



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter May
2006

Previous Sunday Meeting, April 16th

Although it was Easter Day we still mustered an energetic gang for the further clearing of exotic plants at GAN/Chauvel. There was the customary serving of dried grasses, Fleabane and Skeleton Weed; and in spite of the conditions there were encouraging splashes of Lomandra. It's nice to see the Kurrajong - *Brachychiton populneus* - which appeared so soon after the fire growing tall and glossily green.

The day was glorious, and Rohan refused to stop when the rest of us knocked off. So we left him there with the big Brown Snake for company. ☺

Future programme

We will continue to rotate through the three Group Areas (GA) when there is no special programme, meeting as usual on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 1.30 p.m.

World Environment Day - Trial the Trail

Sunday June 4th, 10 am at the end of Kathner Street. ☺

CVA

Conservation Volunteers Australia have been with us again, shepherded by Ken Horsfall and his team. Thursday 20th they were at the Chapman School Trail with Jenny and Doug as on the previous occasion: the improvement there is obvious to anyone familiar with the area.

On Friday 21st they all fronted up at Kathner St with enough energy over for another day on the mattocks. It was a bumper day for the Friday regulars too, with seven Park Carers either joining the CVAs or making progress on their own patches.

Close to a dozen bags were stuffed with *Cyperus eragrostis* (Umbrella Sedge) that had been infesting the dam, and they were lugged to Jenny's van for transporting to the tip. Amy from Northern Ireland turned out to have a great way with frogs and she gently scooped up members of three species, one of which allowed itself to be photographed.

CVA's much-postponed visit coincided with Canberra Times journalist Rosslyn Beeby's much postponed visit for her story on Cooleman Ridge and Park Care. Finding CVA in action was a bonus she hadn't anticipated. So keep your eye on the CT Science Page.

After lunch there was more clearing, this time of dry grass (including *Phalaris aquatica*) inside the Fence Post Hill enclosure. The following day the youngsters were moving on, variously to New Zealand and Alice Springs, leaving Cooleman Ridge the better for their coming. ☺

Next Sunday meeting, May 21st

- GAC/Darrell for clearing of exotic growth, plant ID
- 1.30 - 4 pm
- meet at Darrell Place or GAC/Darrell
- bring hat, gloves, hacker, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet ☺

Mynas a major scourge

Anne I'Ons, of Mt Taylor, sends out a stimulating news sheet. The following passage is lifted unedited from her latest communication and has already aroused considerable interest on Cooleman.

"A new direction for us regarding the Myna invasion. All of the hill perimeters are now infested with large flocks, living in the suburbs, and nesting in every available tree. Two very enterprising people are making \$50 traps which work extremely well in back yards: these wire cages are baited with meaty bites (SMALL DOG FOOD), and the mynas get into the traps to feed. They can't get out. Dispatch is one of three methods, all humane and acceptable. Over 250 of the birds have been caught in the Kambah area over the last two months. There are still huge flocks on the ovals. Bill Handke is running with the project, and hopes to form a small organisation that can apply for funding to purchase the traps and operate them in the parks. I have purchased 3 traps and if anyone is interested in trapping in your own yard, give either Bill or myself a ring. We can assist with dispatch of the trapped birds. I have two research reports by groups at Newcastle and Gosford: the reports are damning about the Myna effect on our native birds and the mynas themselves are vectors for many diseases, particularly alarming seeing them in such huge numbers on the school ovals and play grounds. If you want a copy of one of the reports, which is 15 pages long, e-mail me and I will forward it to you".

Anne I'Ons ajions@austarmetro.com.au

Thanks, Anne. ☺

Annual survey

Please complete and return the enclosed/attached survey form to Doug - it is a great help to him when reporting our activities to CNP.

Doug - phone 6288 8589

snail mail: 65 Ballarat Street, FISHER ACT 2611

e-mail tinneydoug@hotmail.com

April log

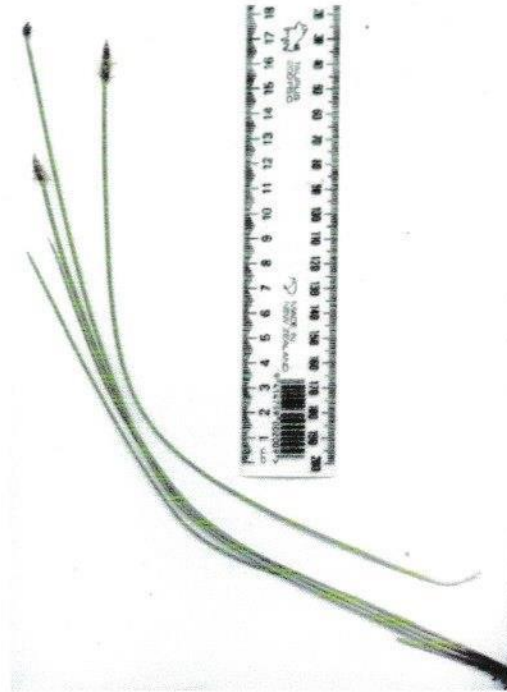
Notice board Perspex smashed again.
160406 Black Snake GAN/Chauvel.
20/210406 CVA team Kathner St. ☺

What's around

Family CYPERACEAE - *cypeiros* Gr. name of a sedge.



Lepidosperma laterale
Tufted native perennial
lepis Gr: scale; *sperma* Gr: seed
latus L: broad. ☼



Eleocharis acuta
Tufted perennial native to 60 cm
Gr. *heleos* marsh + *charis* delight ☼

Graeme

David (Lincoln) has run into Graeme Heanes on a couple of occasions recently, once in January re builder's encroachment onto the reserve in Lincoln Close and again during the fuel reduction burns. We're pleased to hear our Ranger is back on deck and look forward to be seeing more of him. ☼

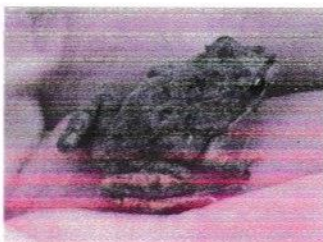
Signage

Last month saw our notice board smashed again. It was initially erected by Graeme and his team in July 2005 and first smashed the following September. So at least the interval is lengthening. ☼

It's been all go this month.

The committee has gone through the archives and discussed how best to make them more accessible to you all.

The Draft Management Plan 1997, principally Malcolm's work, is fascinating to read and it is regrettable that official notice was not taken of it. We'll return to this later in more detail. ☼



Nature Trail Resurrection

12 years ago, our Park Care Group took the initiative to make a Nature Trail. Following an unsuccessful application for funding, the Weston Creek Rotary Club helped us with money and labour; Canberra Nature Park with design, printing and much more. Eventually, the trail was opened by the minister for the environment, Gary Humphreys, on World Environment Day, June 5th 1996. The trail has been used and enjoyed by school groups and by other members of the community during the following years.

The 2003 fires, however, destroyed many of the landmarks and some of our posts and signs, so now we are about to repair the damage and work towards establishing a new and even better trail.

Our enthusiastic Park Care coordinator Rebecca Blundell has provided unstinting support both with surveying the trail and with the grant application itself.

We have applied for funds from ACT Environment Grants, and on Sunday June 4th, again on World Environment Day, we'll walk the trail, discuss what needs to be done and what features the pamphlet should highlight.

Welcome to "*Trial the Trail*", Sunday June 4th, 10 am at the end of Kathner Street, and have your say.
Gösta Lyngå ☼

Stop press!

Pick up a copy of *The Word* – free community newspaper, and check the 5th page. ☼