



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter February 2004

June 20th – above Chauvel Circle, weeding

July 18th – Arawang, weeding

August 15th – Central, weeding

September 19th – tree survey

October 17th – theme walk

November 21st – Chauvel Circle, weeding

December 19th – waterwatch old dam. ☼

Previous Sunday meeting, January 18th

Twelve months to the day after the fire we were back assessing the trees in Area 1. Malcolm had prepared forms on which to enter the data he wanted us to collect, and the three GPSes were calibrated – one for each team of observers. This was the inaugural event for the Group's 2nd GPS. In addition, all three teams carried a pair of binoculars and a tape measure.

At each tree a GPS reading was recorded if no identification number could be found. Then the girth was measured at chest height, the extent of regrowth assessed, the canopy scanned for dead or recovering mistletoe as well as flower buds (binoculars essential here), and the presence of seedlings noted.

Brisk work enabled us to cover over 70 trees, providing Malcolm with a good body of data. ☼

Next Sunday meeting, February 15th

Weeding above Chauvel Circle. This lovely area is one we propose caring for as a group – there is no individual caretaker working here.

- 1.30 - 4 pm
- meet at Kathner St
- bring hat, gloves, weeder, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet ☼

January log

020104 **Eleusine tristichya* flowering

300104 **Pinus radiata* seedling Fencepost Hill

Wombat excavation at old dam ☼

Future programme

Provisionally the year looks like this:

February 15th – above Chauvel Circle, group area, weeding

March 21st – Arawang, group area, weeding

April 18th – theme walk, details later

May 16th – group area towards centre of Ridge, weeding

How's the old dam going?

“The third weekend in the month (or days either side) is the time the old dam on the west side of the Ridge is tested for water quality and condition. This is part of Environment ACT's CAMPFIRE (Community Assessment Monitoring Program for Fire Impacted River Ecology) project. Apart from winning the tortured acronym of the year award, somebody in Environment ACT thought it might be a good opportunity to get some data on the recovery of waterways after fire. Sounds good, but what's in it for us?

Well, we get access to a test kit and keep an eye on an element of the Ridge which is largely taken for granted. In January the water level was lower than in recent observations, clearly reflecting the dry spell. Since then, we've had a couple of good storms so I'm hoping the level will be getting back to “normal”. Analysis of the water suggests turbidity has improved while other indicators such as dissolved oxygen and pH levels have gone up but are still within acceptable levels. Likewise orthophosphate levels increased since the previous observation but are still good.

Aquatic plant growth was evident. Unlike the Kathner Street dam, the old dam is not choked by plant growth and harbours numerous turtles. The resident black snake (not seen since before the fire) was observed nonchalantly foraging and ignoring the testers' presence. Perhaps not surprisingly, no frogs were heard. This contrasts to the numerous calls noted during Spring. On the soft edge was a large hole excavated by what appeared to be a wombat. It was the correct size of hole for a wombat and clearly showed large and powerful digging claw marks. Hás

Pauline Lyngå, 6288 7009, gosta@webone.com.au February 2004

anybody noted evidence of wombats on the Ridge?

Plenty of rabbits and foxes, but wombats?" Doug. ☼

What's around

POACEAE



Gramineae

Chloris truncata – Windmill Grass
Erect perennial native to 50 cm
chloros Gr: green, *truncata* abruptly cut off

Stats

Please tell Doug how much time you have spent on Park Care at the end of each month. He passes this information on to Steve at Athllon Drive. It is important that we impress upon Environment ACT that we are a functioning group to be taken seriously. Without this record they will never know.

(Doug – phone 6288 8589,
e-mail tinneydoug@hotmail.com). ☼

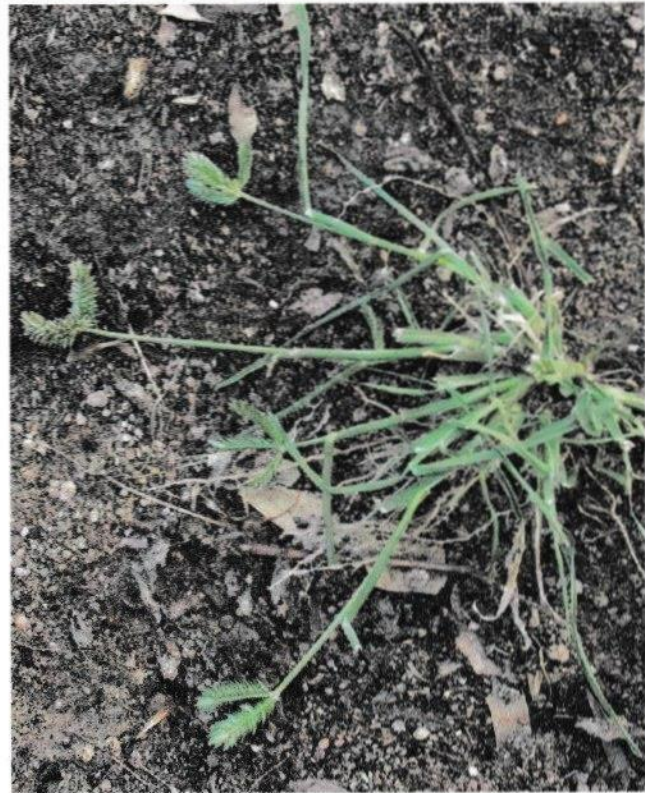
Equipment

Through the Southern ACT Catchment Group, we were allocated \$410 from the Volunteer Small Equipment Grants Program to replenish our stocks of hardware. This windfall purchased two long handled mattocks; three small picks (about a kilogram); two more small picks but with fibre glass rather than wooden handles; four mini-picks (about half a kilogram (easy to fit in a back pack); two loppers; three pruning saws and two pair of gloves (a large and a medium).

This cache currently is held by Doug. If anybody wants to borrow some of this gear, either on temporary

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poa Gr. meadow grass. The Grass family. Previously



or permanent loan, give him a ring (see Stats above). ☼

**Eleusine tristachya* - Goose Grass
Tufted annual or perennial to 40 cm
Eleusis, earthly home of Demeter, Gr. goddess of agriculture
tri Gr. three, *stichos* Gr. row
Native of S. America ☼

Equipment (cont)

If you are holding any Group equipment, please let Doug know so that he can complete the inventory. By all means keep it and use it (see Stats above). ☼

Our own web site

The address for the Park Care Group's web site is as follows: <http://members.iinet.net.au/~kpelling/> ☼

Native seed project

-collection, storage and use of native seeds.
Activities include:

“Seeds on Mondays”

Monday mornings are ear-marked for seed collection and/or processing. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. You need: insect repellent, gloves, secateurs, bottle of water, sturdy walking shoes.

For further details, contact Stefanie Straub, Urban
Landcare Coordinator, Canberra Urban Parks and
Places

e-mail stefanie.straub@act.gov.au

mobile 0419 989 972, wk 6207 2484 ☉