



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP Newsletter December

2007

Previous Sunday Meeting November 18th

Our summer programme kicked off to a good start, with several members all ready to get going by 8 o'clock. We were hot enough by 10.30 to knock off thankfully, and let the mercury rise to over 30° without us.

Our task was to spray the blackberry patch at GAS/Arawang, and with 3 back-pack units of herbicide it was possible to reach all the plants in reasonable time, with people left over for the usual hand weeding. We had been advised that first lopping the growth was unnecessary as spraying with the relevant herbicide should be sufficient. We are resigned to reassessing our achievement in the coming months and following up as necessary. The equipment was not altogether easy to use – Jenny is investigating the nozzles; we need a higher concentration of the red marker-dye as it was difficult to see where we had been once the spray dried which it did very quickly.

It was a joy to amble through the areas weeded on previous occasions, where we found *Themeda triandra*, *Pimelea curviflora*, flowering *Lomandra sp.*, and greening *Cheilanthes sieberi*. The *Festuca elatior* can expect decimation next visit.



Tammy and her dazzling new camera caught *Ctenotus robustus* sheltering under *Hardenbergia violacea*.

Ctenotus robustus - Striped Skink

This reptile grows to about 300 mm, a third of the length being tail.

It is extensively distributed over northern and eastern Australia. ☺

Future programme

Next meeting, Sunday December 16th

- 8 am or later, until 10.30 am
- GAC/Darrell for clearing of exotic growth, meet at Darrell Place or GAC/Darrell
- bring hat, gloves, hacker, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet

Also bring your newest digital camera, foolproof GPS, favorite Grasslands book, niftiest hand lens or nattiest fly veil so that we can share Christmas wish-list ideas.

Sunday 16 March 2008 Coleman Ridge Park Care Group to participate in CROWK's proposed walk. Details later. ☺

November log

091107 Cattle removed from Equestrian Trail ☺

231107 2 Ducks Kathner St dam ☺

Waterways Survey

CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems invites you to complete an online survey, so that more can be learned about what the wider community thinks of water management in Canberra. Follow this link to the survey:

www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=1GqAdvtohnmxFTiR8BvPg_3d_3d

The survey is anonymous and takes about 10 minutes to complete. It will be available on the web until Sunday 6 January 2008. ☺

Lanyon High Shine! programme

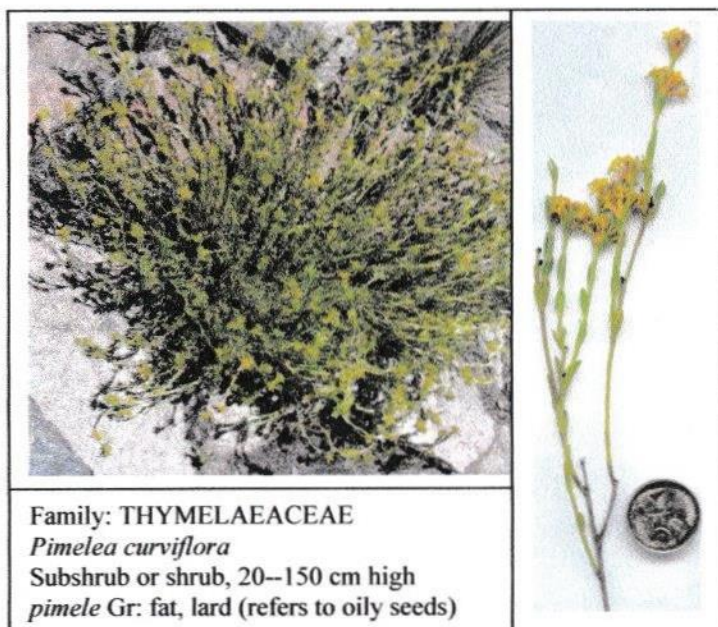
Seven students and 6 Park Carers spent a mild and cloudy Friday morning cutting and dabbing Euphorbia on top of Coleman Trig. A couple of enterprising students found that the moist conditions following recent rain allowed the plants to be pulled up by the roots. Helped along by a good morning tea, this was completed by about 11.30 am. Ten large bags of the cut stems, with their seedheads attached, were taken down the steep and difficult path to Monkman Street and loaded into the trailer for disposal.

Once we had finished the Euphorbia, we split into smaller groups and scattered out more. Some removed briars, some St John's Wort, and some dug out clumps of African Love Grass. We lunched on top of the hill, enjoying the great view, and the satisfaction of having Coleman Trig once again cleared of woody weeds (briar, pyracantha etc) as well as the Euphorbia. ☺

What's around



Family: ASTERACEAE
Chrysocephalum semipapposum –
 Clustered Everlasting
 Perennial native aromatic herb to 60 cm
chrys Gr: gold, *cephale* Gr: head,



Family: THYMELAEACEAE
Pimelea curviflora
 Subshrub or shrub, 20–150 cm high
pimele Gr: fat, lard (refers to oily seeds)

DRAFT: TOWARDS A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR COOLEMAN RIDGE CANBERRA NATURE PARK (continued)

Road, Tracks and Trails

The roads, tracks and trails are shown on the map (Appendix D) The main roads (packed soil) are those to the two reservoirs from Chapman, the road along the open ditch that mostly follows the edge of Chapman and continues round the base of Mt Arawang, and the road that is, in part, the horse trail but which continues beyond the south-eastern entrance along the boundary then goes uphill towards Chapman along the western edge of Mt Arawang. Tracks are numerous and vary from worn dirt paths, to the steps from Monkman St to Cooleman Trig, to the slashed, rock-cleared strips constructed each summer. Steps have been made southwest of Mt Arawang.

We suggest that three main pedestrian ways be promoted. The first would follow and be coincident with, the road from Kathner St to Namatjira Drive. The second would be the horse trail and its extension to Chapman near Mt Arawang. The third would be a ridge trail from the north-west, around the southern or south-western side of Cooleman Trig, almost meeting the ditch road at the saddle to the south-east of Cooleman Trig but then diverging from it in a southerly direction through the fenced plantations, across the weak saddle to the south of "Stonehenge Hill", downslope and thence to the north-eastern side of the "squarish" (large) reservoir, along the present track to the round (small) reservoir, temporarily joining the ditch road near Lincoln Place, crossing the ditch on the footbridge and joining the 3-part walking track on Mt Arawang. The Cooleman Ridge Nature Trail in the north-western section of the Reserve has led to a sharp increase in visitor numbers. The use of steps next to the current steep eroding section of road near Kathner St should be considered. A second Nature trail is being planned for the use of Chapman Primary School. Considering the popularity of these trails it is hoped that more such trails will be established contributing to the enjoyment of the Ridge.

Note: the whole draft, submitted in 1998, can be read on our web site. ☼

Euphorbia sp.

The plant we dealt with on Cooleman Trig (see also November newsletter) continues to cause trouble on several fronts. We have called it *E. depauperata* (Flora of NSW). But it is not mentioned in the new *Census of the Vascular Plants of the Australian Capital Territory*. Nor is *E. polychroma* (Yellow Spurge), the name given to it on the Andrew Paget CD. *E. polychroma* gets weed status 2 ('this plant has been recorded as escaping from cultivation') in Randall's book "*The introduced flora of Australia and its weed status.*"

Arminel's concern was passed on to Steve Taylor Weeds Coordinator, ACT Parks, Conservation & Lands His reply: *Steve Welch asked me to comment on this weed and pass the information on to Athllon Depot. This large Euphorbia species the Cooleman Parkcare Group is concerned about has been in the ACT for a long time. Its cover tends to fluctuate with the type of season we are having. There is a problem with it around the Canning St entrance to Mt Ainslie. I know the Rangers there sprayed it a few years back and achieved some good control. It is lower on the priority list that many other environmental weeds on our CNP weed programs (e.g. African Lovegrasses, Serrated Tussock, St John's Wort, Chilean Needlegrass), so it is unlikely to get dealt with unless there are substantially more field staff or resources. (Thanks to the Parkcare group - for trying to contain it.) I will pass on their message to the weeds working group.*

So, when it next rears its pretty head, we need to collect a specimen for identification by the Botanic Gardens. ☼

CLARE HOLLAND HOUSE

Foreshore garden project
 Volunteers needed for community planting day
 9:30am – 3:30pm Saturday 8th December
 Register with the Hospice, and direct any queries to
 Graham Giles, Project Manager phone: 0412 507 061
 Clare Holland House Garden Project
 Rotary Club of Canberra - Weston Creek. ☼