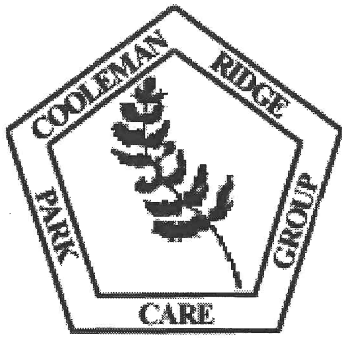


MSR  
919  
447  
2002

[ 1141326 ]



# COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE ROUP

## Newsletter August 2005

### Previous Sunday meeting, July 17<sup>th</sup>

Prof. Jack Elix lead us on a fascinating walk: starting from GAS/Arawang we climbed about half way up the Summit Track and ranged to either side as rocky outcrops beckoned. Many species of lichen were identified, and intriguing snippets of their life stories were recounted. Jack had answers to all our questions, and has since provided more details in response to e-mail queries. This was a truly rewarding afternoon and I'll compress some of our new knowledge into a paragraph later in the newsletter. Thanks a lot, Jack! ☼

### Future programme

*Provisionally 2005 looks like this, rotating through the three Group Areas (GA) when there is no special programme:*

- August 21<sup>st</sup> Vegetation assessment, GPS, Trial Area
- Sept 3rd Saturday at 10 am from the Kathner Street entrance: *Land Care Week Walk.*
- Sep 18<sup>th</sup> Brendan Lepschi Plant Walk
- Oct 16<sup>th</sup> ? AGM
- Nov 20<sup>th</sup> GA weeding, fuel assessment, plant ID
- Dec 18<sup>th</sup> GA weeding, fuel assessment, plant ID ☼

### Next Sunday meeting, August 21st

- Fuel reduction trial areas, vegetation assessment and GPS measurements
- 1.30 - 4 pm
- meet at Monkman St entrance, or at the water trough above Monkman St
- bring hat, gloves, weeder, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet.

Come and share your plant ID and GPS skills, or learn from those who already have them  
If you have a GPS, bring it along, as well as your reading glasses and a pen. ☼

### July log

- 080705 2 pairs wood ducks on Kathner St dam; 2 pairs in big trees of Olympic site.
- 2 foxes near Kathner St dam
- 170705 *Pteridium esculentum* Mt Arawang
- 220705 6 wood ducks, Kathner St dam
- 290705 1 wood duck Kathner St dam ☼

### Volunteer Small Equipment Grants

*Doug writes:* "As part of its program for 2005, the Department of Family and Community Services has awarded our group funds to spend on equipment viz. a new brushcutter and attachments, gloves and weeding picks. We now are well stocked with a new Honda 4-stroke brushcutter, an extra five small weed picks, two new garden mattocks and a couple of dozen Showa garden gloves of assorted sizes (small, medium and large). Along with last year's purchases of picks, gloves and loppers, we have a reasonable stock of equipment from which members may draw.

"If you need some gear or want to blast some weeds with one of our three working brushcutters, let me know (6288 8589, [tinneydoug@hotmail.com](mailto:tinneydoug@hotmail.com))."

### CVA

Conservation volunteers are young overseas visitors with a particular interest in the environment.

It has been agreed that we'll get two day's assistance from CVA teams when the inevitable paper work is in order. They will spend one Friday at the Kathner St end of the Ridge, where we'll be able to show them our regeneration progress while introducing them to the local vegetation. Several of our Friday caretakers will work with them.

On their other day they will concentrate on the Chapman Primary School area. Here they may take part in weeding, as well as in the planting of local species grown by students of Lanyon High School.

There are hopes that a Parents' Group will also become actively involved in the school's Trail area. ☼

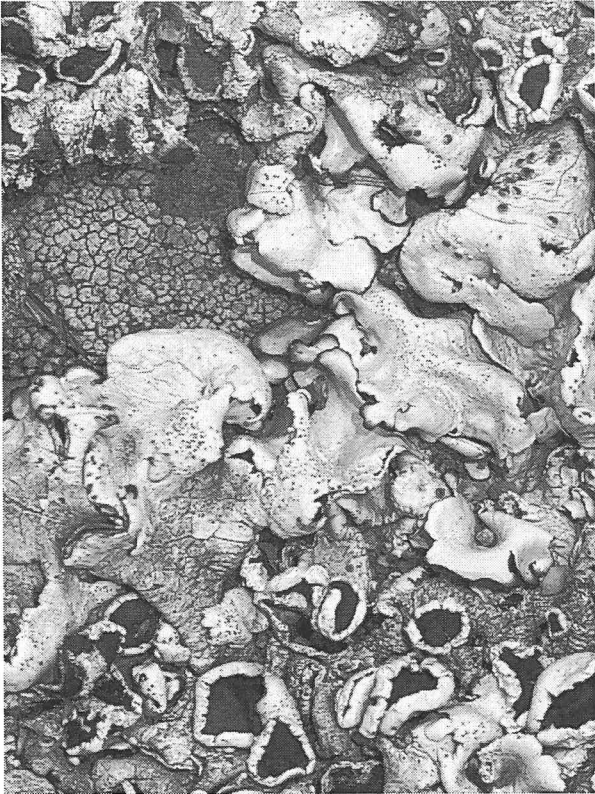
### CSIRO's insects

I found this on the back of an old Christmas card

**"The Australian National Insect Collection**  
"Insects are the most diverse of all land animals and are an integral part of the environment. There are more than 200 000 species of Australian insects, most of which have not yet been described by science.  
"The CSIRO's Australian National Insect Collection at the Division of Entomology in Canberra is the world's largest collection of Australian insects and is an important data base for research on biological control and the environment". ☼

## What's around

### Lichen



*Xanthoparmelia tasmanica* (magnified)



Various lichens and a moss ✧

### The world of lichens

There are some 30 000 species of these symbiotic fungal/algal associations, with 3 000 in Australia - there are more still to be discovered. About 25% of Australian species are endemic.

Reproduction of most lichens is vegetative, and these species predominate on oceanic islands. Lichens with fungal partners that produce spores presumably find their algae by chance.

Lichens have been gathered for the commercial dyeing of fibre – famously of Harris tweeds. They are grazed by reindeer, caribou and even wombats. Among their other predators are slugs, snails and millipedes

Many lichens grow on rock surfaces, though their fine roots – hyphae - may penetrate a metre, contributing to erosion *Rhizocarpon geographicum* earns its species name by establishing on every continent from the summit of Mt Everest to Antarctica where it grows attached to rocks - rocks which are often but not always under snow. It has even been found in rock cavities at the base of glaciers in Antarctica where the algal partner receives sunlight reflected through transparent ice. Different rock types carry different species, as do soil and bark.

(cont)

Amongst our finds on Mt Arawang were some common rock colonisers: yellow *Acarospora citrina* with its orange fruit, grey *Buellia substellulans*, orange brown and orange cupped *Caloplaca cinnabarinais*. *Xanthoparmelia filavszkyana* was there, and *Cladonia* which is a faster growing genus, on soil. Black *Collema* hydrated rapidly when we poured water on it.

“Check list of lichens of Australia” at the following web site is a useful one for checking spelling, and will eventually carry more detail.

<http://www.anbg.gov.au/abrs/lichenlist/introduction.html>

Once again we say *thanks* to Jack for introducing us to his world. ✧

### Herbarium

Our herbarium added fuel to the January 2003 fire, and at last it's growing again from scratch. It already has one species not represented in the original edition: *Pteridium esculentum* – Bracken, collected on Arawang during the Lichen Walk. ✧