



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter March 2014

Previous Sunday Meeting – Nature Trail and Pauline’s Patch 16th Feb.

An idyllic morning gave us perfect weeding conditions and a good roll-up of members. Workers removed *Wild Oats *Avena barbata*, piling them high on Fence-Post Hill. Beside the dam, we deflowered and dug out **Cyperus eragrostis*, freeing *Eragrostis parviflora* etc to flourish instead. Enticed by mud and water-spiders, two youngsters joined in. Their mum let them help weed and haul out some yabbie-catching equipment. A third party, led by Anna, removed a clump of tall *African Lovegrass *Eragrostis curvula*, spreading seed of River Tussock *Poa labillardieri* in its stead.

Business and the usual splendid morning tea followed the hard yards.

Future programme

We weed on Friday mornings at Kathner Street and at Mt Arawang on Wednesday mornings.

We're back to SUNDAY AFTERNOONS!!

Next Meeting – Sunday 16th March
GROUP AREA NORTH – ABOVE CHAUVEL CIRCUIT CHAPMAN
Access via Chauvel Cct or Kathner St
Time: 1.30 pm – 4 pm
Parking at Kathner St Entry
Plant ID; remove/poison weeds.
Wear suitable protective clothing
BYO drink & snack to share.
Queries? Contact Arminel 6231 7392

Fire Log

Control burns have cleared extensive areas above Chapman and over the saddle west of Arawang.

Arminel Ryan ryan@pcug.org.au

President's Report

TAMS visit Friday 21 February 2014

Doug, Arminel and myself met briefly at Kathner St. with Woodlands Officer Kristy Gould. We will talk more with her about our major weed sites.

We then drove around the Reserve with Parkcare Support Officer, Craig Wainwright. We pointed out our work-sites, explaining our Sunday work program, our Patch system and our use of the Bradley regeneration method. Craig noted a number of weed infestations that will require the attention of TAMS, but commented on the healthy condition of much of the Ridge.

We've asked for some equipment and clarified procedures for obtaining tools etc.

Chemical Certificate 14/15 February 2014

TAMS provide this course to ensure that volunteers know how to handle the herbicides that are used. I attended as a novice and Arminel as a renewal.

Letter to Minister

We have written to the TAMS minister about a number of issues, including the Kathner Street end, the drain and the Pink-tailed Worm lizard.

Park Care & Share Workshop Tuesday 18 Feb

This event was a success, with 23 attendees in all. Martine Franco from SACTCG introduced the event, kept time, and took photos. Gösta, Arminel, David H., Sharon and myself played host.

Bushfire Info Session Thursday 28 Feb

Doug attended on our behalf.

Alan

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Web site URL: www.coolemanridge.org.au

What's around

**Crataegus monogyna*
Common Name - Hawthorn



Family: Malaceae – from Lat. malum = apple
Genus: *Crataegus* - from Gk *kratos* = hardness (of the wood)
Species: *monogyna* – Lat. *mono* = single + *gyna* = ovary.

The specimen at left is one of the few still alive on Mount Arawang after our last Working Bee there. These woody weeds were traditionally used in Europe as thorny living fences – the old word *Haw* means hedge. Barbed wire put them out to pasture, as it were!

Description: Small tree or large shrub, usually with spines 7–20 mm long. Long-lived.

Leaves ± rhombic to obovate, 10–40 mm long and wide, commonly 3–7-lobed, lobes often cuneate, toothed.

Flowers white or pink. **Fruit** 8–12 mm diam., dark red; 1-seeded.

Distribution and occurrence: Native of Europe. Widely cultivated, naturalized locally.

Traditional uses included culinary and medicinal preparations (fruit), fine woodwork (timber and roots), firewood (very hot burning), charcoal (for smelting and forge-work), and grafting stock (for apples, medlars etc.)



References used – PlantNet; Mrs M. Grieve – A Modern Herbal (1931) Penguin Handbooks 1980

Heifers Hoof It!

There was particular excitement at Kathner St. on the last evening of February – a contingent of cattle emerged from the Reserve onto the road. Residents called Canberra Connect, of course.

Earlier the same day, Waterwatchers had recorded the heifers wreaking havoc in and around the poor Old Dam.

Repair and Replacement

The old wooden bridge across the ditch at the foot of the Arawang Summit Foot Track has been repaired. The new Ranger in Charge at Athlon Depot is David Dobroszczyk.

Snake Repeller or Snake Oil?

Doug found a Solar Snake Repeller advertised on the Net. It claims to be “The cruelty-free way to help protect your family and pets from snakebites.” How does it do this? The blurb says it “Emits vibrations into the ground, driving snakes away.” For less than \$10 each and free shipping, the device is “Fully powered by a solar cell that charges up during the day, giving you 24 hour around-the-clock functionality.”

Anyone care to comment on this gadget?

Vegwatch Manual

Our Library holds both the print and electronic versions to guide us in monitoring.