



# COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

## Newsletter December 2002

### Previous Sunday meeting, November 17th.

It was a hot walk up from Kathner Street to Mike's patch, and we looked around for a shady tree under which we could practice estimating plant-species abundances. Brendan Lepski, botanist with Environment Australia was his usual enthusiastic and approachable self, setting the ball rolling by asking us how many plant species we thought were to be found in the 5x5 m square area we'd pegged out. The ground was parched with the vegetation crackling under foot. Lesson 1: walk as little as possible in the sample area - keep to the rocks. A consensus guess was 20 and showed to be pretty close.

First things first - how much of the ground was covered by the eucalypt's silhouette? Then on to the next most conspicuous feature, the paper daisies we've called *Bracteantha viscosa*. Brendan tells us they are renamed to *Xerochrysum viscosum*, and that our *Convolvulus* is reclassified as species *angustissimus*. And that our *Wahlenbergia* are too difficult to identify from the current key: so for now we'll refer to them all as *sp.* (species). Abundances are recorded as less than 1%, 1-3%, 3-5%, 5-7%, 7-9%, and then in steps of 10. We put *Themeda* as 1-3%, and a solitary *Danthonia* as less than 1%.

Thanks a lot, Brendan! ☺

### Next Sunday meeting December 15th.

- 1.30 - 4 pm
- meet at Lincoln Place and go up the track: we'll follow up Tina's tree survey, and choose one of her trees for a quick abundance survey. There will be material available for those of you who wish to spend the afternoon weeding
- bring hat, gloves, drink, snack

a brief general meeting will follow ☺

### Future programme

December, 16<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m. Christmas Party:  
January 19<sup>th</sup> tree survey. ☺

### November log

071102 Trig cairn being rebuilt

Pauline Lyngå, 6288 7009, [gosta@webone.com.au](mailto:gosta@webone.com.au) December 2002

071102 Rocks on Trig displaced ☺

### Activity figures for October

Sunday meeting and weeding involved 7 members over 15 hours. A further 25 hours were consumed by administration.

Contact Janice with your hours at the end of each month on 6288 3953 or e-mail at

[janice.paull@aph.gov.au](mailto:janice.paull@aph.gov.au) Could you please let Janice know what weeds you are removing when you provide the statistics. This level of detail is forwarded to CNP. ☺

### Over or under?

Brian and I watched a kangaroo family on the edge of the Olympic site, seemingly poised to come up Fencepost Hill. Would they choose to go over or under the fence? Well, they went under. They rested looking at us from closer by for a while but we must have made them apprehensive because they turned down the hill again, this time with more speed. The big one went over and the smaller one under so we were both right. After due reflection they came up the hill again, both under. I'd forgotten about them when I stopped for a drink, and disturbed they moved down, under and over. ☺

### No more Parkcare

The newsletter's title has changed. (See above!). The constitution refers to the Cooleman Ridge Park Care Group and it should know. ☺

### Ringbarking

In his book *Canberra: Its History and Legends*, John Gale (1830-1929) presents extracts from the diary of Samuel Shumack.

### Droughts and Ringbarkings (cont)

"About the year 1885 a Dr. Bell wrote to the Sydney dailies condemning ringbarking, insisting that it was the cause of the persistent drought prevailing at the time. Many concurred in the doctor's views, and ceased ringbarking operations. The late Hon. L. F. De Salis joined in the controversy, opposing the doctor's theory. The record wet year of 1887 put an end to the point in dispute, and the public was convinced that De Salis was correct in the views he put forth, following

which, in a few years, water increased to a greater extent than was ever anticipated." To be

continued. ☼

## What's around



Family: ASTERACEAE

*Xerochrysum viscosum* [*Bracteantha viscosa*]

Sticky Everlasting

Native, erect viscid herb, usually annual, with bright yellow papery flowers

*xero* - Gr. xeros, dry; *viscosum* - L. sticky

Note the use of square brackets [ ]. These indicate that the name enclosed has been changed to the unbracketed one.

## Membership forms

Please return your completed membership form if you haven't already done so.

My apologies for including the form to those of you who have.

Please use the new time sheet for signing on and off.

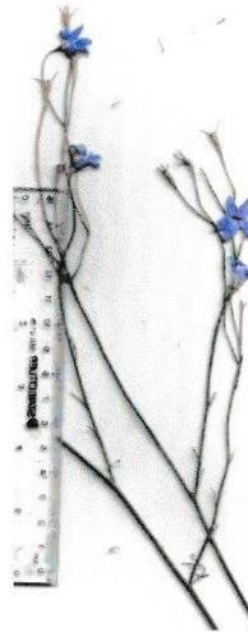
☼

## Tree survey

It was a great leap forward in the collection of primary data with Tina and Meghan supplying survey forms covering 121 trees, 97 of those also with photographs. Thank you both! With Malcolm's recent additions we have now reached 700 fully examined trees. I have also started the five-year repeat of examinations in area 1. Gösta ☼

## Fire

• Environment ACT strongly suggests that groups do not work on Total Fire Ban Days. If you are unsure as to the existence of a Total Fire Ban you can ring Canberra Connect 6207 5111 or call the relevant



Family: CAMPANULACEAE

*Wahlenbergia* sp.

Native Bluebell

Native, perennial tufted herb with blue flowers

*Wahlenbergia* - named in honour of Swedish botanist and professor of medicine Göran Wahlenberg (1780-1851). ☼

Parks and Conservation depot. (Athllon) on 6207 2089 (this will put you through to a park ranger). ☼

## Development of a program of activities for the Ridge - Planning Meeting

The Committee will be holding a planning meeting 7<sup>th</sup> January 2003 to discuss funding opportunities and to develop a program of activities for next year and beyond. If you have any matters that you wish the Committee to consider please contact Janice on 6288 3953 or email [janice.paull@aph.gov.au](mailto:janice.paull@aph.gov.au). ☼

## Workshop

An Australian Network for Plant Conservation Training Course LANDSCAPE REHABILITATION: APPROACHES AND TECHNIQUES

Dates: 4th - 6th February 2003

Location: Yass, New South Wales

This workshop is suitable for people who are involved in rehabilitation projects.

Cost: \$180

Enquiries and further information, contact Laura Vallee (02)  
6250 9523, [laura.vallee@ea.gov.au](mailto:laura.vallee@ea.gov.au) ☺