



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter October 2004

Previous Sunday meeting, September 19th

In 1996 the Ridge was divided into 8 areas, and one volunteer was found to coordinate data collection on the trees growing in each. One of the first conclusions to be reached following a control burn was that aluminium number tags do not survive fire. Identification came to be based on GPS readings and photographs. The trees were to be reassessed at 5 yearly intervals. Even with the best will in the world, this proved to be a daunting task. However, many trees were investigated, and a lot of experience gained.

After the 2003 fire, Naarilla was the only tree surveyor with surviving photographs, and these added a lot of interest to our look at her area when we recorded the state of recovery of individual trees up from Guinness Place. It is encouraging to find how good our members are at identifying local species, though introduced eucalypts remain baffling. A nice find was two geckos under the bark of one tree.

Gradually the sky filled with spectacular storm clouds, and the last crumbs of Gösta's cake were swallowed on the way back to the parking spot. ☼

Next Sunday meeting, October 17th

AGM - followed by the option of weeding

- 1.30 - 4 pm
- meet at Darrell Place or proceed to GAC/Darrell
- bring hat, gloves, weeder, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet ☼

Future programme

Provisionally the year looks like this:

October 17th - **AGM** GAC/Darrell, and weeding
October 19th Nowra Australian Native Plant Society
November 21st - GAN/Chauvel, weeding
December 19th - waterwatch old dam. ☼

September log

030904 mouse Fencepost Hill
190904 2 geckos up from Guinness Place ☼

AGM

The agenda

1. Introduction
 2. Minutes of the previous meeting
 3. Reports from a) president b) secretary c) treasurer d) project officer
 4. Election of office holders
 5. Other business, which may include discussion of Nature Trail, pros and cons of dis-incorporation, next year's programme, community walk, afternoon tea
- The election of office holders is a non-threatening procedure usually taking up minimal time. However you are welcome to add some spice by challenging an incumbent.

This is a good time for those who do and those who don't come to Group activities to get acquainted, and to see the effectiveness of the new policy of concentrating Group activities to weeding Group areas ☼

Nowra Australian Native Plant Society

On Tuesday 19th the Nowra branch of ANPS will be in Canberra to coincide with Floriade. Their leader Suellen has arranged for the group of about 14 to meet us at the Kathner St entrance at 10 a.m. and spend till 11.45 a.m. with us. They are interested in the post-fire regeneration, and looking generally at the local species. They come provided with morning tea: let's have as many as possible of our own people present, with morning tea to share (This is another contact made via our well-respected web site; interest has also been shown by people in WA!) ☼

Farrer Ridge Nature Trail Opening

Four from our Cooleman Ridge team, people from Mt Taylor as well as Meg, the ranger, joined with Wendy Rainbird, Jennie Widdowson and others from the Farrer Ridge Park Care Group for a pleasant walk along their new Nature Trail. The track winds over the hills, through some impressive eucalypt groves and past large stands of *Indigofera* and *Hardenbergia*. The Farrer Group has done a lot of weeding and planting in addition to preparing this 1½ km walk. Along the trail a dozen boxes contain interesting information as well as Jennie's lovely colour photos. Sadly, several of the boxes had already been vandalised, the plastic broken, photos destroyed or covered by stickers. Seems as if the option of numbered posts and an explanatory pamphlet may be preferable. Gösta ☼

What's around



FABACEAE – *faba* L. bean. The Pea family
subfamily Faboideae

Indigofera australis

Australian indigo

Native shrub to 2.5 m.

Indigo – a blue dye originally from such plants.

australis L: southern

Southern ACT Catchment Group AGM

Jenny Horsfield was re-elected President

Derek Wrigley spoke about sustainable housing. The Group purchased two copies of his new book *Making your Home Sustainable* and these are available to members of the Group. If anyone is interested in borrowing a copy Janice will try to obtain one for them at the next meeting. Contact her on: phone 6288 3953, e-mail: janice.paull@aph.gov.au ☼

Muffy

Most Friday mornings I meet Louise and Muffy taking one of their twice daily walks. Louise is keenly interested in our activities and has her own little spot for personal weeding. It's clear that far more people than we are aware of are lavishing love and care on the Ridge ☼

Web site

Please note that the web site URL is:

<http://coolemanridge.inventivedingo.com> ☼

Chapman Primary

The children ended term with a session of seed propagation. When school resumes they will take over daily care, eagerly awaiting the appearance of eucalypt and *Themeda* seedlings. This will lead to further planting exercises on the Ridge. ☼



PLANTAGINACEAE – *plantago* L. plantain.

The Plantain family

Plantago varia – Native Plantain

Native perennial herb

varia L: different

Note toothed leaf; the flower spike will eventually lengthen. See newsletter Jan 2002. ☼

Conservation volunteers

Sunday 26th a team supported by ranger Graham Heanes planted *Themeda* and *Vittadinia* seedlings on the Kathner St dam wall, and inside the fence where Gösta weeds. All this after a solid spell of mattocking *Phalaris*. We really appreciate the help, and look forward to future collaboration. Gösta and I enjoyed working with the group. ☼

Spray programme

I have not been able to obtain a programme specific to Cooleman Ridge. However, Paterson's Curse was to be treated at the end of September. From the programme for the ACT it seems it may be targeted again in the autumn of 2005. St. John's Wort and woody weeds are down for November-December, Scotch Thistle late Sept and no time given for blackberry. ☼

Information overload

More info about meetings and courses comes in than can be squeezed into the newsletters.

If you wish to know about the following please contact

Angela; ph. 6207 2193 Angela.Calliess@act.gov.au

Greening Australia Birdscape Training Day

Sunday 10th October 2004 Time: 9.30am

7 Earthwatch fellowships available to members of environmental groups.

Frog watch training seminars, evenings 12th and 14th Oct

Power of parkcare: postponed until 131004 ☼