



# COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE ROUP

Newsletter October  
2005

## Previous Sunday meeting, September 18<sup>th</sup>

Despite a painful repetitive strain injury to his shoulder, Brendan Lepschi, curator of the Australian National Herbarium at Black Mountain, accompanied a group of seven park carers and friends on a walk around Group Area Central (GAC) up from Darrell Place.

Last year Brendan showed us how to do sample plots to obtain an estimate of species in a large area. This year we took the unscientific path and wandered around GAC looking for interesting plants, much like you'd do if strolling around the Ridge on any Sunday afternoon. When there's an expert along, GAC is a treasure-trove of plant species. Of course there are lots of weeds and Brendan gave us an insight as to the relative nastiness of each species he identified. The worst are those that can reproduce vegetatively as well as sexually. Sort of "super weeds". Think *Hypochaeris radicata* (Flatweed) and *Acetosella vulgaris* (Sorrel weed). Our old favourite, *Verbascum thapsus*, while prevalent is less aggressive in its rate of spread. Doesn't mean we should let up on it!

There were lots of good guys. One of the most exciting was a patch of *Bulbine bulbosa*. Another find was a 1.3 metre high, healthy example of *Solanum linearifolium* (Kangaroo apple). The afternoon proved there is considerable diversity of native plants on the Ridge. The hard part is learning to identify them!

Thanks, Doug for this report. ☼

## Future programme

Provisionally 2005 looks like this, rotating through the three Group Areas (GA) when there is no special programme:

Oct 16<sup>th</sup> AGM, GAS/Arawang

Nov 20<sup>th</sup> GA weeding, fuel assessment, plant ID

Dec 18<sup>th</sup> GA weeding, fuel assessment, plant ID ☼

## September log

030905 2 *Pinus radiata* seedlings C1

090905 Perspex of notice board smashed

090905 contractor spraying, starting Kathner St end

300905 fencing of Fuel Reduction Trial Area completed ☼

## Next Sunday meeting, October 16<sup>th</sup>

AGM, election of office bearers, discussion of recent achievements and developments, planning the coming year.

- 1.30 - 4 pm
- meet on Namatjira Drive just before the Kambah Pool Road turn-off, or GAS/Arawang
- bring hat, gloves, weeder, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet. ☼

## Fuel Reduction Trials

Note from Virginia at the end of September:

*"By the end of the week we will have approximately 20 head of yearling steers in the paddock. The stock will be closely monitored to determine the length of time they will remain in the paddock. We will also be undertaking the mowing and the wick wiping trials over the next few weeks - weather permitting. We will put some signs on the fences to let the public know what is going on."*

*"..... We are using Glysohate in the wick wiping trial."*

Joe, Gösta and I spent the morning of September 1 at the site, taking 16 pairs of photos from specific points along the outside of the perimeter fence, first of the vegetation just inside, and then about face just outside it. Gösta took 7 GPS readings of native plants, and their photos. A rough measurement of soil moisture around the perimeter was also made and recorded.

My count yielded 58 species of which 36 were native.

*(060705 yielded 65 species of which 34 were native.*

*210805 yielded 42 species of which 30 were native.)*

Nice surprises this time were *Erodium crinitum* and *Pimelia linifolia*. Interestingly, in the Flora of NSW, the latter is stated to be toxic to stock.

On Tuesday October 4 an empty cattle truck was seen leaving the Ridge via Kathner St. Malcolm walked up to the enclosure and found 10 animals clustered in the lower right corner (looking down). Then a second truck came and unloaded 10 more animals - through the top gate near the water tank. These also made their way down and joined their mates. A ranger was connecting the tank's water pipe.

If you are up that way, let us know what you observe. It is difficult to see what plant species are being targeted. ☼



## What's around



Family: GERANIACEAE

*Erodium crinitum* - Blue Storksbill

Native annual to 50cm

*erodios* Gr: heron,

*crinitus* L: having long hair

### Notice board

We've been pleased to hear appreciative comments about our notice board. It was disappointing, though, to find the Perspex smashed last month, but it taped together again well and we'll see how long the repair holds. ☺

### Echidna

Saturday evening's phone call from an RSPCA worker told us she had released a young echidna on Fence Post Hill near the gate. It had been found wandering about in Weston. The caller thanked us for improving the environment for local wild life. ☺

### NSW Threatened Species website

The Department of Environment and Conservation has launched

[www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au)

This new website provides detailed information, maps and photos of more than 900 of the state's most vulnerable native plants and animals. ☺

### Early Nancies

Reet found 80 *Wurmbea dioica* in her patch, and they are prolific now. Watch out for them! ☺



Family: THYMELAEACEAE

*Pimelia linifolia* – a Rice Flower

Native shrub to 1.5 m

*pimele* Gr: fat, lard (refers to oily seeds)

*linifolia* leaves like *Linum* (flax)

toxic to stock

### Extra Frogwatch Seminar

Due to an overwhelming response to the Frogwatch Training Seminars, the FrogWatch program will be holding an extra introductory Frogwatch Training Seminar, a repeat of Seminar 1.

Tuesday 11th October, 2005

Australian National Botanic Gardens 6:00 – 9:00 pm

RSVPs are essential. To reserve your place at any of the Frogwatch Training Seminars, contact:

Rachelle McConville on (02) 6278 3309 or at

[waterwatch@ginninderrallandcare.org.au](mailto:waterwatch@ginninderrallandcare.org.au) ☺

### Round up

Some staunch members have been missing lately. However Alan has returned from the Bungle Bungles reporting that he bumped into Rohan there.

Now Bess is on another last visit to England, Jenny and Rob are in WA, as is Reet. Malcolm is back from California, whereas David and Jenny have passed from the Middle East to Europe. Gösta will be in Nepal and Sweden December and into January. I'll join him in Sweden for Christmas – New Year. Paul is due back from overseas well in time for the AGM. ☺