



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARKCARE GROUP

Newsletter June 2002

Previous Sunday meeting May 19th.

News coming in from the south was of showers, wind and wet grass so we cancelled with regret. The application of herbicide is not recommended in wet conditions even if we could have dabbed it on rather than spraying in the wind. Wet grass would have quickly soaked our clothing and chilled us. Mt Taylor later told of sleet that afternoon.

So what will we do next time the weather lets us down?

- In the heat of summer we can switch to Tree Surveying.
- In windy conditions we can switch to a sheltered position.
- In rain, we cancel without a bright idea from someone.
- Ring Janice before 1.00 if you have doubts about the weather ☺

Coming Sunday meeting June 16th.

- 1.30 - 4 pm
- park at the Kambah Pony Club's parking area beyond the far end of Hake Street
- go right (east) to the park entrance leading up to the big *Eucalyptus bridgesiana* where we will meet
- target: woody weeds on SW slopes of Mt Arawang
- bring hat, gloves, drink, snack, loppers or secateurs. Spray will be available
- a brief general meeting will follow.
- please note that children must not be close to where spray is being used but there is plenty for non-sprayers to do.
- Ring Janice before 1.00 if you have doubts about the weather.

Activity figures for May

Three members supplied data and are credited with 66 hours weeding. Newsletter and other administration accounted for a further 8 hours. As is clear from the survey replies this is a vast under representation of what actually goes on.

Contact Janice with your hours at the end of each month on 6288 3953 or e-mail at janice.paull@aph.gov.au) Could you please let Janice know what weeds you are removing

when you provide the statistics. This level of detail is forwarded to Ann Connolly. ☺

Promotion

Gösta and I spent a pleasant evening with the Weston Creek Garden Club in Stirling telling them about the activities of our group. We displayed a lot of reference material and fielded questions which showed that they were very familiar with the Ridge. We hope to show them round later in the year.

Official mention was made of Bess and David who are clearly remembered with great fondness. ☺

Web page

We now have a web page! You can find it at this location: <http://webone.com.au/~kpelling>. At the moment it is being hosted on the (free) site of a new member, Karina Pelling, who is having fun designing it. See Pauline's list of plants found on Coleman Ridge, read the article on the geology of the area by Dr J. F. Lindsay, view the newsletter and follow the links to other sites. Please send suggestions, photos, articles, URLs (Uniform Resource Locators) of interesting web sites for inclusion to: kpelling@webone.com.au. It's a site for all of us, so your ideas are very welcome. We will be looking for a new host in the future who wouldn't charge us too much - any ideas? ☺

May log

310502 cairn on Coleman Trig found to be partially demolished. ☺

Survey

A summary of the survey replies has been compiled by Janice, and is appended. It will be revised as more replies come in. ☺

Members

Pat and Mike have formally joined our group, caretaking the area inside the new horse fence up from the gate above Chauvel Circle. Mike has been working there for some months, obviously with contagious enthusiasm.

Another new member making waves is Karina who has been walking our tracks for years. Her love of the Ridge is reflected in her photographs and in the drive she is putting into setting up our web page. ☺

What's around

Family: POACEAE

The grass family

Two formidable native grasses - *Microlaena stipoides* and *Themeda australis*



Microlaena stipoides

(also referred to as *Ehrharta stipoides*)

Weeping Grass

Slender, tufted perennial.

Palatable to stock, persistent under grazing, in good conditions remains green throughout the year.

From Greek *micros* - small; *laina* - cloak referring to 2 outer glumes.



Themeda australis

Kangaroo Grass

Tufted perennial.

Does not persist well under heavy grazing, and can be out-competed by introduced grasses.

Themeda from Arabic *thamed* - clay-pan; *australis* from Latin - southern.

Both these grasses are spreading on the Ridge. *Microlaena* is forming large pools of bright green at the expense of the exotic grasses. In moments of pessimism I wonder if it is doing *too* well.

Coleman Trig

My yelp for help was answered by long-time member David who has volunteered to caretake Coleman Trig and to keep the pamphlet box charged. We met on the frosty summit to look at the problems and go through the dispiriting plant list I had compiled - 34 species of which 14 are exotic. The predominant scourge is Spurge *Euphorbia depauperata* and we found it to have a challenging root system: David is going into action with assorted geological tools. The cairn has been partially demolished and the question remains - what to do with the now-untidy pile of rock (all local, David tells me). ☺

Stop press

Today, June 5th, Malcolm, Gösta and I met Rod Hillman (East District Manager of Environment ACT) to view the earth works above Chauvel Circle and inside CNP. The project was discovered by Athlon Drive rangers during a routine inspection last Friday and immediately reported to

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Rod who had all activity stopped. Rod is sorting through a web of Transact, ACTEW, ACT Roads, their various

contractors and sub-contractors who have been rolling out cables, clearing sumps and goodness knows what else. With the imminent risk of erosion from the forecast rain, and the certainty of weed infestation in mind the denuded area has been covered by a dry-land mix of bitumenised hay and sown with ryecorn seed. This is a stop gap till Spring when carefully sourced *Themeda* will be sown.

We are impressed by the prompt and decisive action taken by Rod and his staff. ☺

Needlepoint

Perhaps it was a bit foolhardy asking as we did in the survey what people thought we should concentrate on. I dreamt someone handed me a five metre long tapestry for us to complete. Started by Bess. Mostly in bright yellow. What grueling standards Bess set for us! ☺