



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter November 2011

Previous Sunday Meeting

16 October :- Pauline's Patch

This was a first visit to Fencepost Hill for some members of the work-party held after the AGM. Pauline's years of persistent and patient labour have made it a haven for plants and creatures – a quiet and special place, with its trees and rocks and wonderful views. We want to maintain it and will keep it on the programme.

Future programme

During summer, we meet in the morning, not in the afternoon.

Next meeting Sunday 20th November Group Area South (Arawang Summit Trail).

Meet at Namatjira Drive Horse Paddock entrance or GAS.

- 8 am – 10.30am
- Plant ID & clearing exotic growth. Applying poison to woody weeds.
- Wear long sleeves and trousers, strong shoes, a hat and gloves. Flyveils may be useful too. Bring raincoat if it is wet.
- Bring hacker &/or saw &/or loppers.
- BYO drink & snacks to share. (The tea laddie will provide tea & coffee.)

Contact Arminel 6231 7392 if you need any gear or more information.

Artist's Impression

A striking landscape painted by Reg Park, "Summer Grass Cooleman Ridge", shows how *Verbascum thapsus* remains a dominant vertical component of the scene. Before clearing, were there grass trees on the hillside to provide the same elements of composition? This painting was shown as part of the Artists Association of Canberra Spring Exhibition. Friends of Grasslands donated and presented a prize at the exhibition, held in September.

Arminel Ryan ryan@pcug.org.au

New Committee for CRPCG

The Annual General Meeting of the Group took place on 16 October. Ten members attended - a quorum. All reports were received. The committee members for 2011/2012 are as follows:-

- President – Anna See
- Vice President – Arminel Ryan
- Secretary – Tammy Lee
- Treasurer – Rohan Thomas
- General Members –
 - Jenny Horsfield
 - Doug Tinney
 - Gösta Lyngå
 - Reet Vallak

Public Officer – Doug Tinney

Thanks to the members who attended the AGM. Special thanks to Doug, who chaired the meeting, and to Malcolm, who conducted our election.

Monitoring proposal

Cooleman Ridge, Mt Taylor, Mt Rogers and Garran-Hughes Parkcare Groups have been selected as being ideal groups for the initial training and subsequent trial of a new monitoring method developed by Sarah Sharp and Lori Gould. Kristy Gould (Acting Ranger-in-Charge at Athllon Depot) has recently advised us of this decision. Members interested in participating in the training and trial should contact Tammy on 6161 7423 or at tamstardeluxe@hotmail.com

Plant identification

Have you yet used the Botanical Resource Centre at the Australian National Botanic Gardens? It is free of charge and open seven days a week from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm. Trained volunteer facilitators are present on Thursday afternoons and Sunday mornings, and can be booked to give an introductory tour on other days.

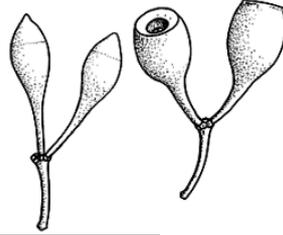
Web site URL: www.coolemanridge.org

What's around

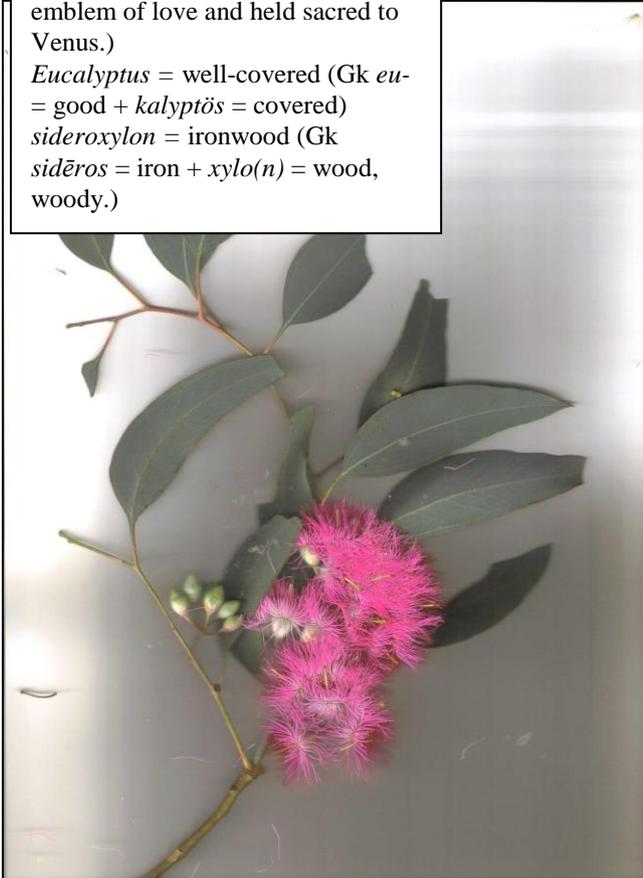
*Eucalyptus sideroxylon** Common name: *Mugga Ironbark*

Family Myrtaceae
Gk *mýrtos* = Myrtle (*Myrtus communis* is a shrub of southern Europe with evergreen leaves, fragrant flowers and aromatic berries. The myrtle was used as an emblem of love and held sacred to Venus.)

Eucalyptus = well-covered (Gk *eu-* = good + *kalyptōs* = covered)
sideroxylon = ironwood (Gk *sidēros* = iron + *xylo(n)* = wood, woody.)



Drawing & most information from
<http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au>
Scan by Pat and Arminel Ryan



Description:

Tree to 35 m high.

Hard, deeply furrowed "ironbark", persistent to smaller branches or throughout, red-brown to brown-black, upper limbs smooth, white or grey, shedding in short ribbons.

Juvenile leaves disjunct, broad-lanceolate or ovate, dull green or dull grey-green or glaucous. Adult leaves 7–14 cm long, 1.2–1.8 cm wide, green or grey-green, dull.

Flowers white, pink, red or pale yellow, occurring May–November. Inflorescences axillary, up to 7 flowered. Buds 7–12 mm long, 4–6 mm diam., on long slender pedicels; ovoid, sometimes glaucous; scar absent. Outer stamens infertile; anthers cuboid.

Fruit globose, hemispherical or ovoid, 5–11 mm long, 5–9 mm diam.; disc depressed; valves enclosed.

Does not occur naturally in ACT. Planted on Cooleman Ridge and as a street tree in adjacent suburbs. Widespread and locally abundant in NSW, in sclerophyll woodland on lighter, poorer soils.

Chemcert training, anyone?

Have you seen all the woody weeds emerging and flourishing? Want to wander the Ridge, cutting and dabbing them? Philip Selmes, ACT Parkcare Coordinator, is counting heads to arrange another training course (time and date tba). Expressions of interest to Tammy.

Snakebite

At least one dog has been bitten of late after attacking a snake in the Reserve. Antivenene for the Red-Bellied Black bite reportedly cost the owner over \$500. The dog apparently survived.

Fuel reduction generates heat

A fuel reduction burn took place in the Reserve on October 21st. Thanks to Philip Selmes for alerting us. Short notice is better than none!

There's been a call for a new brochure on the background issues and general procedures for the seasonal burns. Seems a good idea.

Fire Management Unit has again put in cattle to graze down the track verges on the western side and grass in the area above Monkman St. It's rumoured the ruminants will remain for a month or so. For those interested, Gösta has a 62-photo record taken over 6 years of the effects of such grazing above Monkman Street.