



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter July

2009

Previous Sunday meeting June 21st

It didn't rain.

We began with a walk up the newly-surfaced access track (known locally as the Yellow Brick Road) that is circumvented by the Walking Trail. Heavy-handed drainage contractors have scarred Malcolm's caretaker area, leaving a daunting chaos of loose dirt, large rocks and cut logs.

Phalaris aquatica was the over-all loser in the afternoon's weeding activities, and it is pleasing to see the regenerating area sweeping down from the access track and under the fence to meet up with the Friday group's enclosure.

By early July the crushed granite surface of the Yellow Brick Road was being etched by the recent rain. Erosion gutters run beside the lowest of the 3 silt traps stretching across the denuded slope between the access track and the Walking Trail, and a gutter starts in the middle of that trap. The slope has been sown with what would seem to be sterile rye grass, but native grass seed may be spread here in the appropriate season. Kathner Street dam wall is also showing signs of erosion. ☼

Future programme

With the cooler months here, we have reverted to afternoon Sunday work parties.

Next meeting, Sunday 19th July

- GAN/Chauvel for clearing of exotic growth and plant ID
- 1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- meet at the Kathner St entrance or GAN/Chauvel
- bring hat, gloves, hacker, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet. ☼

Congratulations:

to Donna, Geoff and Samantha who have added baby William to their family. ☼

Householders

Check out the www.thinkwater.act.gov.au web site. There you can access the Canberra Plant Selector, the Water Efficiency Calculator, and more. ☼

Volunteers

Excerpt from the document *PLC Volunteer Policy and Procedures*. Contact paulyn@iinet.net.au if you wish to receive the online version of this document

“Working Alone

“PCL (Parks Conservation and Lands) does not encourage volunteers to work alone. However PCL recognises that there are a number of experienced volunteers who do so and the contribution of these volunteers is significant. PCL would ask volunteers who choose to work alone to report their movements to a friend or family member. Details such as location of work and expected time of return would be important information to convey to a second party.” ☼

Rabbiting on

In response to Nina Bruns email (below) we have sent her the warren coordinates recorded during RabbitScan month.

“I have transferred from PCL North where I started as a Ranger earlier this year. One of my roles as ranger for PCL South is to collect data on rabbit warren locations in each reserve in order to help PCL decide where to focus their efforts for rabbit control programmes in the future. I would like to involve park care groups by asking if they would like to lend a helping hand by mapping any rabbit burrows or warrens that they come across, either with a GPS or simply by marking them on a map of the reserve.

“Any information that you can give me would be most appreciated. If you would like to discuss this further the best way to contact me is via e-mail nina.bruns@act.gov.au or my office number is 62072969 but I may not answer it as I am usually out of the office.” ☼

Remember

Vice president Doug is acting president to the end of July while Arminel is absent on travels.

email: tinneydoug@hotmail.com.

phone: 6288 8589 ☼

Tree survey

Area 1 has now been covered 3 times: 1997, 2005 and 2009



No. 95: *Eucalyptus polyanthemos* – Red Box. Area 1

The latest data show its girth to be 2.6m (up from 2.45 in 1997), and its height to have increased to 18.4m from 13.5m. Crown: width = height, and is dense (1997: moderate.). Buds were seen, but no fruit. Its health was judged to be good; the only mistletoe was dead. There were many dead branches, and there was fire scarring of branches to 4 m from ground. The surrounding vegetation was predominantly exotic.

At the top of the Olympic site, with its almost unbroken predominance of exotic grasses, Tree Area 1 ended abruptly with *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* under foot. A quick glance at the group of trees we were making for showed that they were sheltering indigofera, goodenia, pultenaea..... We had strayed across an old fence line into Area 2. The fence had linked the corner of the agistment property with the gate that used to interrupt the Walking Trail above Fence Post Hill, and had been burned in the fire. All that remained were 2 concrete posts, and a subtle change in the character of the grasses on either side.

The morning was special as we met Senior Ranger South Side Lara Woollcombe out checking some issues that we had raised.

June's newsletter reported: "..... we were astonished to find that of the 23 trees we studied, 13 had been incinerated, many scarcely showing above the grass." Once the data were entered on the spread sheet it was seen that several of these trees had been recorded as dead in the 1997 census. This gives weight to the value of records. ☼

ANBG Lunchtime Talks

12:30 – 1:30 pm, Thursdays, February to November) in the Theatrette

- 16 Jul Brian Gunning, *Plants: the inside story*
- 23 July Pep Canadel, *Biosequestration*
- 30 July Michael Pickering, *Aboriginal Peoples and the Environment*
- 6 Aug Geoff Robertson, *Daisies of the Southern Tablelands* ☼

Trail opening

Story: Jenny

"An excited group of 52 Year 4 students plus two teachers from Chapman Primary School joined Jenny, Doug and Sally on a blustery June afternoon to inspect and photograph the fine new sign that Joe Clifton from Athllon Depot had erected for us at the start of the school Walking Trail.

"Sally had brought along some of the new coloured leaflets which Lois Padgham has kindly designed for us, and which will now replace the older leaflet as a guide to the trail. They describe features along the 600 metre walk. We unlocked the pamphlet box and found two huntsmen spiders, much to the terror/hilarity of the children.

"While we were having group photos taken by Holly the Chronicle journalist, three large wedgetail eagles swooped and soared overhead, being chased by magpies from their territory.

"The next half hour was spent in vigorous exercise digging out verbascum, which the kids enjoy doing ...of course some of their time is also taken up with chasing each other or hiding behind rocks, perfectly fine behaviour for 10 year olds... and what a lovely place for them to be playing."



Photo: Sally McIntosh



Dispatches from Arminel

9th June: We've been travelling too fast to do much botanising since Alice Springs, but I find myself recognising more plants every time we come up this way. Frangipani is in bloom, as is Turkey Bush and Camel Bush. We found ripe native capers and mistletoe berries near Glen Helen.

19th June We're off back to Timber Ck tomorrow and will be out of communication for about a week, til we get to Queensland. It's been very relaxed here I've read a couple of books and caught up with the diary.

Regards to all the weeders and would-be-weeders too! ☼

And Doug

who's back from Spain having noted many familiar weeds where they came from. ☼