



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter June 2006

Previous Sunday Meeting, May 21st

We last visited GAC/Darrell on a typically hot February afternoon; now late autumn found us with more energy. The bright green splashes of *Lomandra* looked out of place in the general dryness which spreads around the central rock. There was little sign of exotic regrowth in an expanding circle except for a Briar that was again discouraged at the rock itself. On the circle's periphery there was enough *Salvia*, *Verbascum* (thapsus) and *Marrubium* to while away our time, and in the Arawang direction Briars and deciduous saplings will require a herbicidal blitz.

We concluded with discussion of our management plan, submitted to CNP in 1997 and subsequently ignored. ☼

Future programme

We will continue to rotate through the three Group Areas (GA) when there is no special programme, meeting as usual on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 1.30 p.m.

At a suitable time we'll reassess developments at the Fuel Reduction Trial Site. ☼

Next Sunday meeting, June 18th

- GAS/Arawang for clearing of exotic growth, plant ID
- 1.30 - 4 pm
- meet on Namatjira Drive just before the Kambah Pool Road turn-off, or GAS/Arawang
- bring hat, gloves, hacker, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet ☼

May log

120506 bower birds Fence Post Hill

190506 two Maned Wood ducks Kathner St dam

190506 flock of quail Fence Post Hill ☼

Kangaroos

On the last Friday morning of May, I watched 4 kangaroos bounding down the Olympic Site. Lagging behind them, though energetically, came a 5th, which turned out to be a brownish, german shephardish-looking dog. I kept an eye out for any owner whom I wished to assure that the incident hadn't been reported to CNP as I don't carry a mobile phone. No sign.

Management plan

DRAFT, OCTOBER 29, 1997(additions 12/2/98)

TOWARDS A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR COOLEMAN RIDGE CANBERRA NATURE PARK

Coolleman Ridge Park Care Group Inc.

INTRODUCTION

Coolleman Ridge ("The Ridge") is both a physical and cultural divide. It forms part of the rim of the catchments of the Molonglo and Murrumbidgee Rivers and sits on the edge of suburban Canberra, ACT, thereby marking the boundary of city and country. The modest elevation of the Ridge and its location contribute to its appeal. To the northeast can be seen leafy suburbs leading to the city centre; to the southwest farms fill the foreground of the view to the forestclad Brindabella mountains only about 13 km away. The Reserve is one of 26 that together comprise Canberra Nature Park (CNP). It is pleasantly wooded with mature trees of a number of *Eucalyptus* species.

This plan has been produced with the co-operation of members of the ACT Parks and Conservation Service, the managing authority of CNP. We do not claim this to be a professional document, nor can it be, but rather a contribution to the process of formulating detailed plans for the whole estate of CNP. (to be continued)

European wasps

From Steve Welch

European wasps are now firmly established in all parts of Canberra and some surrounding regions. The wasps are capable of decimating local insect species and hence birdlife if there is a concentration of wasp nests in a particular area. Wasps have been observed tackling insects as large as the preying mantis, taking spiders from webs, preying on bees at hive entrances and other general insects. An area of Ginninderra Creek, where many nests were located and destroyed, was totally devoid of insect and bird life. We need to be particularly vigilant in tracking/locating and destroying as many nests as possible at this time of the year as many queens are being released for winter hibernation.

Do not attempt to remove a nest yourself.

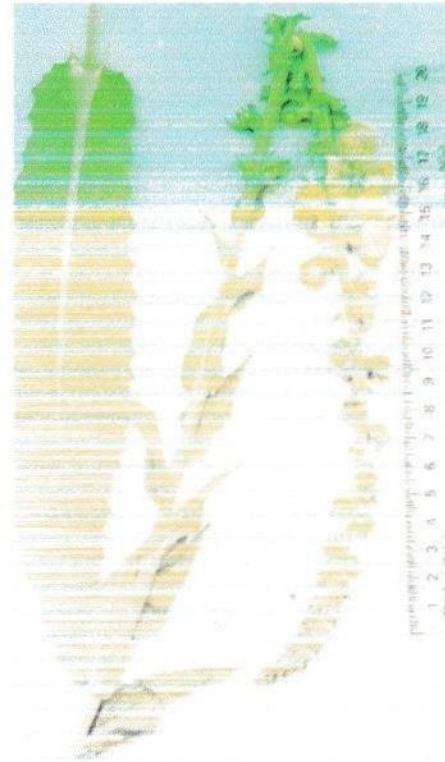
European Wasp Hotline 6162 1914.

What's around

Family SCROPHULARIACEAE – named from use in treatment of scrophula.
The Figwort family which includes Digitalis



**Verbasum thapsus* - Aaron's Rod
Erect biennial, 0.5-1 m
Native of Eurasia ☼



**Verbasum virgatum* – Twiggy Mullein
Erect biennial herb 1-2 m
virga L: rod ☼

Chapman Primary

The students are enormously enthusiastic and walk to their caretaker area with their own gloves and weeders. They like to work in pairs removing *Verbasum*, which they identify like the veterans they are, and take pride in the resulting heap. With occasional help from CVA teams they have made a significant impact on their area.

The teachers report that they return to the classrooms with very harmonious children. ☼

Pine seedlings

Another was spotted during the World Environment Day walk and its position recorded before removal. It was an added point of interest for our guests, frequent walkers of the Ridge, who plan to involve their friends in the search.

Now we have data for 12 plants. ☼

Mynas

It's clear these birds are not popular - several of our people have/are getting traps. It would be interesting to hear of your experiences with them, and any tallies of birds caught. ☼

World Environment Day walk -

Eagerly waiting to receive a grant to resurrect the Nature Trail up from Kathner Street, we used the World Environment Day programme to get input from the community about what would be valuable to include in the new pamphlet, relating to old and new posts.

Notices had been fixed to all entrances to the reserve, and a group of eight people, including four of our own members, walked the trail on a pleasant winter day, discussing the various landmarks. At one of the gates we even found a letter to the president containing thoughtful suggestions.

Some of the old posts had been destroyed by the 2003 bushfires and some of the trees were no longer there but other points of interest were found. We were told that it would be an improvement for the new pamphlet to have more sketches of the stunning views of the mountain ranges and the cityscapes, and it was also suggested that it would be good to have more benches along the way.

So, hopefully we'll get the grant which would enable us to start the planning in earnest during July. Before then, I would be very grateful for further comment about the design of the trail.

Gösta ☼