



COLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter May 2004

Previous Sunday meeting, April 18th

From Darrell Place we went slightly south to an area we knew to be rich in native vegetation, though it now looked pretty unexciting. In spring we'd seen it clothed in different grasses, Bulbine Lilies and Stackhousia – over 20 species all told at a quick count. So we chipped away, introducing Ross to both the good and the bad. We spelled for a meeting and cake before Gösta lead us a little higher up the slope to a truly lovely expanse of Kangaroo Grass, Melichrus and a small shrub already in bud that we've not yet identified. So as a group we decided that next time in the central area this would be our focal point. The clearing of exotics will be rapid and we should quickly link up with where we'd just been busy. In the plant list sent to Steve we've called it GAC/Darrell (Group Area Central/Darrell) and it is precisely half way along the Ridge.

On the walk up from Darrell Place we passed countless Blue Gums reshooting, and clusters of Cootamundra Wattles. ☼

Next Sunday meeting, May 16th

We'll be weeding GAN/Chauvel (Group Area North/Chauvel) - where we were in February

- 1.30 - 4 pm
- meet at the Kathner St entrance
- bring hat, gloves, weeder, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet ☼

April log

Park staff removed tripod

020404 rabbit sighted, FP Hill

Chamaesyce drummondii growing ☼

Annual Survey

Please complete and return to Doug the attached survey of Park Care Group members. Our group is so dispersed and not everyone is able to attend the monthly events hence the survey is the principal means of gaining feedback from you.

Doug - phone 6288 8589

snail mail: 65 Ballarat Street, FISHER ACT 2611

e-mail tinnevDoug@hotmail.com ☼

The Old Dam in April

Doug writes:

"Anybody who has wandered past the old dam in recent days will be aware how the water level is very low. It's obvious the dam is not in good condition and the water quality tests taken in April confirm this view. Turbidity is high, which is a poor result. Phosphate levels were fair but electrical conductivity of the water and dissolved oxygen levels were poor. In short, the dam came out as a murky sump."

"Nevertheless, no algae was observed and the turtles were numerous. No doubt like the rest of us, they are looking for a good flush before winter."

Fire hazard assessment

Steve writes:

"A broad fire hazard assessment program covering all public land in the ACT is currently being developed. This program will include coverage of Canberra Nature Park and other reserved areas. Park Care groups can provide valuable local knowledge to increase our knowledge of fire hazards and the methods to manage hazards in their areas. In the next three months training will be offered to Park Care groups that would like to participate in the systematic fire hazard assessment program. A field-based training session will introduce the program, including the method of assessing the 'Overall Fuel Hazard', and the provision of plot locations and data sheets. Further information will be provided closer to the training sessions". ☼

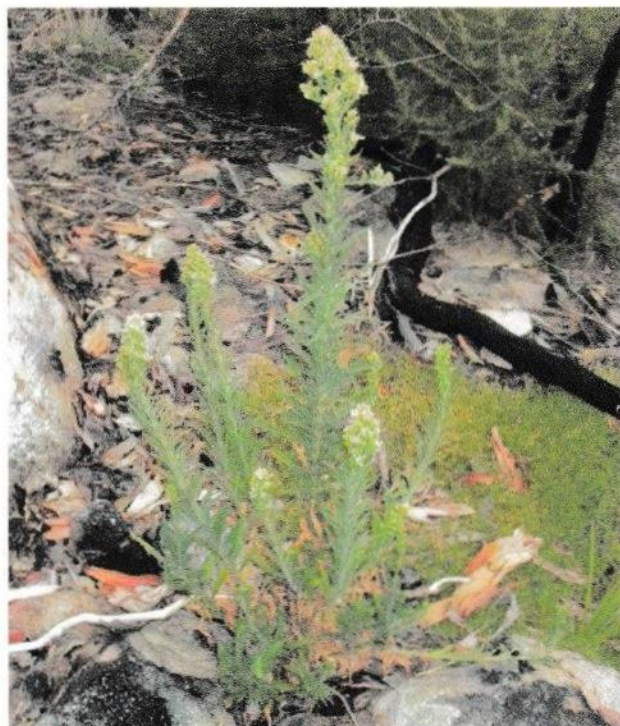
Future programme

Provisionally the year looks like this:

May 16th GAN/Chauvel, weeding
June 20th Walking trail with Rotary
July 18th – GAC/Darrell weeding
August 15th – GAS/Arawang, weeding
September 19th – tree survey, Naarilla's area
October 17th – theme walk
November 21st – GAN/Chauvel, weeding
December 19th – Waterwatch old dam. ☼

What's around

ASTERACEAE – *aster* Gr. star. Previously Compositae; the daisy family



**Conyza albida* - Tall Fleabane
Annual weed to 2 m
Gr. for fleabane; *alba* L. white
Native of N. America



**Cirsium vulgare* – Spear Thistle
Biennial weed
vulgare L: common
Native of Europe, W. Asia, N. Africa ☼

Plant lists

Steve has asked Park Care groups to contribute their knowledge to the general good, with particular reference to plant lists. This knowledge can inform fire hazard reduction decisions, and more. We are delighted at the show of interest and have sent off the complete plant list for Cooleman Ridge dating from about 1993 (thanks to the thoughtfulness of Judith Harvey who had a copy of our list at the time of the fire) to the present. We have a total of 349 species of which 152 are exotic. Since the fire we have added 9 exotics and 1 native. Most of the exotics grew from scattered bird seed. There are a few new natives that we are monitoring with interest, hoping to make an identification when they flower. We have also sent Steve lists from the three sites that the Group has selected as project regeneration areas. Suddenly we were compelled to give them names:

- GAN/Chauvel. (Group Area North/Chauvel)
- GAC/Darrell (Group Area Central/Darrell)
- GAS/Arawang (Group Area South/Arawang)

We've entered the sites, with their coordinates, on a sketch map.

There are several more sites for which lists have been compiled and these Steve will get when coordinates have been determined.

I will soon be walking the Ridge from end to end, clutching the GPS and a clip board. ☼

Nature Trail Revival

Good news that Weston Creek Rotary Club will collaborate with us on the restoration of the Nature Trail. Ten years ago the same club helped us with planning, money and labour to establish the trail, which was partly destroyed by the Jan 2003 fire. Gösta was met with positive vibes by Rotary when proposing the project at one of their meetings and inviting Rotarians to walk the trail and plan details on June 20th. This is our regular Park Care Sunday and it will be valuable to have our members mingling with the visitors to get a feeling of what features are of immediate interest to the public at large. This show of interest from a local community group is very encouraging – even amounting to a show of confidence in the Park Care movement. ☼

Library

A reminder that Janice houses the library and archives. Phone 6288 3953 ☼.