



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter December 2003

Previous Sunday meeting, November 16th

As planned, we weeded in the Kathner St entrance area. The Paterson's Curse (*Echium plantagineum*), and exotic grasses (mainly Bearded Oats – *Avena barbata*) are dispiriting, but as it's a major gateway to Cooleman Ridge it's important to present it as well as possible. We are fortunate in having two caretakers who regularly plug away here and the extra person-power helped things along. We were strengthened by an interstate landcarer whose only excuse for being present was that he "likes weeding". This proved to be an understatement and we look forward to Ron's next idle moment. ☼

Next Sunday meeting, December 21st

We'll treat ourselves to the Ridge at its best. Working out from the newly discovered *Diuris sulphurea* we'll extend the weed-free area round it.

- 1.30 - 4 pm
- meet at Kathner St, or inside the gate above Chauvel Circle. See *Plant Survey* below
- bring hat, gloves, drink, snack, weeder, raincoat if it is wet ☼

Future programme

December 18th Athllon Depot Christmas Party

January 18th under Malcolm's guidance we'll record the progress of the Area 1 trees, one year on ☼

From Bess

I've been keeping Bess up-to-date on the cattle saga – a while back she wrote:

"I feel that I have wasted 10 years of my life. My first memory of being with you is sitting by the old dam when the bull charged that old lady & her dog & she fell down the bank!" ☼

November log

Continued fence-cutting by persons unknown

Mud lark nest near Kathner St dam

021103 watering points in place

Lomandra multiflora in flower

071103 *Azolla filiculoides* on Kathner St dam

081103 *Brachyscome spathulata* (Spoon Daisy) in flower ☼

Park Care Christmas Party

"...bbq at Athllon Depot commencing at 6.15pm for all Park Carers and staff who work with Park Care. Again this year we will try for a minimum waste event, so for any drinks, etc that you bring (all food will be provided) please take the containers home for recycling". Steve

RSVP by 16th to steve.welch@act.gov.au

<<mailto:steve.welch@act.gov.au>>

Plant survey

On 20th December 1999 I recorded species growing around Tree No 289/2 in D2 (see the map of Cooleman Ridge). This is up from Chauvel Circle, and is included in the area slated for grazing. I repeated the survey this 31st October

In 1999 I found 41 natives and 19 exotics

In 2003 I found 35 natives and 21 exotics.

The big surprise was one *Diuris sulphurea* (Donkey Orchid) in flower, and not encountered previously here. The only other recording on the Ridge is the colony on Reet's patch, where one was found in flower 311003. Fortunately Reet's area is not scheduled for grazing.

Note: this is the site for the December 21st work party. ☼

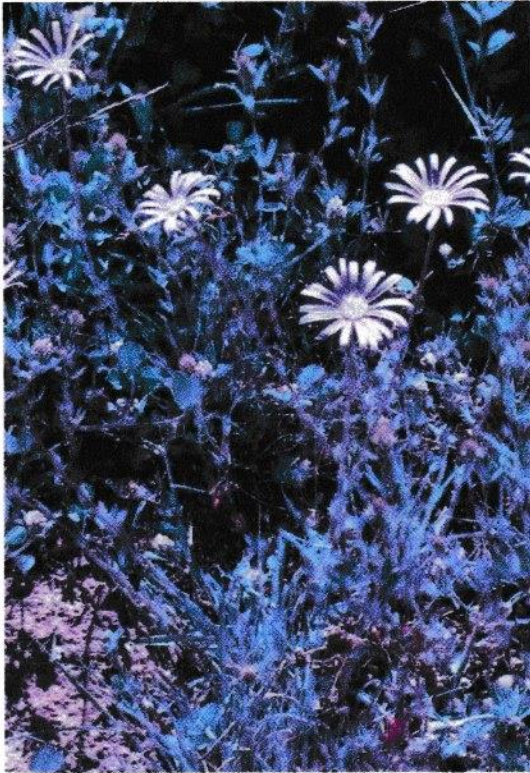
Our own web site

The address for the Park Care Group's web site is as follows, since the merger with iinet:

<http://members.iinet.net.au/~kpelling/> ☼

What's around

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



Brachyscome spathulata

Erect tufted perennial to 60 cm
brachys Gr: short, *come* Gr: hair
spathe Gr: blade



Chrysocephalum apiculatum – Yellow Buttons

Variable perennial to 60 cm
chrys Gr: gold, *cephale* Gr: head,
apiculatus L: sharp-pointed apex. ☼

Think water, act water

The draft water resources strategy *Think water, act water* has been released for public comment by the Chief Minister and Minister for the Environment. Public comment will close 16 February 2004. Information about the draft strategy, and copies of the three documents that make up the strategy package are on a new website <http://www.thinkwater.act.gov.au>

The printed version of the documents will be available after 25 November, but there will be a limited supply. Karen: Civil Communications Project Officer
Environment Protection Environment ACT
Tel: 6207 2170 Fax: 2607 6084
Email: karen.civil@act.gov.au ☼

Committee

Welcome to the new committee:

- Doug as President,
- Janice as Vice president,
- Paul as treasurer
- Gösta as secretary
- Pauline as project officer
- Reet as Public officer

Our thanks to Brenda, retiring Public Officer. ☼

Compression bandages

There were conversations at the AGM I would like to have followed up. Were there three brown snakes at the watering troughs at the same time, or could it have been one brown snake on three occasions? (rather than 1.5 brown snakes twice.) If they (it) are there for the water, how do they access it? Do the tanks leak? In any case you are strongly urged to always carry a compression bandage with you on the Ridge. Just wishing for one as a Christmas present (as I intend doing) is irresponsible. The venom travels via the lymphatic system (not in the blood stream) so bind from the bite towards the heart as firmly as possible and go straight to Emergency. Do not wash the area – traces of venom can help with the choice of treatment. Always get bitten as far out on an extremity as possible. ☼

Attached

Minutes of AGM with attached reports. ☼