



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter November
2012

*Previous Sunday meeting –
21st October*

Lizard Walk – Anna's report

Members enjoyed learning about the Pink-Tailed Worm Lizard *Aprasia parapulchella* during the walk-and-talk led by Dr Will Osborne. Dr Osborne showed us how to identify *Aprasia* habitat and how to check for their presence with minimal disturbance. He had brought a lizard along with him and showed us how their ear holes are covered. Many people mistake them for baby snakes. They are very slender, sweet-looking little lizards with a pink blush at the end of their tails.

While walking with Dr Osborne, we stopped at a site he said looked like good habitat and showed how we would gently tilt a rock to check for one underneath. Then, lo and behold, there was a little Pink Tailed Worm Lizard! It even had a shed skin next to it! After we all had a good look, it obediently demonstrated how it would squeeze itself down into its burrow, which doubled as an ant hole.

We came away wanting to do our best for these threatened little lizards. We have agreed to help with a survey of these reptiles on the Ridge in early spring 2013.

Pauline's Patch

The only work done on Pauline's Patch was by poor lonely Linda, who missed out on the lizard walk!

Cash for the Coolman RPCG

Thanks to Linda for her generous donation to the Group.

Committee 2012-2013

President	Anna See
Vice President	Arminel Ryan
Treasurer	Rohan Thomas
Secretary	Tammy Lee
Members	Doug Tinney, Jenny Horsfield, Reet Vallak, Alan Ford, Gösta Lyngå
Public Officer	Doug Tinney

Arminel continues as Newsletter Editor;
Rohan continues as Webmaster.

AGM

The necessary quorum was present and all formalities were duly completed in minimum time (see above). Many thanks to all who help keep us on track and within budget!

Future programme

Note – in the warmer months, we meet in the mornings!!

Next Meeting – Sunday 18th November Group Area Central – Darrell Place

- 8 am – 10.30 am
- Plant ID and Annual Plant Survey; remove exotic growth (especially African Lovegrass and Blackberry)
- Wear long sleeves and trousers, enclosed shoes, hat and gloves.
- BYO drink and snack

Contact Arminel 6231 7392 if you need any gear or more info.

Top Swap

Mark Sweaney is acting senior ranger and primary park care contact at Athllon depot until late January 2013. Nina Bruns, from whom he takes the reins, remains at Athllon as a ranger.

What's around

Pultenaea procumbens - Common name: *Heathy Bush-pea*



Family – Fabaceae

From Latin *faba* = bean

Subfamily Faboideae

Pultenaea - after Richard Pulteney (1730-1801), English botanist.

procumbens – procumbent, lying flat. From Latin *Pro* + *cumbere* = to lay oneself down.

Line drawing from PlantNET.



Description: Low-growing shrub. Leaves alternate 3–10 mm long, 1–4 mm wide. Inflorescences apparently terminal, dense, leafy, the leaves slightly reduced and with slightly enlarged stipules; bracts absent. Flowers 7–9 mm long. Pod c. 5 mm long, turgid. Grows in dry sclerophyll forest to heath usually on stony soils

Detail from a photo by Pat Ryan.
Plant flowering above Lincoln Close.

Discover wildlife along the Queanbeyan River —17 Nov 2012 - 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Join Dr Stephen Skinner from the Molonglo Catchment Group for a walk and talk along a stretch of the Queanbeyan River, heading downstream from Doeberl Reserve in Barracks Flat Rd to observe the wildlife in, on and around the Queanbeyan River.

Patch Work

The Friday Weeders continue their toil at Kathner Street. Reet reports removing 200 **Tragopogon sp.* in one session. Arminel removed 90 Privet **Ligustrum sp.* seedlings, under a single large tree.

Graham is back on the warpath, revisiting the thickets of Cootamundra Wattle *Acacia baileyana* that he'd felled. He's decided that cutting at ground level is not enough when seasonal conditions encourage regrowth from the roots and base – poison IS necessary.

Paul has done sterling service with a season snuffing out Great Mullein **Verbascum thapsus* and Fleabane **Conyza spp.* Our Rangers removed his 7 bags of Mullein seed spikes.

Snake Scene

Be wary – warmer weather means our solar-powered friends the snakes are emerging. Most of those we see on the Ridge are poisonous. However, they are shy and will usually avoid contact with large creatures like us if we make plenty of noise while moving about. Wear long trousers and/or gaiters in long grass, and keep your eyes open. Keep still if you do see a snake close by – it will usually slither off. **Do not panic!** Do not try to hit or harm or alarm the snake – human aggression commonly leads to snakebite.

If you are bitten, apply a pressure bandage to the limb and seek medical attention. Do not wash the bite – venom on the skin helps medical staff identify the correct antivenene to use.

Dam News

Our Waterwatchers saw a baby turtle at the Old Dam. Two Swamp Lilies *Ottelia ovalifolia* have now appeared in the turbid waters of the Kathner Street dam. The latter water storage has been smelly, with elevated pH levels. Investigations continue as to the cause of this phenomenon.