

**MEMBERS NEWSLETTER NO 70
FEBRUARY 1999**



Hi Everyone,

Five intrepid souls didn't think 34 degrees was a heatwave in January so we got the chosen area cleared of Prickly Lettuce and woody weeds and now it's looking good.

This month we will concentrate on the burned area at Kathner St.. Paterson's Curse is growing everywhere. We will hoe, spray, dig or pull and see what comes up next! If you own a hoe could you bring it along please? We will conclude the day with a small celebration of the fact that Malcolm and I were both awarded Order of Australia Medals on Australia Day. I would like to thank those members who had a hand in the award of my medal and kept their secret so well. You may be interested to learn that over 50% of nominations are turned down. If you are not coming to weed just come along to the "party" at 3pm.

Did I say the thistles were cleared on Mt Arawang? They are coming up overnight and it is taking a big effort to keep them under control.

March is National Landcare Month and a lot is happening. The Minister will launch the month at Fisher Parkland (by the BMX track on Namatjira Drive) on 2nd March. For Clean Up day on 7th March we will be there again for a big clean up, a planting and maybe a walk. Refreshments are provided (bring some water). Anyone wanting to Clean Up another area before the 7th? I can let you have sacks and collect them from you. On Monday 15th March it is ACT Alive on the lawns of Old Parliament House. We will share a tent with Environment Australia, anyone willing to look after the table for a while would be very welcome.

For the whole of March I will have a IYOP display in Woden Library, go along and see yourselves on view.

We have had two donations this month. A very generous monetary one from Jennifer and Ian Prosser and a kilo of native grass seed from David, bought with the proceeds of art sales.

I hope you haven't all been making jam, I have too much for my cupboard and would love to sell some at \$2 a jar, \$2.50 for strawberry.

Statistics for January :-

Hours	On Ridge	187
	Off Ridge	79
Woody weeds cut & sprayed or dug		283
Herbaceous weeds pulled or sprayed		8500 inc. St John's Wort & Bramble
Trees and shrubs planted		-
Herbaceous plants planted		-
Grasses planted		20 at the new dam

Dates to Remember:

Sunday 21st February	10 - 3pm Kathner St. entrance and follow the walking trail.
Tuesday 2nd March	3 - 4pm "Party" (if wet phone me) Launch of Landcare Month, BMX track Namatjira Dr. Time to be advised.
Sunday 7th March	Clean Up Day 9 - 1pm BMX track.
Monday 15th March	ACT Alive 10 - 4pm, Lawns of Old Parliament House
All March	Display in foyer of Woden Library

Cheers

Bess (62887536)

The Tree Survey

Our group has started an ambitious survey of the trees on Cooleman Ridge. We discussed the best way of marking the trees with the National Botanic Gardens and with Canberra Nature Park and settled on fixing a small numbered metal tag with a nail on the East face of each trunk

The project surges ahead. We have already tagged 1664 trees on the Ridge, photographed 815 of those on around 350 group photos and measured positions for 480 trees with GPS, the Global Positioning System. But there are more trees than we thought on Cooleman Ridge, well above 2000 it seems. So it would be most welcome if more Park Carers could join those 11 people who are now engaged.

The first jobs, tagging and photographing can easily be done simultaneously and do not require a lot of knowledge about the tree species.

Once the tagging is done, the details can be filled in at leisure:

It is quite easy to measure positions with the GPS. We have found that if two people work together, some 50 positions can be obtained in an hour. Arrange with Tony Fearnside (62887656) to borrow his instrument; Tony will also show you how to use it.

The final and most interesting stage is to record species, size, health, environment, bird life and habitat conditions for each tree. So far we have assessed 177 trees. We have not yet found any with aboriginal markings but we are on the look-out for that as well. You may be able to examine 10-20 trees in an hour. Pauline and Gösta Lyngå will help you to get started if you are uncertain about this job.

The most daunting task, it seems, is the identification of the species. This can easily be left to someone confident or foolhardy enough to give it a go.

In the data base, where Gösta enters all the information he receives there are now 720 entries. From those with full information a first statistical analysis tells us that:

E. nortonii mainly grow on the tops of the hills and E. blakelyi lower down

E. polyanthemus is by far the most susceptible to mistletoe infestations

Most trees grow in a NW aspect

Maybe you would already have guessed these trends, but there is no telling what we will be able to say when ten times as many trees have been investigated.

Warning: This can become compulsive.

Pauline and Gösta Lyngå
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