



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter October 2003

Previous Sunday meeting, September 21st

We returned to the thistles not far from the top of Arawang, chipping away by the side of the track. Although it was satisfying to clear a significant area we were not blinded to the fact that there has to be a better way.....Doug's investigation into biological controls indicates that there is no quick solution to be found there, though the sooner a programme starts the better. So we must rely on magic, or possibly a spraying programme covering every patch we can pinpoint. Jen offered to bring the matter up with the Catchment Group where funds for weed control are available. Our own Group can be better employed where native species are already established. Clearing away exotic invaders gives the natives more breathing space and encourages their outward spread. ☼

Next Sunday meeting, October 19th

We return to Elizabeth's garden to follow the regrowth that has taken place since the fires swept through in January. Our last visit was in June. Bordering her garden is attractive remnant bushland and we'll weed up through there.

- 1.30 - 4 pm
- meet at 32 Monkman St, Chapman
- bring hat, gloves, drink, snack, weeder, raincoat if it is wet
- park on the road and walk up to the house ☼

Future programme

November 16th Kathner Street dam. The wall is a mess of Paterson's Curse and oats.

December 21st somewhere close to a Park entrance, and under shady trees. Any requests?☼

Appreciation

We've received a Certificate of Appreciation:

"The ACT Bushfire Recovery Centre would like to thank you for providing information and assistance during the Bushfire Regeneration Walk on 5th July 2003, following the bushfires of January 18, 2003

The Coleman Ridge Park Care Group

Signed:
22/07/2003"☼

Di

Butler

September log

120903 black snake on Fencepost Hill ☼

Spraying

Doug reports:

"Apparently the contractor has finished on the ridge and moved further down into Kambah. As I suspected, spraying was restricted to the maintenance track and other areas where a boom spray could operate. Sounds like a follow up of the spraying done a few months ago". ☼

CVA

More from Doug:

"Today [mid September], seven conservation volunteers and I hit thistle rosettes on the northeast face of Arawang, just down from trig. We sprayed and chipped between 200 and 300 square metres, despite the near-hyperthermic conditions this afternoon. The work was done well away from Sunday's proposed work site." ☼

New releases

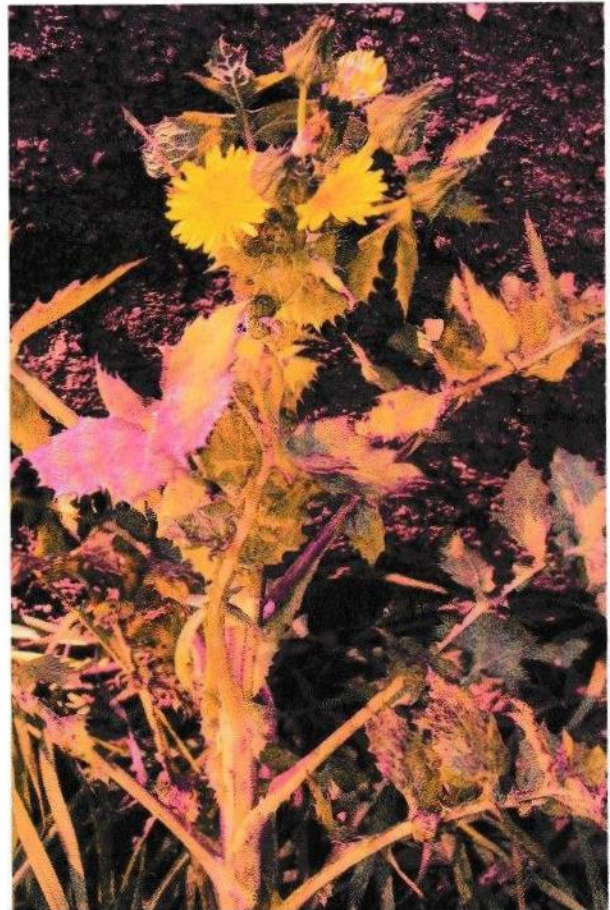
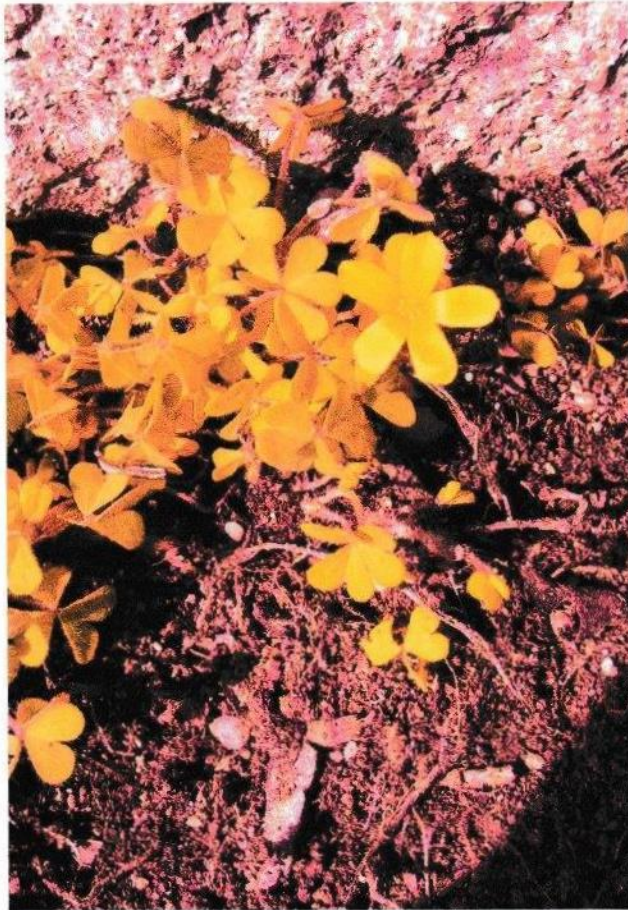
This is shaping up to be an exciting season, already furnishing us with prolific displays of *Wurmbia dioica*. I've been intrigued by a dainty glaucous herb, widely scattered on Fencepost Hill and now it is producing minute bluish flowers: **Linaria arvensis* Up till now I'd only ever noticed one plant. The tall mallow at the Kathner St entrance is **Malva parviflora*, a new recording for us. Keep watching – maybe we'll find some new natives.☼

Love from.....

.....Bess!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

On my recent trip to Sydney I took a day off to spend with Bess. She showed me her Landcare projects and we walked through her bush area – with lush coastal vegetation vastly different from the Ridge. Although she is well settled and happy there (busy as ever), Bess misses Canberra, the Ridge and us all: I think she'll come visiting soon. ☼

What's around



Family: OXALIDACEAE

Oxalis sp

Wood Sorrel

Perennial herb

Gr. *oxys*, acid + *alis*, saltiness (taste a leaf)

probably *O. peremans* but perhaps *O. radicata* Both are native ☺

Australia's Virtual Herbarium

There is endless fun to be had here – check name changes, look at photos of plant specimens, access distribution maps and plant lists from all states. This project is far from complete – it never will be of course.

www.chah.gov.au/avh.html

Go to Australian Biodiversity Information Facility, Flora, of ABRS.

From there go to Databases (search)

Click What's its Name and key in your query. ☺

Our own

The address for the Park Care Group's web site is now as follows, since the merger with iinet:

<http://members.iinet.net.au/~kpelling/> ☺

Family: ASTERACEAE

**Sonchus oleraceus*

Common Sowthistle

L adj. from *olus oleris* kitchen or garden herbs

Annual exotic herb, native of Europe. ☼

Cape Weed.

A trip to Yarralumla Nursery highlights the beauty and the menace of **Arctotheca calendula*, a daisy from South Africa (see newsletter November 2002). Don't let it get established on the Ridge – chip out each and every plant you see. ☼

Seedlings

The eucalypt seedlings that we potted from the Kathner St dam wall are reported to be doing well. Next autumn may see them re-established on the Ridge. ☼

Ranger

I slipped that note in last month about Tlaloc just in time, because now he is out and Kristy is in. Her e-mail is kristy.gould@act.gov.au and her mobile is 0419 161387. She joins us from Googong and we look forward to working with her. ☼