# COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

# Newsletter March 2016

Previous meeting
Sunday 21 st February
Group Area Central
above Darrell Place

A not too warm morning greeted Linda, Rob, Graham, Rohan, Gosta, Briteit Alan, Doug and Rogeas theywent after their favourite weeds in the area above Dellr Place.

Graham attacked some wild ess stripping off the rose hips before poisoning the plant. He later calculated his bucket held 3,300 rose hips and, therefore oughly 79,200 seeds had been prevented from being dispersed across the Ridge—and this from just eight plants. Thanks to Roger and other contributors for a lovely morning tea.

#### An early map of Mt Arawang

I have come across an interesting map of our district, probably drawn early 1916. This was the time when the Tuggeranong Valley was being surveyed with a view to the building of a military arsenal in the valleyHarry Mouat, one of the ACT border surveyors, was in charge, based at a survey camp on the Tharwa Road.

The map shows the contours and spot heights of all the local landmarks, which include 'Mt Taylor' and 'Forster Hill'. The ridge along from Mt Arawang is not nærd but spot heights are given. The area to the south of Mt Arawang was called Rocky Hill Paddock. The area to the east and north of Arawang Trig was called Sentry Box Paddock. The only information regarding vegetation was a note 'Scattered green timber' æreas to the north and east of Mt Arawang. All the area was already divided up for grazing. I'm pretty sure

# Next Meeting Sunday 20 th March

Group Area South: Mt Arawang

Time: 8.30 am- 11 am

Meet: horse paddocks off Namatjira iDe

Bring: hat, gloves, hackedrink, raincoat if

it is wet

Task: plant identification and weeding

Contact: Doug Tinney 6288 8589

the whole area was original part of the Yarralumla estate, acquired by the Commonwealth in 1912.

[Source: National Archives of Australial A6273, L1915/497]

Jenny Horsfield

### Loose dogs, snakes and a cat

In last month's newsletter concern was expressed about the effect of dogs running free on native wild lifeAnother consideration is the threat to the dogs from snakes. Recently I saw a large brown snake crossing a regularly used trail near Chauvel Circle. Graham also reports that he met a man walking his dog off the leash. When he pointed out the danger of snakes, the man admitted that he had lost one dog in this manner but appeared ouncerned about his present dog!

While free running dogs may be a legitimate worry, I am particularly concerned at having spotted a large white and black cat in the same area. I think it lives in one of the houses backing onto the Ridge but I was disturbed to see it on three occasions up on the Ridge.

Rob Lundie

#### Woodland Flora book

Sarah Sharp and others have just published Woodland Flora, a companion volume to Grassland Flora. The new book contains over 400 photographs of plants found in our area the Southern Tablelands. As Ian Fraser writes in the introduction, this field guide helps to focus on the myad components of 'the bush'. The book is availale through CSIRO for \$25 and eventually through the Botania Gens bookshop.

Alan Ford

### Cattle on the Ridge

In the coming weeks you can expect to see cattle on the Bicentennial National Trail Paddock for grazing (fuel reduction) small area of native repeneration under a large eucalypt in the side paddock will be fenced off to protect some Indigoferas and other plants

#### Signs

Thanks to everyone who everyone who everyone who everyone who everyone to put up signs around the Ridge before our monthly meetings, and to Doufor coordinating their distribution.

Following a nasty accident on the notoriously slippery road up from Kathnerret, it is hoped that a sign will be erected warning walkers and cyclists of its hazardous nature and inviting them to use the safer nature loop trail to gain acess to the Ridge. Craig Wainwright has recently brustut the trail to make it more obvious and encouraging.

## Walking t rails on the Ridge

In February, at the behest of energetic member, David Mackenzie, the manager of Parks South, Scott Seymour and rarlgem Banyer, agreed to an inspection of tracks on Mt Arawang up from Lincoln Place.

David has been concerned for some time about erosion at many points and the creation of alternative tracks which cause further erosion. Scott and Liam accompanied David and Doug Tinney on a tor of the worst affected sites.

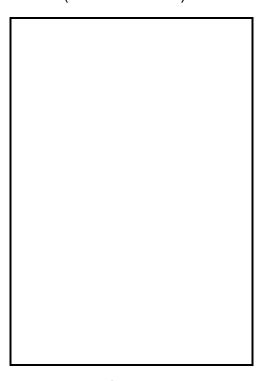
It remains to be seen, ind when, the necessary remedial work might be implemented. In these dry periods, the erosion is evident but not critical. But it will not remain dry forever and experience withcent significant rain events suggests that damage

can happen very quickly. Scott and Liam agreed to a follow up meeting in March where, besides walking tracks and erosion control, the removal of woody weeds would be discussed.

**Doug Tinney** 

#### On the Bicentenary Trail

Coming up to do some weeding at my patch on Cooleman Ridge recentlygot a lovely surprise when meeting this young woman on her way along the Bicentenaryrail from Healesville (near Melbourne) to Cooktown.



Having just spent five ot days trekking through the Australian Alps with her trusted horse, she was looking rward to a few days rest in Yarralumla before continuing nart

Her horse sniffed hungrily at my bag but found nothing edibleIt really made me believe in the future to meet this young person with such an adventurous mind and such stamina for the long journey.

Gosta Lynga

# The end of the Group?

I recently cameacross a stormbout dogs being trained to detect the noxious orange and mouse ear Hawkeweeth Kosciusko National Park. Maybe we could trin the loose unning dogs to sniff out the weeds on Cooleman Ridge. And then, once located, if we could also train them to dig them out we could wind up the Group! Rob Lundie