



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter May 2011

Previous Sunday meeting 17th April Nature Trail Kathner Street

A team of toilers turned out on this lovely autumn afternoon to tidy our reunion site at Kathner Street. Access tracks were slashed, gravel raked smooth, and vast quantities of weeds removed, including much seeding Fleabane *Conyza albida* and *Verbascum spp.* The area now looks wonderful, thanks to the great season and the efforts of our volunteers.



Surprise!

Bess and her daughter Elizabeth in brilliant sunshine at Pauline's Patch. It was great to see them at the working bee on Sunday, as well as next day at the Reunion.

Photo Arminel Ryan

Future Programme

Next Meeting – Sunday 15th May

Time – 1.30 – 4 pm

Location —Group Area South at Arawang.

Tasks – Removing exotics, including blackberries.

Plant ID –as required.

Meeting Place – Horse paddock entrance, Namatjira Drive, or at GAS on Arawang summit trail.

Bring - hat, gloves, hacker, drink, snack.

QUERIES - RING ARMINEL ON 6231 7392

Caring and sharing

Arminel will be away for June and July. Doug will stand in on Presidential duties. We need a stand-in editor. Call Arminel on 6231 7392 if you'd be willing to give it a go.

20th Anniversary Activity Report

Our two **Heritage Walks** took place as planned, despite rain on Sunday 10th April and a bit of a gale on Saturday 16th April. Doug did a valiant job as leader on both occasions. Our visitors seemed to enjoy their rambles, and we gained greatly from the knowledge of the FOG members who attended!

We were very pleased with our **Reunion on the Ridge** on 18th April. Particular thanks to Caring for Country Ranger and Ngunnawal descendant, Adrian Brown, for welcoming us to country, and bringing his children to the event. More than 30 people came. It was a delightful gathering, made so by many willing helpers. The weather was perfect, everyone was happy and relaxed, and everything went to plan. Martin Lind recorded proceedings, and hopes to broadcast excerpts from Tony Brownlie's remarks on the 2XX Landcare Programme. We intend to post a selection of photos on our web-site soon. And we're collecting your comments and recollections in a special **20th Anniversary book**.

Courtesy of Parks, we now have available printed copies of our **Regeneration Report Nov 2010**. We'll keep one in our library, but if you would like to have the booklet yourself, please ask.

Arminel and Malcolm have been working on a 20-page **Celebratory publication**, to appear later in the year. More details next time. Pauline has been nominated for a posthumous **Volunteer of the Year** award for her conservation work. Steve Welch, from SACTCG, nominated her after attending her farewell, where so many attested to her inspiring example.

What's around

**Xanthium spinosum* – Common name Bathurst Burr - Native of S America.

Drawing and most information from PlantNET Compiled and edited by staff of the National Herbarium of New South Wales © 1999 – 2011 The Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust, Sydney Australia

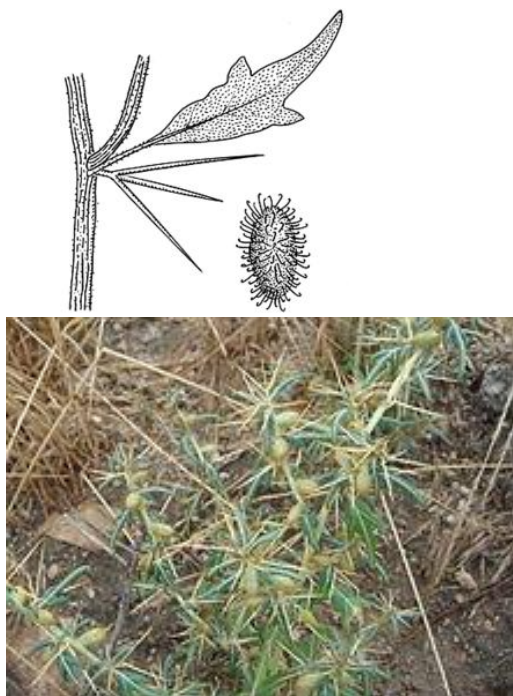


Image from Wikipedia

Family Asteraceae

Gk Aster = star

**Xanthium spinosum*

Gk xanthos = yellow

L. spinosum = having spines

Description: Herb to 1 m high; stems pubescent, armed with rigid 3-pronged spines at base of leaves; spines 7–25 mm long, yellowish.

Leaves narrow-rhombic to lanceolate, 3–8 cm long, 8–20 mm wide, margins entire or 3-lobed, upper surface dark green, shiny and ± pubescent, lower surface whitish and felted, prominently veined with 1 or 3 main whitish veins; petiole c. 1 cm long.

Male heads clustered at end of branches, or in the upper leaf axils; female heads axillary, usually solitary. Burrs 10–12 mm long, with non-glandular hairs, with numerous hooked spines, c. 3 mm long, beaks 1–2 mm long.

Flowering: most of year.

Distribution and occurrence: Grows in agricultural ground and disturbed pastures, on most soil types; widespread and seasonally abundant, often forming prolific stands after summer rain or flooding.

Linda's "frick'n Lovegrass" Report

Linda has provided a Cooleman Ridge report to the survey on *Eragrostis curvula*. Apart from the infestation at Darrell Place, near the big Reservoir, she concludes that the isolated plants elsewhere can be controlled by physical removal. Walkers familiar with this weed are requested to patrol the trails with hacker and sack in hand.

Smile at a stile

New member Maureen has had a win, for which other Kambah residents should be very grateful. The climb-through stile, which gives walkers access to the Ridge through the Horse Paddocks, had become overgrown and almost unusable. She complained. It's been fixed. Congratulations, Maureen!

Centenary Trail

The Chief Minister announced on 29th April that \$3.3 million will be spent on a Canberra Centenary walking and cycling trail – see media release at

<http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10654>.

The \$100,000 feasibility report relating to this announcement is on the web too, at

http://www.tams.act.gov.au/pv_obj_cache/pv_obj_id_119_5791F308DE1C3AECB0E14CEFB4A176D253700/filename/Centenary_Trail_Report_03.pdf

Stephen Hughes (Manager, Parks Reserves and Rural Lands, ACT Parks and Conservation Service) arranged for CB Richard Ellis Town Planners to meet Parkcare coordinators at Stromlo Depot on 12th April. He's since assured coordinators that there will be more extensive consultation on detailed routing of the trail through Canberra Nature Park nature reserves.