



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARKCARE GROUP

Newsletter July 2002

Previous Sunday meeting June 16th.

After a glorious morning we rolled up to Mt Arawang as the rain came beating down. Tina and Mary were already scaling the slope to start on the woody weeds but were persuaded to give in.

However, we repaired to Janice's home for a very productive meeting.

We sifted through the survey returns and plotted the caretaker areas on the accompanying map, impressing ourselves in the process at the same time as we regretted having so little contact with many of our hard-working members.

So we decided to schedule each Sunday meeting at the area of a caretaker who will be asked to show us around. Then we can fan out from there for woody weed eradication. The day's caretaker need only be present for the initial half hour, but this will allow for a valuable interchange of ideas.

It also means that we will meet at the appointed spot *however cataclysmic the weather might be* for the guided tour and discussion.

Please, caretakers, contact Janice to register for this programme. For you who find it difficult to be available on a Sunday afternoon, look well ahead and reserve a time that suits you. ☼

Coming Sunday meeting July 21st.

- 1.30 - 4 pm
- meet at the Kathner Street entrance
- bring hat, gloves, drink, snack, loppers or secateurs. Spray will be available
- a brief general meeting will follow
- please note that children must not be close to where spray is being used but there is plenty for non-sprayers to do.

Programme

Malcolm will walk us through his areas (see map), pointing out his problems and explaining his solutions and aspirations. We can follow the trail of odd shoes to the fox's hole. Malcolm is a mine of ecological information with a comprehensive knowledge of the Ridge.

We'll offer Malcolm help as he sees fit, and then we'll turn to neighbouring woody weeds. ☼

Public Liability Insurance

Two weeks ago following a direction from ACT Environment, I asked all members of our Group to cease working on the Ridge. This direction arose out of concerns about public liability insurance coverage for any injuries sustained by volunteers while working in the parks.

Ann Connolly and I have been working for the last two weeks to provide insurance cover for our Group. As of 9 July 2002, the Coleman Ridge Group has become a member of the Southern ACT Catchment Group. Membership with this umbrella group provides us with public liability insurance cover while we are working in the ACT nature parks. The policy including personal accident insurance cover for volunteers is also still in place.

Thank you for your patience. I hope you have enjoyed a well-earned rest from the Ridge. **ACT Environment has advised that members of our Group may now recommence work on the Ridge.**

The Southern ACT Catchment Group will be discussing the current status of public liability insurance at its meeting on 23 July 2002. I will provide you with updated information on this matter after that meeting.

Janice Paull, Convenor of Coleman Ridge Group

Activity figures for June

Five members of our Group provided information for June. The total statistics recorded were 57 hours 10 minutes weeding, 7 hours providing administration and the newsletter and a total of 12 hours 30 minutes (5 people) at the impromptu meeting held in place of the rained out monthly working bee.

Janice would greatly appreciate any statistics that you may have on work carried out each month. The response from the survey indicates that members of the Group put in a lot of time, love and energy into regenerating and caring for the Ridge. The survey provided valuable information. However, ongoing information will help the executive to understand the current status of the Ridge, to address any problems as they arise and to plan future activities. Please contact Janice with your hours at the end of each month on 6288 3953 or e-mail at janice.paull@aph.gov.au Could you please let Janice know what weeds you are removing when

you provide the statistics. This level of detail is forwarded to Ann Connolly. ☼

Win some lose some.

And this month's loss is Sandy, moving from Weston Creek.

Sandy has been caretaking since we chipped her about having her dog off the leash years ago. Gert, the sweetest German Shephard in town, spent her twilight months being drawn up to Sandy's patch reclining importantly on her lovingly-customised hundwagen.

Sandy not only caretook, but also serviced whippersnippers, constructed and anchored duck-platforms and manufactured tree tags. Ably supported by Richard. My advice to the pests out Braidwood way - *duck for cover*.

So.....

.....Well-tended, delightfully situated area available for immediate caretaking. Conveniently located C 2-3 within stone's throw of Equestrian Trail.. ☼

June log

030602 denuded area above Chauvel Circle covered with bitumenised hay, sown with ryecorn seed by Environment ACT

Members

I suppose we must face the fact that we are all exotic, but some of us are more exotic than others.

We have members from Austria, Eastern Europe, England, Estonia, Scotland, Sweden, USA, Zimbabwe.

More? ☼

What's around

Two easily-overlooked native ground-covers with inconspicuous flowers.



Family: CONVULVULACEAE

Dichondra repens

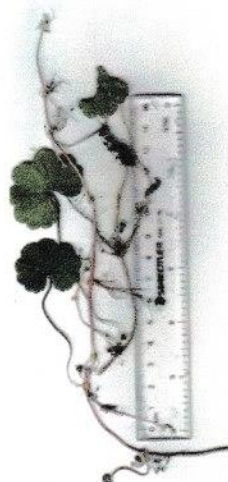
Kidney Weed

Perennial herb with creeping stems, rooting at nodes.

Di means 2; Greek *chondros* a grain, referring to the typical 2 fruitlets of the genus.

repens - Latin creeping

The leaf is sometimes confused with that of the violet. ☼



Family APIACEAE

Hydrocotyle laxiflora

Stinking Pennywort

Perennial herb with creeping rhizomes, rooting at nodes.

Greek *hydro* water + *cotyle* cup or plate (referring to the little hollow in the middle of the leaf).

Latin *laxa* loose or open, *flora* flower. ☼

