



# COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter May  
2005

## Previous Sunday meeting,

April 17<sup>th</sup>

In spite of the disappointment of having to postpone Meg's Reptile Walk till springtime, we still fielded three teams to cut and dab woody weeds on the western side of Cooleman Trig.

Woody weeds have been enjoying a respite since the days when Bess and David kept them in check. Although we deal with them in our group and individual areas, there is a lot more territory that needs covering. In the end it boils down to person power, time and priorities. We spent a strenuous, rewarding afternoon, and at 3.45 we resolutely returned to our packs looking neither to right or to left: just pausing to strike at any specimen directly under foot. We covered the upper hillside, as well as quite a lot of ground below the track: my guesstimate is that we scored up to 200 Briars, 9 Pyracanthas, 3 Cottoneasters and 1 Prunus.

For anyone who enjoys a vigorous workout, finds hands-and-knees weeding a chore and is prepared to spend a little time doing CNP's Chemical Course, appointment as the Group's Roving Woody Weeder would be ideal. Bonus: flexitime and fresh air. ☼

## Future programme

*Provisionally 2005 looks like this, rotating through the three Group Areas (GA) when there is no special programme:*

May 15<sup>th</sup> GAC/Darrell weeding, plant ID  
June 5<sup>th</sup> World Environment Day – see below  
June 19<sup>th</sup> GA weeding, fuel assessment, plant ID  
July 17<sup>th</sup> Lichen Walk – Jack Elix  
August 21<sup>st</sup> GA weeding, fuel assessment, plant ID  
Sep 18<sup>th</sup> Brendan Lepski Plant Walk  
Oct 16<sup>th</sup> ? AGM  
Nov 20<sup>th</sup> GA weeding, fuel assessment, plant ID  
Dec 18<sup>th</sup> GA weeding, fuel assessment, plant ID ☼

## World Environment Day

We are arranging a Ranger Guided Walk on 5<sup>th</sup> June, starting from Kathner St. at 10 am. We will take the interested public round our Trail and show off the new notice board.

Join in and mingle! ☼

## Next Sunday meeting, May 15<sup>th</sup>

- GAC/Darrell for weeding and plant ID
- 1.30 - 4 pm
- meet at Darrell Place, or GAC/Darrell
- bring hat, gloves, weeder, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet ☼

## Echidna ?

Jenny reports that there seems to be renewed activity at the Echidna burrow we have been watching since the end of last year. She and Erika speculate that the record warm weather has led to a second crop. We'll see if the activity pattern repeats itself. ☼

## Cane toads

Not yet – in fact we're outside the area of predicted distribution.

In a recent article in *The Christian Science Monitor* two US researchers "give the world a 'D' for efforts during the past decade to control invasive species, while Australia earns one of the few 'A's'."

Australia is still left "struggling to deal with a legacy of ecosystem-ravaging arrivals that predate the tighter controls."

We struggle on. ☼

## Cootamundra Wattle

Angela writes that the Cootamundra patches have been put on the District's spray program though she is unable to tell us when this task will be undertaken. ☼

## Notice Board

Our eagerly-awaited notice board, financed by the Weston Creek Rotary Club is now at the Athllon Drive depot, and our ranger, Graham Heanes, will be erecting it opposite the Olympic Site. Angela will contact us when it is ready, and we have pictures and text to pin up telling passers-by of our activities.

Who knows how many new members it will recruit us? ☼

## April log

170405 *Hibbertia* sp. flowering E3 – new to Ridge  
290405 more echidna activity ☼



## What's around

Family: Poaceae



\**Bromus cartharticus* – Prairie Grass  
Densely tufted annual or perennial  
to 1m  
*bromus* from Gr. for oats  
Native of America, Asia, Africa



*Panicum effusum* – Hairy Panic Grass  
Native, tufted perennial to 70 cm  
L: used by Pliny for tufted wheat  
*effusum* L: loosely spreading ☼

### Insurance and incorporation

Notes from Angela of the information meeting:

#### Insurance

- As at 1 April 2005, the ACT Government took out insurance cover for individual Urban Landcare, Rural Landcare and Park Care groups.
- The coverage includes broad 'landcare activities'
- There is no longer a need for individual members of Park Care / Landcare groups to join Catchment Groups (unless they wish to do so)
- A copy of volunteer sign on sheets should, in future, be provided to the appropriate Park Care coordinator on a regular basis.

#### Incorporation

- It is acknowledged that information received in the past regarding incorporations now appears to have been incorrect - groups have previously been advised to unincorporate (and many have already done so). This has obviously caused some confusion and inconvenience to groups, for which we apologise.
- Current information indicates that there is a risk (however small) that a 'known entity' (a group which isn't incorporated but is still known to exist) may be open to being sued. Individual members of the group would then be liable, whereas if an incorporated group were sued - individual liability is then shifted

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- to the incorporated entity and only the assets of the entity are vulnerable.
- The Registrar General's Office advises that Catchment Groups can amend their constitution to include a statement to the effect that all member Landcare and Park Care groups are covered by the Catchment Group incorporation - Catchment groups will now look at their constitutions and consider appropriate amendments to achieve this.
- Regardless of the above dot point, if a group is active and holds its own funds, it should be incorporated in its own right.
- If groups are still unsure of their situation they should seek their own legal advice about becoming incorporated.
- ACT Government will pay the initial costs of groups becoming incorporated if they decide to do so. ☼

### Chapman School

Classes take turns visiting their area each Thursday afternoon, topping up the pamphlet box, walking the trail, getting to know the natives and learning which weeds to remove.

So take a pamphlet and stroll around to see the improvement that has already been made. ☼