



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter September

2008

Previous Sunday Meeting August 17th

The afternoon was spent exposing and removing regrowth of the blackberry patch at Group Area South/Arawang. We had sprayed here in November 2007, and suspect that the patch was sprayed again since then. The resultant enormous pile of canes was dragged to the road over the next few days by Arminel and Pat who drove it to Corkhills Green Waste facility at Mugga Lane.

Arminel chatted up a retired farmer who showed interest in and enthusiasm for the project, exchanging contact details.

The day was Rohan's 12th Park Care Anniversary – and to celebrate he's going overseas etc. till January. ☼

Future programme

Next meeting, Sunday September 21st

- Nature Trail for clearing exotic growth from the track and surroundings. Inspect the Inner Protection Zone works. Plant ID
- 1.30-4 pm
- meet at the Kathner St entrance, or on the Trail
- bring hat, gloves, hacker, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet.

Saturday 11th October: Focus on Feathers –Parks Week walk to be led by Tobias Hayashi. Numbers will be limited to 20. RSVP: Arminel Ryan, president, by Friday 10th October. Phone: 6231 7392. You will then be told time and place of meeting.

Sunday 19th October: short AGM at GAN/Chauvel, followed by weed removal and plant ID ☼

Landcare Week Morning Tea.

Members and guests came along to the Kathner St dam by 10am on what was a doubtful, but ultimately dry, Friday morning (5th September). Catering was lavish, and Arminel's embroidered heritage serviettes contributed to the atmosphere.

With recharged energy we paused by the choughs' nest, abandoned last year but recently extended upwards. One bird appeared to be on egg-duty while 2 more were foraging higher up Fence Post Hill.

We were delighted to be able to show Sam Ning and Rachael Dawes (Parks, Conservation and Lands) the progress we have made in regenerating the area, at the same time providing encouragement and inspiration to recent members.

A highlight was coming on a cloud of Red-browed Finches (Firetails), as well as Weebills, Wrens and Thornbills ☼

Census of the Vascular Plants of the ACT

Here is Part 5 – from Brendan Lepschi's detailed response to our worries. See recent newsletters for Parts 1, 2, 3 & 4

"The Australian botanical community has recently (2005) embarked on an ambitious project aimed at producing a nationally agreed, recommended taxonomy and nomenclature for the Australian flora, to be provided in electronic form and updated as new information appears. This is the Australian Plant Census (APC), which arose partly from the ashes of the now defunct What's Its Name? (WIN) database. The main advantage of the APC over all previous attempts at a national census is that it is NOT the opinion of one person or one institution (e.g. WIN, which was essentially the view of the Australian National Herbarium), but rather is a nationally agreed, consensus view. For more info on the APC see <http://www.anbg.gov.au/chah/apc/index.html>

"The APC is the closest we have ever come to a 'single point of truth' for Australian plant names, although I do stress that the APC is NOT COMPLETE. We are working through the flora on a family by family basis, and so far have completed some large groups such as Proteaceae and Mimosaceae, but many other families like the Asteraceae, Fabaceae and Orchidaceae remain to be done. The APC page has a listing of completed families – note that you can search on any group for the APC, but only those treated will return authoritative data. Untreated groups will return names, but these may not reflect the latest view."

Brendan Lepschi, Curator, Australian National Herbarium;

Brendan.Lepschi@csiro.au; (02) 6246 5167 ☼

Adventures in taxonomy

For some time we have been watching a group of *Einadia* plants that don't produce the succulent red berries we have taken as typical of *Einadia nutans subsp. nutans*. Following the key in the Flora of NSW we settled on *E. polygonoides*.

At last comes the time to submit a dried specimen to the herbarium and I get a friendly call from Dave Mallinson at close of business one Friday explaining that it is actually *E. nutans subsp. nutans*.

I mull over this unhappily and late Monday send Dave scans of the red berried plant and the curiosity we had found, showing more clearly the flimsy white sphere surrounding the dry seed.

At first light Tuesday Dave is on the phone again, elaborating patiently and in greater detail what he had previously told me. It seems the key in the Flora is inadequate, not having been updated since Bentham's day (1800-1884). *E. polygonoides* is a markedly different plant, and the fact that our specimen doesn't produce succulent red berries is irrelevant.

Lessons learned:

- things may well be what they don't seem to be
- you will get a sympathetic and helpful response from the Herbarium staff. ☼

What's around Photos by Tobias Hayashi



Red-browed Finch/Firetail



Weebill

Fuel reduction

The rock removal project briefing on August 1st was held at Malcolm's home due to rain (which tends to come on Fridays) with Samantha Ning, Allan Bendall and Ross Burdon representing Parks, Conservation and Lands. Allan described in some detail the procedure to be followed in the Inner Protection Zone (IPZ) at the urban-park interface.

Gösta has since talked to Allan, who kindly sent maps of areas slated for rock removal in order to facilitate slashing in a zone 30 metres from houses backing Cooleman Ridge. Gösta is happy to forward the maps by email to any member who is able to receive 1.6 Mb of attachment. gosta@webone.com.au

The rock removal was overseen by an ecologist and where Pink-tailed Legless Lizards (*Aprasia parapulcella*) were found the project was appropriately amended.

On Tuesday September 9th Allan reported that though he didn't have the exact numbers to hand they've found approximately 20 *Aprasia p.* so far in the areas where work has been done. About 10 were found where rocks were being moved but so far all these have been relocated within the same area as there was suitable habitat left after the works. ☺

Weed Swap

(Sounds an interesting challenge, but I'm afraid they mean your garden weeds. – Ed)

Swap your weeds for local native seedlings for free!

When: Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th October 2008 from 8.30am to 4pm daily. Where: Corkhill Bros Landscaping yard near the Mugga Lane tip and Canberra Sand & Gravel's yard at Southern Cross Drive, Parkwood. ☺

Promotional brochure

Courtesy of a grant from Canberra Southern Cross Club and a lot of effort from Arminel a three-fold leaflet has been produced for distribution to households in West Kambah, Chapman, Rivett, Fisher, Stirling, and Duffy.

Thanks to everyone who reported on its delivery. ☺

DRAFT: TOWARDS A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR COOLEMAN RIDGE CANBERRA NATURE PARK (cont) Policies of fire management - Options for the protection of life and property (cont)

It is suggested that the Ridge be divided into two zones. One would be a priority zone for fuel minimization; the other would be a priority zone for environmental purposes. The former zone would be narrow and extend around the perimeter of the Ridge and possibly across the Ridge near its narrowest part (where the 'rectangular reservoir' is to be found).

It is apparent that when the fire management of particular areas is being considered that attention to detail is necessary and even to the point of knowing where individual problem trees may be. Thus a detailed fire management plan for the Ridge is needed. The suggestions made above should be taken into account. Suppression strategies have not been considered here but these should be explicit in the Plan.

Note: the whole draft, submitted in 1998, can be read on our web site. ☺

Membership Register

Following the rules of the Incorporations Act we now have an Excel file of our members. We have 30 members and another 24 non-member supporters. A member is a person who has made a membership application and been accepted; there is no membership fee. After two years of inactivity, a member becomes a non-member supporter, still getting the newsletter until explicitly wishing to be crossed off the circulation list.

The register contains names, contact details and year of joining the group. Please send me your year of joining as well as any change of address, email address or phone number.

Gösta (as secretary) gosta@webone.com.au ☺

Black Mountain Spring Wildflower Celebration

Saturday 11 October 2008

Meet from 9.15am at the Belconnen Way entry just before Caswell Drive and the new freeway overpass.

Contact Jean Geue on 6251 1601. ☺