



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter January

2007

Previous Sunday Meeting, December 17th

From Janice comes a report that brings us up to date with the group's activity.

There were six souls who enjoyed the cool morning air to weed in the central Group Area. The area is looking good with fewer weeds (perhaps as a result of the drought). However, the shorter grass at this time revealed large numbers of verbascum, many in flower, that were determined to grow regardless of the lack of rain. We spent a couple of hours pulling out hundreds of fledgling plants. Hopefully this will help to reduce the size of the next crop when it rains.

Malcolm joined us on his walk across the Ridge recording the positions of, and dealing with, pine seedlings. The pine identified in the central area has been dealt with.

We noticed that the briars in the central area had been sprayed (not cut and dabbed). I am not sure who did this but it appeared to have been a recent activity. The spray had not had any affect on the briars at the time of the December meeting. ☼

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.

Start: 8 am. November, December, January, February
1.30 pm. during the rest of the year ☼

Next Sunday meeting, January 21st

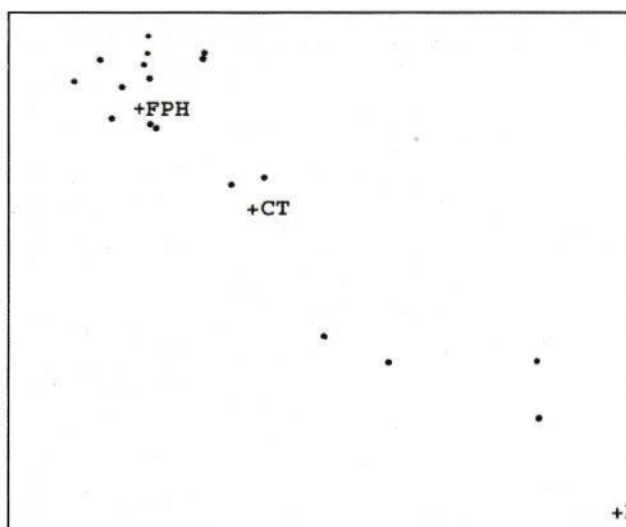
- GAS/Arawang for clearing of exotic growth
- **8 am. to 10.30 am.**
- meet on Namatjira Drive just before the Kambah Pool Road turn-off, or GAS/Arawang
- bring hat, gloves, hacker, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet ☼

December log

Early December – spraying southern end
081206 Kathner St dam empty
081206 brown snake Fence Post Hill
151206 Eastern Blue-tongued Lizard near Kathner St dam
☼

Pine seedlings

Since the fire pine seedlings have been popping up along the Ridge. To date 19 have been found, and they have been removed after the recording of their positions.



FPH: Fence Post Hill, CT: Coleman Trig, MA: Mt Arawang
What conclusions can be drawn from the plot?

- that the points indicate the lie of the Ridge?
- that our members cluster at the Kathner Street end?

Any more speculations? ☼

The Nature Trail Resurrection

From Gösta:

The project is proceeding; we have almost finalised the editing of the pamphlet and the appearance of the display boards. There will be two information boards, one at the Kathner Street entrance and the other at the Monkman Street entrance. The notice board will be placed near the Kathner Street entrance and contain information about plants, activities etc.

We are also in the process of finalising the Deeds of Grant for the funding of the Trail so in a few months it will all be ready for a festive opening. ☼

Web site

Note our new address: www.coolemanridge.org ☼

What's around

Family APIACEAE – *apium* L. celery. Previously Umbelliferae: the parsley family



Eryngium ovinum [rostratum] – Blue Devil
Stiffly erect annual or short-lived native perennial
rostratum L: beaked (bracts) ☼

New Parkcare Officer

Rachael Dawes will be looking after the Parkcare/Landcare position for Rebecca Blundell while she is on maternity leave (until she goes on maternity leave herself in July). She has been working for ACT Forests/Parks, Conservation & Lands since July 2001. ☼

Congratulations

to Rebecca, and welcome to Byron. ☼

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

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Ridge is reserved as Public Land (Nature Reserve). Management objectives (ACT Parks and Conservation Service 1996) for the Ridge (and other similar tenures) are to:

- (i) conserve and enhance native plant and animal communities;
- (ii) conserve features of cultural, geological, geomorphological and landscape significance;
- (iii) maintain ecological processes;
- (iv) provide and promote appropriate recreation and tourism opportunities;
- (v) provide and promote a range of opportunities for raising awareness, appreciation and understanding of natural and cultural heritage;
- (vi) protect the area from the damaging effects of fire, erosion, pollution, pest plants and animals or other disturbances; and
- (vii) ensure appropriate practices by other agencies carrying out works in or adjacent to Canberra Nature Park.

Note: the whole draft can be read on our web site. ☼



Herbicide

From Doug:

A contractor sprayed most of the woody weeds on and around Arawang and for a way north in early December or late November. I remember seeing him as I went down Namatjira/Sulwood one morning around that time. It will be interesting to see the effect on the briars et al. From my observations there was no attack by the sprayer on the verbascum in the area, except by accident.

Mynas

Bill Handke (Canberra Indian Myna Action Group) writes:

October and November trapping data

Trapping in October and November in the Canberra region has seen a further 1715 Indian Mynas removed, giving some relief to native birds. This brings to 7085 mynas that have been trapped in this area.

CIMAG members have reported that Eastern Rosellas and Crimson Rosellas have been nesting in nest boxes and neighbourhood tree hollows for the first time in many years following the reduction in myna numbers in their local area as a result of trapping. This is very heartening news — although at the same time other CIMAG members are reporting that Indian Mynas have been keeping parrots from tree hollows in their area and in the reserves. ☼

Scribbly Gum

The latest issue has arrived and will be available at the next Sunday morning work party, January 21st. ☼