



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter January 2003

Previous Sunday meeting, December 15th

It was as hot as we'd expected on Mt Arawang so Tree Survey was an appropriate theme for the afternoon. Tina and Meghan have put in an enormous amount of work in Section 8 where there are lots of planted trees just big enough for inclusion. According to one of our maps the plantations were established before 1988. We discussed priorities, and Gösta has written a note for this newsletter specifying them. Tina was delighted to find that her Section 8 is far more extensive than she had realised, and includes some lovely old trees. That's our Tina! ☼

Next Sunday meeting January 19th

- 1.30 - 4 pm
- meet at Kathner Street or go straight to Reet's patch
- bring hat, gloves, drink, snack

a brief general meeting will follow ☼

Future programme

February 16th Mt Arawang thistles

March 23rd caretaker visit (note change from 3rd Sunday)

April 20th walking trail maintenance, Mt Arawang ☼

December log

201202 5 ducks on Kathner St dam

291202 4 ducks on Kathner St dam ☼

Activity figures for December

The figures given last month were provisional as the newsletter had to go out early with the invitation to the Christmas Party.

This month 4 people report weeding for 25 hours and having spent 15 hours on administration. Five people have contributed 18 hours to tree surveying.

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

Pauline Lyngå, 6288 7009, gosta@webone.com.au January 2003

Christmas Party

It was a glorious evening for a picnic by the lake, and pleasant to meet members of other Park Care groups. Particularly nice was meeting and getting to know Steve and Bill who did a smooth catering job as well as fielding regeneration questions. CRPCG was well represented - as always, ready to tuck in. ☼

Bowerbirds

Although there are only about five satin bowerbird nests known in the ACT, two of them are on Coleman Ridge. They are built of small twigs four or five metres above ground. One chick has left home this season. ☼

Droughts

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

Droughts and Ringbarkings (cont)

De Salis "referred to the droughts of 1790 and the first decades of the nineteenth century, when water in Sydney was sold at sixpence per bucket. At that time the Molonglo, Cotter and Murrumbidgee Rivers were merely chains of ponds, with no running water connecting them. In the year 1838 the Murrumbidgee River was quite dry for more than half a mile above its junction with the Molonglo River. Alfred Mayo and Donald McDonald assured me that at that time there was only one pool between the junction named and the Uriarra Crossing, and this statement has been corroborated by several of the pioneers, including John McDonald, J. M. McIntosh, and others." ☼

Planning meeting

Janice hosted Tuesday evening's committee meeting to which Vivien (during her time off!) made valuable contributions.

A matter of grave concern is the proposed drought relief grazing of cattle on the strip along the outer boundary fence between the two dams. With considerable misgivings we accepted Vivien's assurances that the operation would be strictly monitored to conform to stringent conditions spelled out in the contract. In fact the amount of feed

available, and the scant water in the old dam may be considered insufficient by a grazier to justify the expenses incurred to him (fencing, transport, supervision, etc.) In Janice's report she will emphasise the low level of the dam, its population of Eastern Snake-necked Tortoises, and the risk of cattle becoming bogged.

Further to the plight of the old dam, Doug had reported that the duck house was almost aground. Vivien suggested replacing it with a fallen tree, which would take over the task of providing refuge for birds. Vivien sketched the herbicide regime: Brush-off (which we are not authorised to use) is for when plants are going into dormancy. Round-up is used during active growth. Spraying is on hold until conditions are less dry. Our method with the spray bottle is called cutting and dabbing, and is appropriate for present conditions. We should be particular about cutting

stems almost flush with the ground and "dabbing" within 10 seconds.

Longer stems, when dried out, can injure us and other animals, as well as damaging tyres. St John's Wort should be sprayed on the leaves without cutting first.

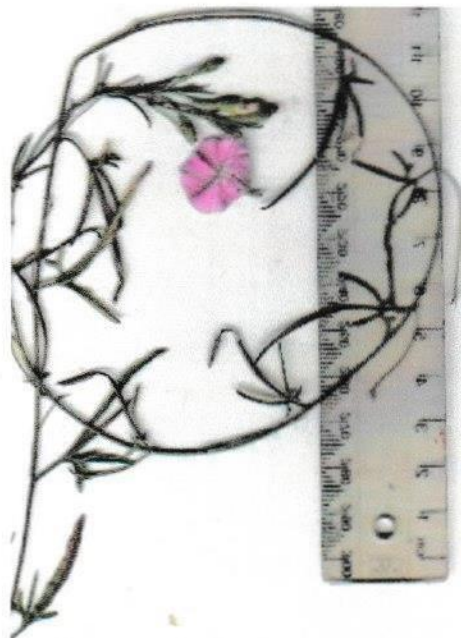
☼

Web page

Karina writes:

A new design is being planned in January but your favourite features (and ours) will still be there, such as the plant list and plant ID page. The changes will undoubtedly be to everyone's advantage as the new design will no longer use frames and so will be quicker to load. ☼

What's around



Family: CONVOLVULACEAE

Convolvulus angustissimus [*C. erubescens*]

Bindweed

Perennial native with trailing and twining stems and pink flower

Convolvulus - L. for little twister

angustissimus - L. for narrowest



Whatever has been done so far is useful, but for the future we work with these priorities:

Family: CLUSIACEAE

Hypericum perforatum

St. John's Wort

Branching shrub with yellow flowers - from Asia, Europe, Africa

☼

Tree survey

Since last month we have added quite a few trees to our database, largely because of the work of Tina and Meghan on the slopes of Mt Arawang. We have also started our 5-year repeat of the survey. There are now over 1000 trees in our data base with full information about 713 of these.

At the December working bee we added a few more trees and we also discussed the priorities in a situation where there are not people nor enough time to do all the trees.

- 1st Self sown trees with girth circumference above 0.8 m at a height of 1.3 m from the ground.
- 2nd Self sown trees with girth circumference above 0.5 m at a height of 1.3 m from the ground.
- 3rd Planted trees with girth circumference above 0.8 m at a height of 1.3 m from the ground.

4th Planted trees with girth circumference above 0.5 m at a height of 1.3 m from the ground.

5th Trees below the fire break (ie. close to the houses).

Gösta ☼