

# COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

## Newsletter October

2008

*An electronic register of specimens held by the Australian National Herbarium. Reflects what is in the physical collections of the herbarium, so there may be some minor discrepancies here and there. Our collections cover all of Australia and most of the world."*

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### Census of the Vascular Plants of the ACT

Here is the final section – from Brendan Lepschi's detailed response to our worries. See recent newsletters for Parts 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5.

*"APNI (Australian Plant Name Index) collates every newly published plant name and published concept relating to Australian flora as it appears, and this is in turn filtered through the APC (Australian Plant Census) process to produce a nationally agreed taxonomy. No state or territory is bound to follow the taxonomy recommended by the APC, but it is pleasing to see many jurisdictions starting to amend their censuses to follow the APC.*

*"..... the APC so far has been focusing on the genus level and below, with family concepts adopted the same as those used for the Flora of Australia. This is largely the system used by the ACT Census....."*

*"..... some genera may be in unfamiliar or different families but as I mentioned above this is neither right nor wrong, and at present is based as much on pragmatism as any scientific evidence. Classification at the family level and above is notoriously difficult and fluid. The ACT Census will ultimately follow family circumscriptions adopted by the APC.*

*"In summary, the main databases are:*

#### ***"Census of the Vascular Plants of the ACT***

*<http://www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/ACT-census/index.html>*

*A census of the vascular plants occurring in the ACT. This is the one to use to check what has been recorded from the ACT. Updated six-monthly (July & January).*

#### ***"Australian Plant Census (APC)***

*<http://www.anbg.gov.au/chah/apc/index.html>*

*A nationally agreed census of the vascular plants of Australia. Incomplete, but being worked on presently, constantly updated as new information becomes available. This provides recommended names for Australian plants, and the ACT Census will be aligned with the APC in its next iteration.*

#### ***"Australian Plant Name Index (APNI)***

*<http://www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/databases/apni.html>*

*A 'nomenclator' for Australian vascular plants. Provides information on names only, does not provide information on recommended taxonomies or nomenclature. Constantly updated as new information becomes available.*

#### ***"Australian National Herbarium Specimen Information Register (ANHSIR)***

*<http://www.anbg.gov.au/cgi-bin/anhsir>*



- bring hat, gloves, hacker, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet. ☼

## Previous Sunday Meeting September 21<sup>st</sup>

Notwithstanding a chain of apologies we were nine worrying the weeds near the end of the revived Walking Trail – and in October the Trail will feature as Canberra Nature Park's Walk of the Month

Activity spread up to the eroded maintenance track, and into the gully running down to the Kathner St dam. Linda and Alan saw two Bearded Dragons, and George found himself eye to eye with a long Brown Snake which reared up before catapulting past him. This serves as a timely reminder to check that your two compression bandages are still in the front pocket of your pack.



Part of our group made a detour by the Choughs' nest – Malcolm had observed two beaks waiting to be fed the day before, though on the Friday we'd not noticed them. Roger's glorious photo was taken the following Wednesday. By the size of these chicks he doesn't think any more will be hatching.

☼

photo: Roger Curnow

## Future programme

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October:** Focus on Feathers –Parks Week bird walk to be led by Tobias Hayashi.

Numbers will be limited to 20.

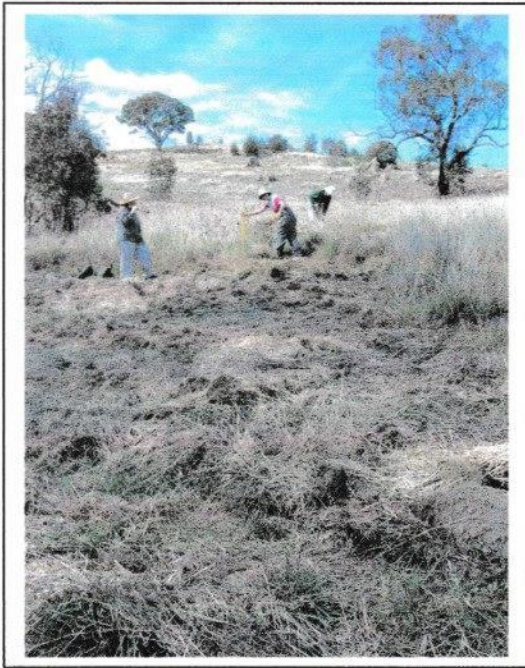
Start: 7.30a.m.

- RSVP: Arminel Ryan, president, by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October. Phone: 6231 7392. You will then be told where to assemble.

## Next meeting Sunday October 19<sup>th</sup>

- short AGM, followed by clearing exotic growth from GAN/Chauvel
- 1.30-4pm
- meet at the Kathner St entrance, or at GAN/Chauvel





Some of the Friday people are rolling back Phalaris in the gully at a great rate. *Geranium solanderi* spreads doggedly in the space created and down Gösta's way the *Eryngium ovinum* springs up yet again. The tufts of *Tricoryne elatior* are greening and a *Wurmbea dioica* flower has been reported.

*Arctotheca calendula* poses a threat: a sackful was removed from the verge of the maintenance track by the steep pitch ☼

## Hours

Attached to this newsletter is the work sheet that shows how Samantha Ning would like our activities recorded. Send the information monthly to Doug: [tinneydoug@hotmail.com](mailto:tinneydoug@hotmail.com) ☼

## Pines

A total of 50 *Pinus radiata* seedlings have been removed since the fire – they seem to just keep coming. ☼

## Focus on Feathers

A quick note from Tobias regarding the bird walk foreshadows the possibilities:

- signs of breeding activity, e.g. Galahs in nesting hollows, Starlings in nesting hollows, Pardalotes nesting in the dirt banks
- migrating honeyeaters e.g. Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Noisy Friarbird, White-plumed Honeyeater, maybe still White-eared Honeyeater
- Southern Whiteface, one of the rarer birds, like a largish thornbill, has a distinctive white band across the face
- Diamond Firetails and Double-barred Finches if lucky; Dusky Woodswallow, Tree Martin and Welcome Swallow; Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike - listen for the rolling churring call
- any of the migrants, like Oriole, Dollarbird, Bee-eater

*Note: Tobias recently sighted, and photographed, a Regent Honeyeater near the Walking Trail, up from the old dam. This bird is not commonly seen hereabouts - a feather in Tobias's cap, so to speak. ☼*

## DRAFT: TOWARDS A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR COOLEMAN RIDGE CANBERRA NATURE PARK (cont)

### Policies of fire management (cont.). - Options for the maintenance of biodiversity and ecological processes

Because fire has been a component of ecological processes of the area for perhaps thousands of years, it is obvious that fire should be a part of management because one aim is that ecological processes are to be maintained (see "Aims and Objectives"). The question is to what extent this can be achieved. Which fire regimes are most appropriate? Which surrogates may be appropriate?

Research throughout southeastern Australia suggests that frequent burning is necessary for biodiversity conservation because it sets the cover of dominant grasses back and allows less competitive plants to flourish. Some of the 'less competitive' plants are rare. On the basalt plains to the west of Melbourne, Stuwe and Parsons (1977) concluded that regular firing (attempted every year along the railway) allowed the occurrence of a "suite" of less competitive native species to occur. If periodic reduction of the size of dominant grasses allows rarer species to persist then any means which achieves this should allow more species of natives to flourish. This seems to be what has happened with light grazing or slashing (Fensham and Kirkpatrick 1989, Stuwe 1994) as well as burning (Stuwe and Parsons 1977, McDougall 1989). The grazing or slashing regime (type, intensity and interval) will determine the responses of the vegetation - just as the fire regime does - but there has been little research to ascertain details of the benefits or negative effects of particular regimes. Different 'disturbances' may have unique contributions to make to the control of exotics or the promotion of natives. James (1994) has discussed some aspects of the effects of mowing regimes in remnant bushland in western Sydney. The applicability of research outside the ACT to the ACT should be investigated by seeking out the results of local work in progress (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service near Royalla and ACT Parks and Conservation Service in areas around Canberra) and comparing them with published work. However, there is no substitute for observations on the Ridge itself so investigation on the spot using simple methods is recommended. Fires on Mt Taylor and near Coleman Trig in 1994 were beneficial to native plant species.

*Note: the whole draft, submitted in 1998, can be read on our web site. ☼*

## Free weed swap

### Swap your weeds for local native seedlings.

When: Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th October 2008 from 8.30am to 4pm daily. Where: Corkhill Bros Landscaping yard near the Mugga Lane tip and Canberra Sand & Gravel's yard at Southern Cross Drive, Parkwood. ☼

## Black Mountain Spring Wildflower Celebration

Saturday 11 October 2008

Meet from 9.15am at the Belconnen Way entry just before Caswell Drive and the new freeway overpass.

Contact Jean Geue on 6251 1601. ☼