



COLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter March 2003

Previous Sunday meeting, February 16th

There was evidence of scouring from the previous day's heavy rain. While Erika lead a rather barren water watch of Kathner St dam, Malcolm lined us up for tree-surveying in Area 1. Janice, David, Reet, Jenny, Rob, Doug and I formed three teams. measuring trunk girth at 1.3 m, and the girth of all fallen limbs. Where the aluminium tags had not survived the intensity of the fire (mainly rough-barked trees), Malcolm took GPS readings. We'll be keen to learn the fate of the data from these 40-odd trees. Tina and Erika walked to the old dam, above which they found two vigorous patches of *Glycine tabacina*, lots of **Hypochaeris radicata*, some **Chondrilla juncea*. *Solanum cinereum* and *Eucalyptus* sp. were sprouting from ground level. ☼

Next Sunday meeting, March 23rd

We are again measuring trees for Malcolm's research programme (see above). Meet at Kathner Street. We hope to have enough teams to cover the Olympic site and all the way to the old dam. Bring a tape measure if you have one.

Note change from third Sunday:

- 1.30 - 4 pm
- meet at Kathner St entrance
- bring hat, gloves, drink, snack, tape measure. ☼

Future programme

April 20th to be decided.

May 18th to be decided ☼

Zen

In line with Steve's advice to be patient and monitor, I read of a Japanese farmer's Zen-inspired approach "Do nothing, but do it intelligently".

Record the recovery of your area and include the detail on the May survey form. ☼

Get-together

We met at Janice's, all 17 of us, heartened by the support of several new members. Karina and Chris demonstrated the web page to those without access to a computer. Judith sketched ideas for vegetation monitoring and fired a lot of enthusiasm. She tells us to record when things start flowering, and the numbers of flowers produced. A survey sheet is being generated for volunteers, and we'll get it in due course. Experiences and observations were exchanged. Photos circulated. Now we are ready for the post-fire era. ☼

Rain

Friday 21st Feb it poured, my only complaint being that I missed out on a morning on the Ridge. Things should start moving faster now, alleviating my impatience.

On 7th Feb I saw a little regrowth on the inside of the wall of Kathner St dam – **Plantago lanceolata* (one flowering), **Polygonum aviculare*, **Cyperus eragrostis*, **Hypochaeris radicata*, **Acetocella vulgaris*. Two *Eucalyptus* species were sprouting – my guess being *E. polyanthemos*, and *E. Blakelyi*.

The same thin kangaroo was on Fencepost Hill, but Gösta's area, mine and Reet's showed no regrowth. Mike's could boast 2 **Hypochaeris radicata* (one in bud), and one clump of *Aristida ramosa*. Bess has *?Rumex brownii* and *?*Cynodon dactylon*.

The 14th Feb was richer with 5 *E. polyanthemos* and 8 *E. sp* shooting inside the dam wall, and 8 *E. sp* on the outside. What fantastic trees they are! **Plantago lanceolata* is flowering, and scattered **Chondrilla juncea* is already 30 cm high. I suppose we must recognise that they are pretty fantastic, too.

And there was a vivid clump of *Persicaria prostrata* on the side of Fencepost Hill. ☼

Golden Globes

to both our Davids and Gösta for spirited bushfire documentary appearances. ☼

February log

Early in the month Malcolm saw an echidna beyond his area

070203 some regrowth inside Kathner St dam wall, little outside. Bedraggled kangaroo

140203 Kathner St dam rippling with life. Three dragonflies. Eleven ducks. Kangaroo on Fencepost Hill

210203 rain

300203 lone kangaroo looking better. *Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia*, *Geranium solanderi* evident. *Wahlenbergia* sp., *Glycine tabacina*, *Rumex brownii* in flower. *Indigofera* sp. with basal shoots. ☼

The Tree Survey

Unfortunately the data base with tree survey information burnt up.

Fortunately Judith had received some data which she has now sent back.

Hopefully we'll get even more data from other members.

Currently we have positions of 647 trees and more data for 445 of these.

Undauntedly we'll go ahead with the survey. ☼

Notes

Mt Arawang 140203 Jenny reported *Hardenbergia* in leaf, and plenty of new growth on trees both young and old.

Tony comments: nearly all, if not all eucalypt trees and many saplings will survive the fire (deaths may be related to drought stress, however). The eucalypt trees will regenerate from epicormic shoots, and perhaps basal shoots. Eucalypt saplings will probably regenerate from basal shoots. She-oaks will regenerate by seed or basal shoots. Wattles from seedlings, and possible shoots when not too severely burnt.

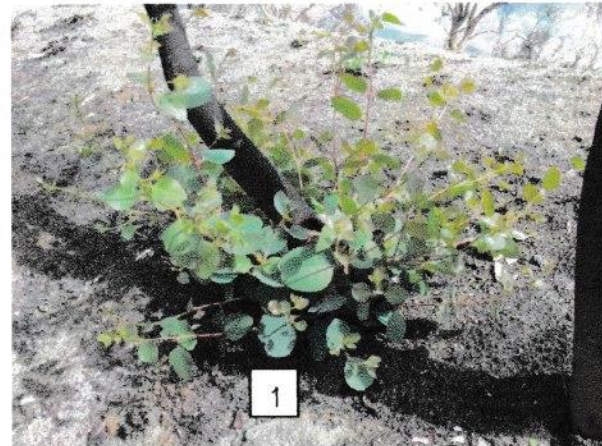
Reet has *Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia*, and lots of **Tragopogon dubius*.

The whole Ridge probably has a severe attack of **Echium plantagineum* (Paterson's Curse).

University student volunteers put in time hauling sheets of roofing iron off the Arawang area with Doug leading the way. Wonderful to have this help.

Sign-on sheet up-date – record your contact details on it. ☼

What's around



The Eucalypts shooting on Kathner St dam wall look like *E. polyanthemus* (Red Box) from the notched juvenile leaves, and seem to be early recoverers. 300203



Brachychiton populneum (Kurrajong), producing epicormic shoots. Tree No. 103/1. 300203.



Eucalyptus nortonii (Mealy Bundy), producing epicormic shoots. 300203. The leaves are glaucous: mealy or flowery. ☼