



# COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter January 2004

## Previous Sunday meeting, December 21st

Our optimism in scheduling a workparty so close to Christmas was well rewarded and those who braved the heat gave, and received, inspiration. On the walk up from Kathner St we looked at four caretaker areas and listened to the caretakers describe their problems and progress, at the same time pausing for plant identification. Things got better the higher we went, and by the time we reached the day's target area we were rarin' to weed. Above the gate above Chauvel Circle (who can come up with a snappy designation?) is one of the most beautiful, and promising, spots we have. It illustrates our vision for the future of Coolleman Ridge as a whole. We pulled exotic grasses, moving quickly because of their sparseness, and marveled at the clean bush left in our wake. The group felt we could well concentrate our efforts here, and win over those who question the feasibility of hand weeding nature parks. And win new recruits, too. ☼

## Next Sunday meeting, January 18th

Tree survey, one year later, lead by Malcolm. There will be a prepared form for entering data. We plan to have a GPS for each group, so bring your compression bandages and learn some new survival skills

- 1.30 - 4 pm
  - meet at Kathner St
  - bring hat, gloves, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet
- ☼

## December log

Kathner St dam not holding water

211203 \**Viola odorata* removed ☼

## Future programme

The year will be planned at a special committee meeting. ☼

## Christmas party

Thursday evening at the Athllon Depot provided a great opportunity for chatting to other parkcarers as well as the depot's staff. It was good to clear away a few grouches and prepare for improved collaboration in 2004. We were told of the Chief Minister's plan to slash fire breaks and access for pumpers. He also proposes control burns. So far he hasn't gone in for a lot of consultation. The barbecued steak was superb – credit to the chef or the shopper? ☼

## Half-yearly reports

These reports are an easy way to keep in touch with members' activities on the Ridge – at least with members who fill in forms. Last May 13 of you did – thanks! There hasn't been one since as we need to review the frequency and the questions.

Some of your comments were particularly prescient and we would have done well to follow them up earlier in light of developments towards the end of this year.

"..... We could also help the healing process by inviting people to discuss the fire effect on the Ridge's vegetation at a public meeting. Could we promote the opportunity to look after a part of Australia as if it were your own by becoming a caretaker?" Tony

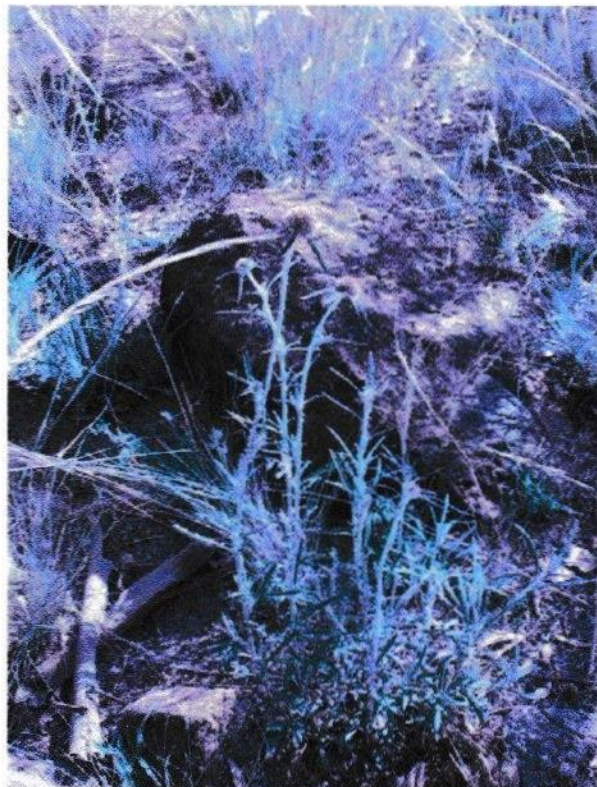
"Some residents at this end are concerned at the lack of community consultation about the clean-up after the fire and the apparent lack of a post-fire management plan. Consultation between Parks and the Parkcare group does not constitute community consultation since the Parkcare Group is in essence a special interest group and is not necessarily representative of the broader community" David (Lincoln).

"I'd like a better understanding of what Parks have in mind regarding weed control. Also what is the policy towards species to plant in future? How can parkcarers be used to implement, follow up/report on weed eradication programs? Are we wanted or do we just get in the road?" Doug. ☼



## What's around

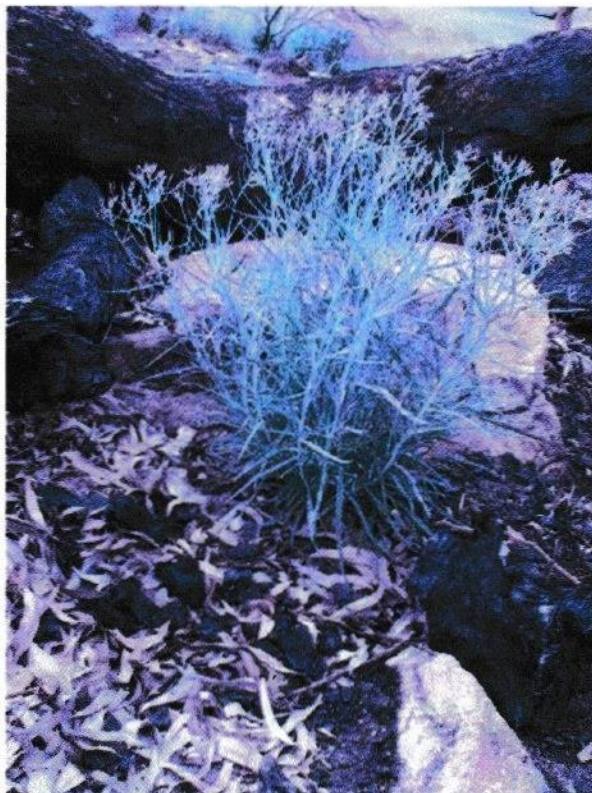
ASTERACEAE – aster Gr. star. Previously Compositae; the daisy family



*Gnaphalium sphaericum*

Erect annual native herb 5-50 cm

*gnaphalion* Gr: woolly, *sphaera* Gr: globe ☼



*Senecio quadridentatus* – Cotton Fireweed

Erect or ascending perennial native herb. Grows in disturbed areas especially after fire

*senex* L: old man, *quadri* L: 4, *dens* L: tooth ☼

## Environment Protection

Every 5 years the Legislative Assembly reviews the rules and the offices concerned with Environment Protection. Many of those attending a workshop preparatory to the writing of a background paper were concerned with protection from the environment (poisoned air and water, restricted building codes etc.) but we think of this as an opportunity to discuss protection of the environment, in particular our Nature Park. So, we are making a submission that has to be lodged before end of January.

Our main points are that the Environment Protection Agency must be independent of political pressure and that it has to act according to best scientific advice at the earliest opportunity whenever a threat is perceived. The obvious example is the continuing threat of cattle grazing on Cooleman Ridge which constitutes a real ecological danger without achieving its stated purpose of reducing fire danger for the Chapman residents. Both scientific expertise and independence from political knee-jerk reactions are important.

To contribute to the submission, please call Gösta (6288 7009) or send an e-mail to [gosta@webone.com.au](mailto:gosta@webone.com.au). ☼

## Common names

Our group is lucky enough to have two Davids, two Robs and two Malcolms. Whoever first brings along a second Doug will receive a signed portrait of the president. *Note*: duplication of surname is *not* a requirement. ☼

## Our own web site

The address for the Park Care Group's web site is as follows: <http://members.iinet.net.au/~kpelling/> ☼

## Red Rags

*This year's thought* – cows are to park carers what red rags are to bulls. ☼