 19th

- Tree survey, Naarilla's area
- 1.30 – 4 pm
- meet at Guinness Place
- bring hat, gloves, weeder, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet ☼

Future programme

Provisionally the year looks like this:

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

ACT Conservation Community Forum; Canberra Nature Park

A Shared Vision for their Future Management

This forum was facilitated by Liz Pye of the Conservation Council, in July, at Athllon Drive: Liz prepared the report containing the following:

Recommendation

Rangers need to ensure that liaising with and skilling of Parkcare/Landcare volunteers is seen as part of ranger core business, and it is essential that individual rangers ensure they attend Parkcare/Landcare meetings, keep Park/Landcare leaders informed of day-to-day operations, and work with groups to ensure mutually acceptable outcomes. ☼

August log

080804 rabbit Fencepost Hill
200804 Fencepost Hill: rabbit; pair kites; wood ducks.
Above Fencepost Hill: blue tongue lizard.
260804 eagle pair Mt Arawang
270804 rabbit, mouse, 3 kestrels, pair kookaburras, kite, Fencepost Hill ☼

Mouse/rabbits again

As Jenny disturbed one of her dry piles of pulled oats a mouse scurried out; she was able to follow it to one of the numerous small holes on Fencepost Hill. It looked like a pretty ordinary house mouse to her, but we'll keep hoping it is something more exciting. The collapsed rabbit warren nearby that first caught our attention in July has been renovated so rabbits must have taken up residence again. Their droppings are widespread along the length of the Ridge and we're on the Urban Service's list for repeat control. ☼

Eagles

At the last Sunday work party we were startled by the antics of a red eagle close to the Arawang summit, but had to concede it was only a radio-controlled model plane; it looked surprisingly big when carried past us down the track. It would be nice to see one of the eagles from as close up.

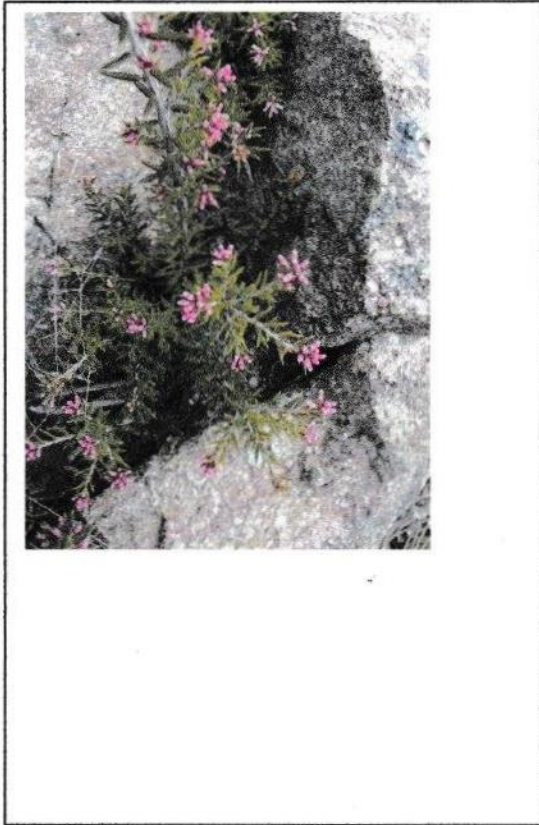
And then a message from Doug drops in:

26th August: "Earlier today, as I started off on a therapeutic jog, I came across Tina heading for the hill (Arawang). As we stood there with her conning me into carting trees and water to a planting site she has at the summit, I noticed a wedge-tail eagle about 20 metres away sitting on a low burnt acacia. Then, a few metres away, was another, bigger eagle with flashy white all over. Given the flashiness, it must have been the male. Well, they both flew to a nearby low tree and started looking into each others eyes. Talk about Spring at work! Will keep an eye out for a nest, but I suspect Mt Taylor may be the site."

Incidentally Doug may delude himself into imagining that he is the only person Tina cons into tasks, but she's had both Rohan and George digging holes and hauling water up Arawang.

Tina also reports massive rabbit activity, and the widespread chewing down of lomandra tufts: by rabbits or kangaroos – anyone caught them at it? ☼

What's around



EPACRIDACEAE – *epi* Gr. upon + *acris* hill-top.
the Epacris family
Lissanthe strigosa
Peach Heath
Native shrub 15-70 cm (here in bud)
lissos G: smooth, *strigosa* L. Bearing stiff hairs or
bristles.

The Power of Park Care

Environment ACT is hosting a workshop aimed at enhancing the working relationship between volunteers and the ACT Parks and Conservation Service.

8:45am for a 9am start

Morrison Building, Botanic Gardens

Reimbursement for parking fees (approximately \$5/day) will be provided (keep your parking voucher). Even better – discuss car-pooling with Doug.

Lunch and morning/afternoon tea will be provided.

For more detail contact:

Angela Calliess

Park Care Coordinator

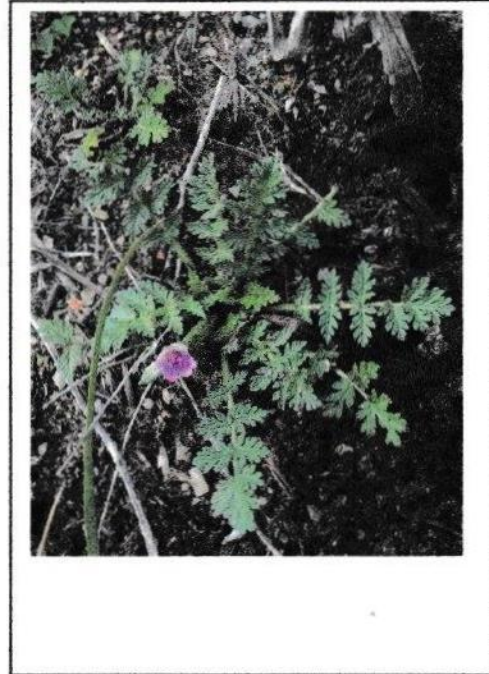
ACT Parks and Conservation

ph. 6207 2193 Angela.Calliess@act.gov.au

RSVP by Friday, 10th September 2004. ☼

What happened to the trees?

“Sunday September 19th we’ll have a look at what has happened to the trees in Naarilla’s area after the firestorm of Jan 2003. A first impression may be that *Eucalyptus polyanthemos* have well regenerated canopies, that *E. rossii* are shooting from the base and that *E. nortonii*



develop all these epicormics. Is this really so? Have the areas closest to the tornado path been hit harder than other areas? Let us compare what we see with old data and photos. We’ll need a few GPS for identification, so please bring one if you can.

Meet at Guinness Place 1.30 pm.” – Gösta ☼

New web page address -

<http://coolemanridge.inventivedingo.com>

GERANIACEAE – the Geranium family

**Erodium cicutarium* – Common Storksbill

Ascending to decumbent annual herb

erodios Gr: heron

Native of Medit. ☼

Chapman Primary

The children have spent their third afternoon working on the Ridge with Jenny and Doug. Angela was unable to come but left a bucket of tools with Jenny so the children were well equipped. They jostle to water the trees they’ve planted, and now recognise verbascum along with oats as exotics and enthusiastically remove them. They form trenches round any new eucalypt seedlings they come across, protect them with mulch and water them.

Over the next three weeks the children follow a swimming programme, and then they’re scheduled to do some seed propagation. ☼

Field naturalists

Sunday August 22nd Gösta and I spent an interesting few hours with the Field Naturalists. They have very wide-ranging interests, but we gathered their main enthusiasm is birds: we learned a lot as we strolled along the Nature Trail with them. A pelican was spotted far away over the

ranges, and we watched a vigorous display of territoriality put on by a pair of kestrels and a pair of kites. ☼

Nowra Native Plant Society

This group proposes to visit the Ridge on Tuesday 19 October (I believe they tracked us down via our web page while planning their Canberra trip to coincide with Floriade).

The suggestion is that we walk the Trail with them, beginning at Kathner St - it would be nice to have several of our members there too. Unfortunately they just miss our Group Sunday. Suellen writes: *If it is still OK with you there will be about 14 people visiting your area on Tuesday morning about 0930.* ☼