



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter August 2011

Previous Sunday meeting 17th July GAN Chauvel

Seven of us had a rewarding winter afternoon at Group Area North. The hayed off remnants of last year's extraordinary native grass crop still stand high, and the work done previously to remove *Phalaris aquatica* clumps is showing dividends. Encouraged, the mattock folk attacked more *Phalaris*.

The patch of St John's Wort *Hypericum perforatum* has returned with renewed vigour. We'll poison it later.

Weeds such as Saffron Thistle *Carthamus lanatus*, thriving at this site last spring, haven't shown up so far. There were a few seedlings of Paterson's Curse *Echium plantagineum*, but they were struggling in the dry, cold conditions.

The stayers enjoyed a cuppa and catch-up at the Kathner Street carpark before heading off home.

ANBG FREE Spring events

These include:

Thursday 1 Sept 11 am **Wattle Day Walk** followed by talk at 12.30 by Terry Fewtrell:
Wattle Day – an Essential Part of the Australian Narrative. Wattle walks run daily 11 am 1 – 7 September

During Floriade 17 September – 16 October there will be

Weekend Tuckertime Walks 12.30 and 1.30 pm on Saturdays and Sundays

Daily Spring Flower Walks 11 am and 2 pm
Meet at the Visitor Centre. No bookings required.

Enquiries: call the Visitor Centre: 6250 9540.

Future programme

Next meeting, Sunday 21st August

- 1.30-4 pm
- Group Area Central Darrell Place Chapman.
- meet at Group Area Central
- bring hat, gloves, hacker, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet. ☼

Working Bee with Weston Creek Joeys and Scouts, Saturday 28th August

- 1.30-4 pm
- Kathner Street Dam
- Revegetation and transplantation (Local *Dianella* and *Cassinia* sp.) with Joeys
- Removal of woody weeds with Scouts

Help! Members needed to supervise this! Please volunteer! Ring Arminel 6231 7392.

Rabbits, Foxes etc

Simon Corbell MLA, our Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, has released the draft ACT Pest Animal Management Strategy for public comment. View the draft strategy and guidelines for submissions at: www.environment.act.gov.au/environment/pams Hard copies can be obtained by emailing your postal address to alison.mcinnis@act.gov.au Submissions are due by COB 26 Sept 2011.

What a team!

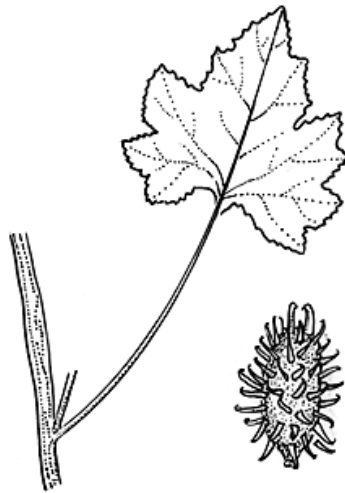
Thanks to committee members Doug and Anna for holding the fort during Arminel's absence in June/July.

What's around

**Xanthium occidentale* Syn. *Xanthium chinense*, *Xanthium pungens*
Common names Noogoora Burr, Cockle Burr. Native of the Americas

This noxious weed isn't common in the ACT, but we've had unusual seasonal conditions. Arminel found and removed a single large specimen not far from the fire trail near the Olympic site, at the northern end of the Ridge. Its ripe burrs were very conspicuous. The plant is unmistakable, even when frost-stricken and black. The burrs detach very easily, so the plant needs to be carefully bagged.

Drawing from
PlantNET Compiled
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Botanic Gardens &
Domain Trust, Sydney
Australia
See also WEEDeck
field guide card H24
(Sainty & Associates)



Family Asteraceae

Gk Aster = star
Gk xanthos = yellow
occidentale from Lat occidentis = the west

Description: This coarse, bushy herb belongs to the genus *Xanthium*, as does Bathurst Burr *Xanthium spinosum* (see newsletter June 2011).

It grows to 2 m high. The hairy, purplish stems have no spines. Hard burrs 7-25 mm long, covered with hooked spines and ending in 2 diverging stout straight spines.

Access to the Ridge

Stage 1 of the Drainage Works created access difficulties for Chapman residents, especially locals whose properties adjoin the Ridge.

One of our members made representations to Parks to have this matter addressed. As a result, there are new steps at Pelham Close and Lincoln Close.

There may be similar issues yet to address before the later stages of the drainage project are complete.

Meanwhile, a local wag has used texta to retitle the Cut-off Drain Fire Trail the "Stanhope Highway"!

Tree 404

This poor *Eucalyptus nortonii* has been lopped. Its branches are currently lying on either side of it, a potential funeral pyre for the stump. The process which was to have been followed by the drainage contractors hasn't entirely failed, but wasn't followed. We've felt disappointed and disgusted.

However, the tree itself is showing some shoots, so there's life in it yet. Let's hope that dendrochronologist Matt Brookhouse eventually gets his tree-ring samples.

Slightly Uncoordinated

Jenny Conolly has moved on. She started her new position as Weeds Ranger at Athllon Drive on 10 August.

At this stage, the Parkcare Landcare Coordinator position has not been filled, but should be shortly. In the meantime, Jenny will do her best to provide assistance. Her mobile number is now 0409 595 483.

We wish Jenny all the best and thank her sincerely for her time coordinating our motley crew.

(Incidentally, we are very pleased that the Government found money for these new weeds positions. A number of members made representations protesting about neglect of this essential maintenance task and opposing further resource reductions. Maybe the whingeing worked. Maybe we should be writing more and weeding less!)

Hours

Please remember to let Doug know your monthly tally of hours worked on park care: tinneydoug@hotmail.com