



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter October 2011

Previous Sunday meeting 18th September

Soul-destroying is the best word for it. There are many, many new small *Euphorbia depauperata* plants near the trig. The previous 12 months have favoured this “sleeper” weed. Weather conditions this time last year only allowed removal of plants and flowerheads, without applying chemicals. We were armed with weedbrushes this time, and it wasn’t so windy, so we have applied poison as well as removing flower heads before they develop berries. Follow-up will be necessary over the summer.

The Kambah tea trolley and tea laddie Pat provided afternoon tea for the weary workers at Titheradge Place. Titheradge Place provides the gentlest access to this location.



Euphorbia depauperata – Image from Australian Plant Image Index
<http://www.anbg.gov.au/photo/apii/genus/Euphorbia>

Anna See anna.m.see@gmail.com

Future programme

Sunday 16th October

Annual General Meeting

Time:- 1.30 – 2 pm (approx.)

Place :- Kathner Street Entry.

Purpose: - to receive the reports of the previous year and conduct elections for all committee positions.

Nominations and Apologies to The Secretary, Tammy Lee, Cooleman Ridge Park Care Group Inc, at tamstardeluxe@hotmail.com

If you can’t attend, but wish to nominate, nomination forms are available from the Secretary.

Notes – Doug will chair the AGM proceedings as Arminel will be overseas.

- Please find the copy of the Annual Report with this newsletter.

After the AGM...

Patrolling Pauline’s Patch

Time:- approx 2pm – 4 pm

Bring:- bring hat, gloves, hacker, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet.

Task:- Plant ID and weed removal on Pauline’s Rocky Knoll and Fencepost Hill. This is a short distance from the Kathner Street meeting place.

Web site URL: www.coolemanridge.org

What's around

Mistletoe – a contribution from Malcolm Gill.

Muellerina eucalyptoides

Muellerina: Named for Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, 19th century German/Australian botanist and founder of the National Herbarium of Victoria

Pronunciation: mew-ler-REE-na

eucalyptoides: Lat. – Eucalyptus-like



Photo Malcolm Gill
Line Drawing PlantNET



Contrary to popular belief, mistletoes are native plants, not weeds. They produce their own energy from photosynthesis but depend on their tree hosts for water and nutrients. Australia has a wonderful array of them – 89 species – and there is an informative web site concerning their taxonomy and biology (www.anbg.gov.au/mistletoe). There are two genera at Cooleman Ridge: *Muellerina* and *Amyema*. (*Amyema miquelii* was featured in *What's around* in August 2004.) *Muellerina* is rarer, and unlike the pendulous *Amyema*, has roots, which are usually partly buried in the bark of the host. The plants are readily killed by fire but can avoid death by being high up in the host tree. To recolonise an area they need to be dispersed via the mistletoe bird from an unaffected population. New plants have not been seen since the 2003 fire although there are still surviving adult plants. *Muellerina* is most common on *Eucalyptus blakelyi* in the reserve (see Malcolm's photo below) but is also found on *E. polyanthemos* (see Paul Downey's list of hosts at www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/58041/Cun5Dow685.pdf.)

Bits and Pieces

Welcome to New Member!

Welcome to new member Roger Edwards, who has joined the Friday Weeders.

Watch For Snakes!

The warmer weather means our snakes will be out and about. Please keep a close eye on where you put your feet!!!

Fire Trails

The eroded fire trails in our Reserve have been graded so emergency vehicles will be able to use them again. In the case of the Dam Fire Trail, which runs from above Freebody Place over to the Old Dam, the trail is now twice as wide as it used to be. Unlike

other newly graded sections, no swales have been cut to channel water off the Dam Fire Trail.

Return of the Millipedes

Those smelly Portuguese Millipedes *Ommatoiulus moreleti* (an accidental introduction to Port Lincoln SA in 1953) are multiplying again on the Ridge and in most gardens! The wet conditions have favoured their breeding. I can remember writhing tides of them filling gutters in Kambah in the late 1970's. In plague proportions, these creatures damage plants. Apparently, more than 20 years ago researchers in South Australia found the native nematode *Rhabditis necromena* attacks the introduced Portuguese Millipede. *Rhabditis* only attacks millipedes, and therefore will not affect other insects or plants.