



# COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

## Newsletter December 2004

### Previous Sunday meeting, November 21st

Doug and Mary are practiced hands at *Waterwatch* and regularly check the condition of the old dam, down from Freebody Place. With a group of interested helpers they found that the dam was at a height not seen since 2002. The influx had left the water quite turbid, but not as bad as previous months, and other vital statistics reflected the flush. Surprisingly, no turtles were seen. Weed growth on the banks is extensive. Macroinvertebrates abounded, but the diversity of species was limited – just a lot of a few. Reet and I took a detour down through the plantation and ticked off 62 plant species of which 32 were exotic. In February 2000 I found 55 species of which 27 were exotic, whereas in May this year there were 32 species including 15 exotics. We were pleased to see that *Bulbine bulbosa* has spread into the area. Close to the dam we spotted the native *Linum marginale*, and growing in the water was the exotic *\*Veronica anagallis-aquatica*; both new recordings for the Ridge. ✪

### Next Sunday meeting, December 19<sup>th</sup>

GAN/Chauvel for fuel assessment, plant ID and weeding

- 1.30 - 4 pm
- meet at Kathner St or GAN/Chauvel
- bring hat, gloves, weeder, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet ✪

### Future programme

Some of next years events follow:

- Jan 16<sup>th</sup> GAC/Darrell weeding, fuel assessment
- Jan 18<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, Recovery Walk 5-7 p.m.
- Feb 20<sup>th</sup> Reptile Walk with Meg Doepel
- March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Thursday, evening picnic: weeds, plant ID, stars
- July 17<sup>th</sup> Lichen Walk with Jack Elix
- Sep 18<sup>th</sup> Brendan Lepski Plant Walk ✪

### November log

121104 *Pultenaea procumbens*, *\*Euphorbia depauperata* flowering, Cooleman trig  
211104 *Linum marginale*, *\*Veronica anagallis-aquatica* flowering ✪

### Pine seedlings

Seedlings of *\*Pinus radiata* are cropping up in the northern caretaker areas – three reported to date. Malcolm is keen to know the location of any you find, as an indication of the extent of dispersal of solid matter during the fire. ✪

### Snippets

**Environment ACT** is no longer part of the Department of Urban Services and has recently become part of the Chief Minister's Department. Operations will continue as normal.

**Rabbits** have not been reported at the northern end of the Ridge for some months, nor are there signs of recent activity. ✪

### Cooleman Trig

*Euphorbia depauperata* (Spurge) is flowering gaily on the Trig. However, David (the area caretaker) has spent a lot of time extracting it by the roots for bagging and removal. He sees the patches as considerably reduced and not as thick, an indication that hand weeding is being effective. He further reports that the burned out bridge over the ditch is replaced in dazzling steel, complete with handrails. Some burned out steps have been restored, in wood.

On the western side, briars and a blackberry are flourishing. We'll be holding a work party there. The *Brachyscome spathulata*, first seen last November, has been joined by a bush of *Pultenaea procumbens* which has recently appeared in Reet's area too. ✪

### War on Weeds Website

Vernon Bailey of the Friends of Mt Painter and Red Hill Regeneration groups is developing a website which identifies weeds and control methods for the local region. It's well worth checking out the site, at <http://waronweeds.topcities.com>.

Vernon would be pleased to receive feedback on [baileykv@pcug.org.au](mailto:baileykv@pcug.org.au)

Please note that our own web site URL is: <http://coolemanridge.inventivedingo.com> ✪

## What's around



EUPHORBIACEAE – the Spurge family  
\**Euphorbia depauperata* – Spurge  
exotic woody perennial to 80 cm  
Euphorbus, physician to King Juba of Mauritania  
Native of Africa. ✨

### Eucalypts and fire

In a Canberra Times article some months ago, Crispin Hull wrote of recovery of a eucalypt forest after fire. *"The fire destroys all the leaves and the extremities of smaller branches. This is the active part of the tree which before the fire produced a hormone that prevented buds from sprouting along the trunk and boughs. After the fire, the hormone can no longer be produced so the tree sprouts from the trunk and the major branches. Eventually some of these will dominate and the lesser ones will die and the tree will return to its normal look."* ✨

### SACTCG

Katie Hollingsworth tells us that she is resigning from the position of Catchment Coordinator, Southern ACT Catchment Group, to take up a permanent position with the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage

Good luck, Katie!

Briony Woolaston has been appointed as the new coordinator and will be commencing 6<sup>th</sup> of December. Welcome, Briony! ✨



SCROPHULARIACEAE  
\**Veronica anagallis-aquatica* – Blue Water-Speedwell  
exotic perennial herb to 80 cm growing in wet sites  
*vera* L: icon; *aqua*, L: water  
Native of Europe ✨

### Eleanor

Eleanor Stodart, who died early in the month, will be missed by many Canberrans - her wide circle of friends, those who worked with her on environmental issues, those who knew of her from her informed comment in the Canberra Times, her children's books and her art. Eleanor made the most of every breath and every step she took. ✨

### Recovery walk

The 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the fire, Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January, is the day we have chosen for our Recovery walk to which we are inviting Chapman residents and interested others. It is a big event to stage, and CNP is providing us with a lot of assistance. We'd like all our members to take part, and we may be calling for specific help. More details later, but please reserve 5pm to 7pm and come along. ✨

### Networking

I was too stressed/impatient to identify that \**Veronica anagallis-aquatica* myself so sent a digital picture to my sister in Sydney and slept well. Next morning her answer was in the inbox. Today she forwarded to me a query from a friend about a Wallaby grass with red flowers. Guess how swelled headed I am having supplied her with *Joycia/Chionochloa/Danthonia/Notodanthonia pallida!* ✨