



# COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

## Newsletter February 2013

### *Previous Sunday Meeting - Nature Trail - 20<sup>th</sup> January*

After weeks of high temperatures and high fire danger, our seven early starters were blessed with much cooler weather for this working bee. Track clearing and weed removal in the vicinity of the rocky knoll occupied three workers. At the dam, two toilers began the task (since completed) of re-poisoning the sprouting stumps of eucalypt saplings. And two worked in the fenced regeneration area, observing how well native plants are regenerating in the drainage line since most phalaris has been removed.

### *Bushfire Anniversary Walk a Raging Success – 43 Attended*



*Photo Pat Ryan 20 Jan 2013*

Malcolm explaining how leeward fire scars like this one on the south-east side of an old eucalypt show that the direction of the prevailing fire-wind in this landscape is from the north-west.

### *Future programme*

#### **Wednesday Evening 13th February 6pm Verbascum Vamoose!\***

A CRPCG Community Weeding event with three meeting points – Namatjira Drive (Doug), Darrell Place (Anna) and Kathner Street (Arminel)

*Please RSVP by Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Feb*  
**CONTACT Anna – [anna.m.see@gmail.com](mailto:anna.m.see@gmail.com)**  
**PH: 0407 217 651**

#### **Next Meeting – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February Group Area North** (above Chauvel Circuit – park at Chauvel or Kathner St entries.)

**Note – in the warmer months, we meet in the mornings!!**

- 8 am – 10.30 am
- Assess effects of recent control burn. Plant ID; remove & poison exotic growth.
- Wear long sleeves and trousers, enclosed shoes, hat and gloves.

#### ***Bushfire Anniversary Walk contd.***

ParkCarers from near and far, old friends and members, local horse-owners, fire-fighters, Chapman residents young and old(er), and rural lessees formed an attentive throng as our resident expert fire ecologist took us at an easy pace around his demonstration circuit. At each stop along the way, gazing into the distance or examining details of the landscape, the recovery of plants and of animals was evident. Our leader, Dr Malcolm Gill, gently discussed the strategies for survival of different species and answered many questions. Even concepts like “asset protection” became clearer to all. We are indebted to Malcolm for sharing his knowledge so generously and in such an engaging manner.

## What's around

*\*Polygonum aviculare*  
Common Name: Wire Weed



Scan – Arminel Ryan

**Family** – *Polygonaceae* and **Genus** - *Polygonum* are Mod. Latin words, derived from neuter form of polygonos "many-angled" (from polys "many" + gonia "angle").

**Species** – *aviculare* is from the Latin *aviculus*, a diminutive of *avis* (a bird).

**Ed.'s Note** - Seed-eating birds, both exotic and native, may be observed feeding on the "nuts", especially in Canberra's winter.

According to *A Modern Herbal* (M Grieve, 1931), this plant is also palatable to cattle and pigs, hence some of its other Common Names - Cowgrass, Hogweed, Pigweed, Pig-rush, Swynel Grass and Swine's Grass.

**Description:** Prostrate to decumbent annual herb, often mat-forming, with a woody taproot and tiny bisexual flowers forming axillary clusters. Stems to 100 cm long, often rooting at nodes. All leaves of similar size; perianth divided for about half its length, tapering gradually to base; nut with 2 more or less convex faces and 1 narrower concave face.

**Distribution and occurrence:** Native of Europe. Naturalised in NSW and ACT. Common garden weed.

**Caution** : Leaves can cause dermatitis; seed can cause enteritis in stock.

*Information mainly from PlantNet*

**For the diary** - Autumn Weed Swap this year is Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 April.

### **Newsletter - March Arrangements**

Editor Arminel and husband Pat will be celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary with a jaunt to Tasmania. La Presidenta Anna will stand in as editor – contributions from members are always welcome! See Anna's contact details p1.

### **\*Note on *Verbascum thapsus* –**

Regular readers of this publication will know that Weed Warrior Reet Vallak has waged savage and unending war on *V. t.* in the vicinity of Kathner Street. After the previous "*Vamoose!*", she kindly provided us with useful notes for novices. For your copy of this latest Group publication, make sure you join us on 13 Feb!

Thanks, Reet!

### **Ginninderra Catchment Group Annual Trivia Night**

Friday 15th February - 7:30 to 9:30pm  
HOSTED BY TIM THE YOWIE MAN!

Tickets \$25 per head, with 8 people per table.

Bookings & information contact: 6278 3309 or visit website [www.ginninderralandcare.org.au](http://www.ginninderralandcare.org.au)

### **Institute for Applied Ecology 2013 Krebs lecture**

#### **"Is Democracy Failing the Biosphere?" Dr Bob Brown**

Monday February 18, 2013, 6:00 – 7:30pm  
Ann Harding Conference Centre, Building 24,  
University of Canberra

RSVP: Tuesday February 12 by ph: 62012795 or email  
[IAEadmin@canberra.edu.au](mailto:IAEadmin@canberra.edu.au)