



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter November
2010

Previous Sunday meeting October 17th

First came the AGM: see attached reports and results of committee elections.

The massive downpours of the previous few days had again topped up the Kathner St dam and a stream of clear water could be heard gurgling down the hillside. The muddy approach from the cavaletti had to be navigated with care.

The afternoon was fine, and with the AGM behind us we set about making the Nature Trail more obvious and negotiable. This wet spring has brought us a wealth of exotic grasses and other familiar weeds – we clear as much as time and energy permit.

We were delighted to have Ingrid back with us from overseas, and a wonderful surprise was having Rob join us (and become a member) after reading the notices that Arminel and helpers attach to gates and fences before each Sunday work party – clearly time well spent. ☼

Future programme

Next meeting, Sunday November 21st

Note our reversion to early morning starts for the summer months

- 8 to 10.30 am
- GAC/Darrell: weed removal and plant ID
- meet at Darrell Place, or GAC/Darrell
- bring hat, gloves, hacker, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet.

This area is particularly rich in *Stackhousia monogyna* and *Bulbine bulbosa*. Rumour has it that a large *Pinus radiata* sapling awaits removal nearby.

20th birthday celebration

In April 1991 the Cooleman Ridge Park Care Group was formed with Bess Sledge as president.

Reserve Monday afternoon 18th April 2011 for our 20th Birthday Reception

Details are crystallising. ☼

Family Asteraceae

This family has the largest number of genera (1 620) world wide, with 22 750 species. On Cooleman Ridge it is the second largest family (after Poaceae) with 35 genera encompassing 46 species.

The Australian plant family recognition tutorial at <http://www.csu.edu.au/herbarium/> developed by Geoff Burrows, Senior Lecturer at Charles Sturt University lists 7 characteristics for Asteraceae.

- 1) Mostly herbaceous plants
- 2) Inflorescence is a head-like capitulum
- 3) The capitulum is composed of many small individual flowers (florets)
- 4) The florets are surrounded by an involucre of bracts
- 5) The whole structure resembles a single flower
- 6) The florets are usually of two types
 - a) ligulate or ray florets
 - b) tubular or disc florets
- 7) The 'classic daisy' 'flower' has a centre of tubular florets surrounded by a ring of ligulate florets (the 'petals'), but there are many modifications of the capitulum construction. ☼

Cattle

At the end of October Doug checked out the old dam and noticed evidence of pugging around its edge: as he followed the Maintenance Track dung became increasingly fresh. In the grove more or less under the Chapman Reservoir he came across seven beasts resting and ruminating. With so few animals, the grazing effect was quite light.

The cows only grazed the long paddock of the Maintenance Track and hadn't been in the hillside "experimental" patch. ☼

Connectivity

Connectivity conservation and the Great Eastern Ranges corridor - An independent report to the Interstate Agency Working Group (Alps to Atherton Connectivity Conservation Working Group) convened under the Environmental Heritage and Protection Council/Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council.

If you wish to look at this publication, contact Arminel phone 6231 7392, email ryan@pcug.org.au. ☼

Kathner Street Chorale

There was rain about on Friday 29th October. It was a lovely mild evening on the Ridge, just after sundown, when Gösta, Erika and Arminel met our Waterwatch coordinator, Martin Lind. Four kinds of frogs were calling at the Kathner Street dam. We checked air and water temperatures. Then Martin recorded the chorale and tells us that he's 90% sure we heard

- between 5-20 Plains Froglets (*Crinia parvinsignifera*) - high pitched 'wine cork' calls;
- between 5-20 Smooth Toadlets (*Uperoleia laevigata*) - this was the low growling call from up the slopes;
- a few (1-5) Common Eastern Froglets (*Crinia signifera*) - the occasional 'ratchet' sound; and
- last, but definitely not least, a few (1-5) Peron's Tree Frogs (*Litoria peronii*) - the lovely maniacal cackle frog!

As well as listening to this impressive amphibian soundscape, we saw a Tawny Frogmouth perched first on one, then on another of the large eucalypts at the dam. There were lots of bugs visible by torchlight in the warm shallows. For Martin, the highlight of the evening was finding a Water Scorpion. We hadn't even known such creatures existed! ✨

Beetles

Anna researched beetles eating the leaves of *Hypericum perforatum* St John's Wort. They appear to be a leaf feeding beetle that is used as a biological control for this weed. The Molonglo Catchment website provides a photo and informs us that the beetle is:

"a *Chrysolina* species. The larvae attack the winter growth and adults defoliate the spring growth. The adults enter a resting stage under the bark of trees during summer."



Canberra Indian Myna Action Group

President's report 2009-2010 – Snippets. The whole report is on CIMAG website

"Members reported 32,047 mynas have been removed in aggregate as at the end of June 2010 - and we know there have been many more that were never reported.

"Mynas are now down to 14th most common bird in Canberra (results of Garden Bird Survey for 2008-09 that was announced in Nov 2009) – down from 12th the year before (and 3rd when we started in 2006)." ✨

What's around



Family: CARYOPHYLLACEAE

**Silene gallica* var. *gallica* - French Catchfly

Annual, exotic, broad-leaved, erect to ascending, hairy, viscid herbs, up to 0.50 m high. Flowers in cymes.

Silenus was tutor to Dionysus

Native of Central and Southern Europe.

This species is new to Cooleman Ridge. It is growing prolifically along drainage lines in the Kathner Street regeneration area that was subject to the asset protection burn of November 25th 2009: it clearly likes the wet conditions. ✨

And

Several *Arthropodium fimbriatum* Nodding Chocolate Lily plants are now in bud.

Reet has counted 22 *Diuris sulphurea* Tiger Orchid in flower, more to come.

Caretakers

There are many more of you out there than we have recorded on our map – most encouraging, but let's let the secret out.

Please send coordinates for your area, or a position worked out from the map on our web page. Go to *Members*, then *Map*

Your first name will be entered against a number.

If your area is already on the map, do check to see that the location is still relevant. Note: some past carers remain on this map for historical interest. ✨

Friends of The Pinnacle Walk

9:30 am, Sat 27th November

Meet at the De Salis St. carpark in Weetangera.

Don Driscoll, from the Fenner School, ANU will lead a walk and speak on their native grass restoration project, *Defeating the Weed Menace*. ✨