



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP Newsletter April 2003

Previous Sunday meeting, March 23rd

Malcolm's tree-measuring project was again the focus of our work party. In two groups of four we recorded the girth of all the larger trees (girth greater than 1 m). Then we measured the girth of any fallen branches, close to the break-off point. Malcolm explained that this would enable him to estimate the percentage of crown loss, and monitor the development of habitat hollows. Taking up where we left off last month, we worked to the west of the fire trail through the Olympic site to the second dam. While the tape-measuring was going on, two runners took GPS readings of the trees that had lost tags during the fire. On the walk back to Kathner St we collected tree stakes and stacked them along the trail for Vivien to remove. One diligent caretaker stuck to chipping out *Echium plantagineum*. ☼

Next Sunday meeting, April 27th

As a special treat, we'll chip thistles at the Mt Arawang end.

Note change from third Sunday to avoid Easter

- 1.30 - 4 pm
- meet at Namatjira Drive entrance
- bring hat, gloves, drink, snack, mattock or chipper ☼

Future programme

May 18th to be decided

June 15th to be decided ☼

Once a caretaker, always caring

Sandy writes:

I had been up on the ridge late February, things were already starting to grow, I thought I knew my patch well but with no clothes on it was a little strange. A few of my trees have had it but a lot are shooting. The beehive in one was still there and also in one near the dam, a Cocky was having a drink of honey from it. I certainly feel positive about the whole Ridge.

Weed swap 2003

The Australian Native Plants Society is again offering **FREE** Australian native plants to those who remove invasive woody weeds from their gardens. The free plants have been grown using funding from a Natural Heritage Trust grant applied for through Environment ACT. The WEED SWAP will take place on April 12th & 13th at the Green Waste Recycling sites:

CANBERRA SAND & GRAVEL near the former Belconnen tip

CORKHILL BROS near the Mugga Lane tip

Contact Rosemary Blemings: Phone 6258 4724 (h) .
☼

Committee meeting

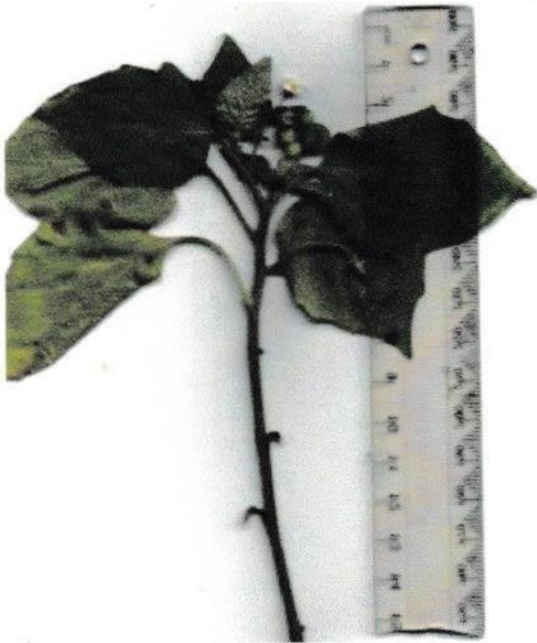
13th March. We were fortunate that Vivien made time to come, and she had much to tell.

- Contractors have been engaged for \$38 000 to remove iron and other debris from the Ridge – this is not our job
- Next spring, summer and autumn contractors will grapple with woody weeds (which include *Hypericum perforatum* – St John's Wort). Blackberries need spring growth for effective spraying. Again, not our job. We stick to herbaceous weeds
- *Phalaris* will have been heavily hit by the fire and the grazing of kangaroos. This is a good time for trial management plots, perhaps leading to future ecological burns
- All damaged wooden structures will be replaced by metal – fence posts, bridges etc. Doug undertook to make a general Ridge survey and report findings to Vivien ☼

March log

140303 *Tricorine elatior*, *Eryngium rostratum* showing in Reet's area
230303 *Glycine clandestina*, **Solanum nigrum* flowering

What's around



Family: SOLANACEAE
Solanum nigrum - Black Nightshade
Exotic herb



Family: CYPERACEAE
Cyperus eragrostis: Umbrella Sedge
Exotic herb ☼

Hip hop hurray

Gösta is enjoying his new hip and will soon be tossing the crutches. ☼

The Tree Survey

Gösta writes:

Good News: Both Judith Harvey and David MacKenzie have sent me copies of the tree survey data that I supplied them with some time ago, so most of the information is now stored and organised in the Filemaker data base.

Less Good News: The tree photos that were taken and stored on my bookshelf Jan 18 are irretrievably lost.

Least Good News: Data and photos for the last half year, among which are those from Arawang (Tina's area) have all gone.

Future: Tree survey goes on, now in concert with Malcolm's project. We are planning to go totally digital for photos as well as for data recording. We have also decided not to tag/ re-tag trees but define them by GPS data and photo. ☼

Web address

is www.webone.com.au/~kPELLING

Check for up-dates. ☼

New interest

Matt came along on a Friday morning to see what we are doing. With his background in land management, he is eager to follow the emergence of tree seedlings, given the probable wide dispersion of seed during the chaotic conditions generated by the fire. We found a vigorous young Kurrajong growing in the shelter of the shattered remains of an old tree quite a distance from possible parent trees at the track junction above Kathner St. (When we have the tree data under control we'll be able to pin -point locations and distances. One measurement beats a thousand words). Matt is surveying the Ridge with a view to later seed collection and propagation. ☼

Tools, stakes, woody weeds

We're compiling an inventory of all equipment held on behalf of CNP, noting whether repairs, sharpening or replacement are called for.

Caretakers are asked to remove no-longer-useful wooden stake from their areas and leave them by the trail for Vivien to collect.

Note location of woody weed infestations for the spring spraying programme.

Contact Janice with all this information and she will pass it on to Vivien.

Janice: phone 6288 3953 (h)

email janice.paull@aph.gov.au . ☼

280303 *Oxalis* sp., *Alternanthera nana* flowering.
Bursaria lasiophylla shooting basally ☼