



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARKCARE GROUP

Newsletter February 2002

Sunday meeting, January 20th. The fearless five faced searing conditions..... actually we had a very pleasant afternoon. The temperature forecast was menacing, and smart thinking by Janice led to a quick ring-around changing the programme to a shady tree-survey on the slope of Coolman Trig. While Janice waited at the spot announced in last month's Newsletter for anyone who might have slipped through the net, Gösta and I were ready above Monkman Street to press people into service. After a briefing on procedures Gösta, Janice and Doug moved to one line of trees, while Tony and I concentrated on others. It was valuable being able to draw on Tony's expertise which put us straight on *epicormics*, and led to a rethink of *insect defoliation*.

The trees we surveyed were part of the early NCDC planting, and a new one for the records was *Eucalyptus viminalis* - Manna Gum. With considerable misgivings I placed it among exotics though I fear that some of you will disapprove. It can be debated whether these planted trees should be a part of our survey, but I suggest that it's interesting if we find seedling from them appearing deeper in the Park. Besides, it was cool.

We fitted in a mini GM; highlights as follows:

- Caretakers' reports to continue to be collected May 31 and November 30.
- Janice to take part in the February meeting of the Tuggeranong-Tharwa Sub-Catchment Group.
- Janice to check whether CNP has a recruitment and retention programme.
- Since the electronic version of the Newsletter is quite a large file, it is difficult for some members to download. Those who prefer will get hard copy delivery. ☺

Sunday meeting - Visit to Mt Taylor

- Sunday 17th February
- 1.30 -4 pm
- meet just off Sulwood Drive opposite Inkster Street.
- ring Tony or Janice if you need a lift
- bring hat, gloves, drink, snack.

Mt Taylor has a bushfire regeneration area that will be interesting for us to study. Tony has arranged with the Mt Taylor parkcarers for our group to visit it on our monthly meeting. ☺

Tina's thistles

- to be disciplined on our Sunday meeting 17th March

Activity figures

The month's tally was 39 hours, contributed by 5 members, and a prospective member. We know that in fact a lot more people were busy on the Ridge. Please notify Janice at the end of each month how much time you spend on Parkcare if you wish to be counted. Phone her evenings excepting Tuesdays on 6288 3953 or email her at janice.paull@aph.gov.au ☺

The Tree Survey

The tree surveying project goes ahead, month by month. We have now tagged over 1700 trees on the ridge, determined GPS positions for some 650 of them, taken photos of over a thousand and made full examinations of 551 trees. All data are stored in a data base and can be used for studies of the tree sample.

Full examination involves determination of species, health, height, girth, habitat suitability as well as the GPS position. The intention is to repeat the survey every 5 years or so to follow the evolution of the tree cover of the ridge. About 10 members are involved in this work but many more would be welcome to join us.

It is quite easy to measure positions with the GPS. We have found that if two people work together, some 50 positions can be obtained in an hour. Arrange with Tony (6288 7656) or Gösta (6288 7009) to borrow one of their instruments; they will show you how to use it.

The final and most interesting stage is to record species, size, health, environment, bird life and habitat conditions for each tree. We have not yet found any with aboriginal markings but we are on the look-out for that as well. You may be able to examine 10-20 trees in an hour. Pauline and Gösta will help you to get started if you are uncertain about this job.

The data base has also got an entry for bird presence in the trees, mainly nesting, so if you have any information to add about that, let us know. Of course, you can report any interesting observation concerning trees anywhere on the ridge, not just in your area.

Give us a call if you want to be part of this project. ☺

January log

180102 ten syringes at Kathner Street parking area. Malcolm called City Ranger, and they were collected promptly (Note: ring SHARPS Hotline on 13 22 81)

200102 *Eucalyptus viminalis* Manna Gum added to herbarium

Membership

Current membership stands at 42.

Welcome to Mike, a retired engineer who likes gardening. Mike is caretaking an area in D2, up from the Chauvel Circle gate to the grove of *Eucalyptus nortonii*, in the past tended by Hal and then Sheena. Mike cut his teeth on two patches of *Hypericum perforatum* (St John's Wort). We'll watch how they react to his repeated discouragement. ☼

Sharps

As noted in the Log, there were 10 syringes spilled on the Kathner Street parking area one Friday morning (In the good

old days it was cigarette butts.) Malcolm spent a lot of time tracking down who to ring, and when once notified the City Ranger came within the hour. Since then you've all probably received a leaflet through the post telling you what to do:

- call SHARPS Hotline - 13 22 81
- don't touch, and if possible stand guard
- never put injecting material in garbage bins or recycling bins. ☼

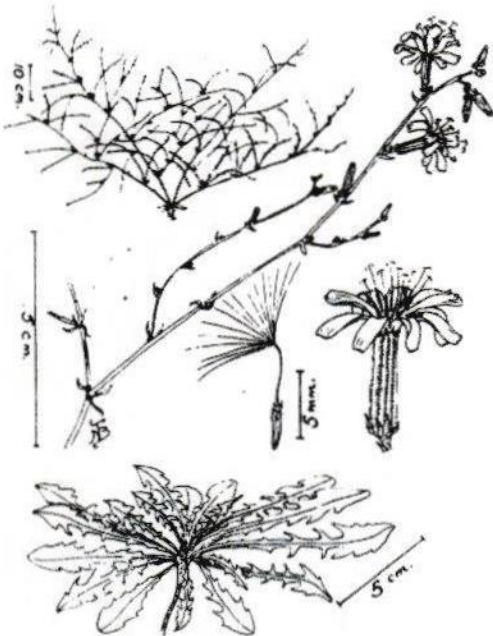
Is there anybody out there

- who can sharpen tools
- who can cut aluminium sheet into tree survey tags.

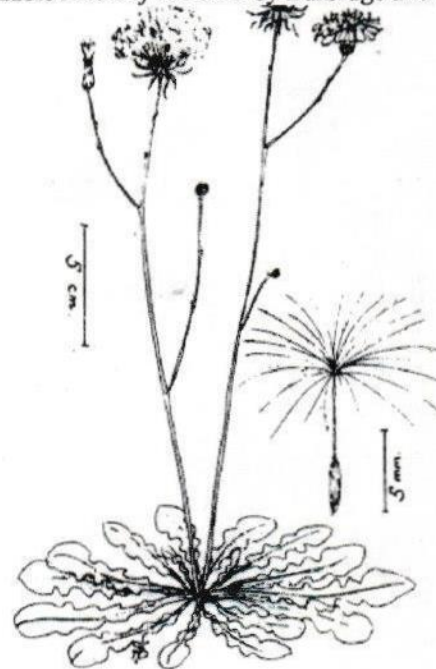
What's around

Family: ASTERACEAE

Note the similar though distinctly different rosette leaves of these two common weeds. The drawings are Nancy Burbidge's, from the invaluable *Flora of the ACT* by Burbidge and Gray



404. *Chondrilla juncea*



405. *Hypochaeris radicata*

Chondrilla juncea

Skeleton Weed

juncea - rush-like

Yellow-flowered perennial herb, declared a noxious weed in some shires.

Native of Mediterranean region

Long thin taproot

Hypochaeris radicata

Flatweed

Yellow-flowered perennial herb with fleshy rootstock.

Note spelling change to *Hypochaeris*. ☼

I wonder why. I wonder why.

I wonder why I wonder.

I wonder why I wonder why

I wonder why I wonder!