



COLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter June 2004

Previous Sunday meeting, May 16th

This was a return to our northern group area (GAN/Chauvel), last visited on a very hot day in February. Not only was the weather kinder to us, but a fine turn-out of members resulted in an impressive amount of ground being cleared. It was good to show Crystal that we are an active lot and to introduce her to the local vegetation. We dealt with an invasion of *Acacia baileyana* from the track-side of the fence, but the parent colony requires firm action by EACT. A large patch of thistle, now in the rosette stage, will be on our agenda for next visit here – vital to keep it in check. The continuing parched conditions are taking a toll on some of our natives, notably *Hibbertia obtusifolia* and *Solanum cinereum*.

A survey netted 45 species of which 29 are native. ☼

Next Sunday meeting, June 20th

A walk with Rotary to assess the walking trail

- 1.30 - 4 pm
- meet at the Kathner St entrance
- although the focus will not be on weeding, bring hat, gloves, weeder, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet ☼

May log

210504 rocks overturned near Kathner St ☼

Future programme

Provisionally the year looks like this:

June 20th walking trail with Rotary
July 18th – lichen walk, Arawang
August 15th GAC/Darrell weeding
September 19th – tree survey, Naarilla's area
October 17th – GAN/Chauvel, weeding
November 21st – GAS/Arawang, weeding
December 19th – waterwatch old dam. ☼

Annual survey

Have you returned yours to Doug? ☼

Canberra Nature Park – Vision for the Future

Doug writes:

At a meeting at the Athllon Drive depot in November last year of Park Care groups and Environment ACT, the Conservation Council of the ACT was asked to initiate a workshop on the vision for Canberra Nature Park. This workshop was held in early May. Six members from our group attended with around 70 to 80 others.

Three hours were allotted to coming up initially with a vision for the next 20 to 50 years. This was a little ambitious and the task was scaled back to updating a vision of Canberra's bush reserves done a few years ago.

As might be expected, the task was not completed. Nevertheless, a lot of good suggestions were put forward. Subject to current workloads (coroner's inquiry etc.) Environment ACT undertook to collate and summarise the ideas of the individuals and groups listed on the ubiquitous butcher's paper stuck around the walls of the meeting room. This material would then be distributed to participants to refine and hopefully come up with a revised vision.

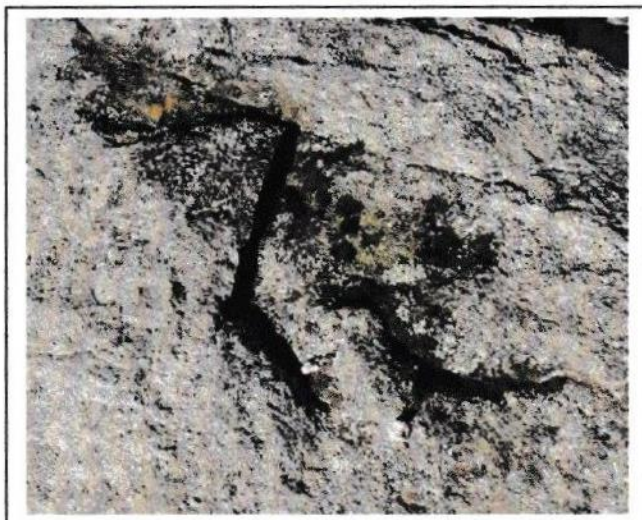
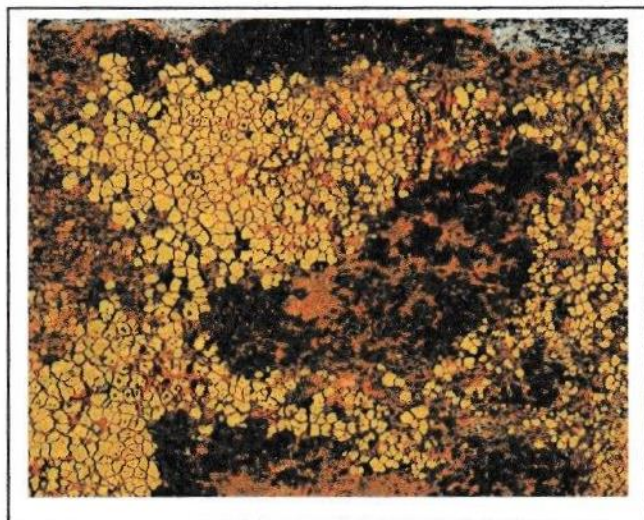
This exercise may sound somewhat removed from the hands-on approach to the Ridge that many of us consider worthwhile. However, it throws up questions such as:

- (i) What are we trying to achieve eg. restoration to original vegetation (woody grasslands), better ecological function and habitat or a recreation area?
- (ii) How to best manage weed control, biomass reduction and fire and by whom?
- (iii) What is the role of park care groups in managing areas?
- (iv) How should park care groups be coordinated?

If you have any thoughts on these issues, don't hesitate to write, e-mail or telephone Doug, Janice, Pauline or Gösta with your views. ☼

What's around

Lichen



Acarospora citrina

bright yellow green lichen

Our thanks to Prof. Elix for this highly magnified image.

Lichen

On Friday 21st, in the glorious sunshine of a May afternoon, Doug, Gösta and I met Prof. Jack Elix at Kathner St to survey the lichen scene. Prof. Elix was doubtful that any specimens would have survived the fire, and in that case there would be little point to a lichen theme walk for one of our Park Care Sundays. However, it proved otherwise. Knowing what to look for, Doug scouted Arawang and that's where Prof. Elix will guide us on our July meeting.

Lichen is a fungus/alga association and the small black fruiting bodies produce spores that can travel world wide to establish in seemingly hostile conditions.

We are delighted that Prof. Elix has agreed to lead our walk, and appreciate his willingness to share his enthusiasm with us.

By the time July 18th rolls around *Acarospora citrina* should slip easily from the tongue. ☼

Nowra

Suellen Harris found us via our web page and sent this message:

I am bringing a group of Austn Plant Society members from Nowra to Canberra from 18 to 22 October 2004. I am busily downloading sites and came across yours. I thought it might be of interest to them, particularly the regeneration. When do you meet? And would you be available to talk to us?

Janice is keeping in touch with Suellen and we look forward to their visit.

Rock surface hosting various lichens and a moss ☼

Nature Trail Revival

Gösta writes:

Some of you were around ten years ago when the Cooleman Ridge Nature Trail was designed and established by us in cooperation with the Weston Creek Rotary Club and Canberra Nature Park. The trail has been visited by thousands of walkers and must be considered a roaring success.

As you will know several of the posts have been destroyed and some of the land marks have disappeared in the Jan 2003 fire. It is now time to make the effort to resurrect the trail and again we have been promised support by Weston Creek Rotary Club. So, on Sunday, June 20th at 1.30 pm we all meet at the Kathner Street entrance for our regular Park Care Sunday but this time we'll walk the trail with Rotarians and see what has to be done as well as making plans for doing the jobs. ☼

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Temptation

Gösta couldn't resist it – in the first week of June he walked across the Kathner St dam. The soup came up to mid-calf. The bottom was thick sludge. He removed his shoes first. I don't know how he cleaned off his feet afterwards. ☼