



two whipper snippers should anybody wish to decapitate some weeds. ☼

# COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

## Previous Sunday meeting, October 17th

This was our AGM, held above Darrell Place, in an expanse of Bulbine Lilies and *Asperula*, the views glorious as always. Unfortunately the ranger was not able to be present as fire duty called. Minutes and reports accompany this newsletter.

There was time over for the chipping out of weeds at the same time as we admired at least 29 native species including *Stackhousia monogyna* (Creamy candles) which have not yet been recorded at the northern end of the Ridge. Yes, there were weeds (18 species noted) but they did not have the upper hand as in other areas. A church group drifted by and were interested to have floral details pointed out to them. ☼

## Next Sunday meeting, November 21<sup>st</sup> Waterwatch at the old dam

- 1.30 - 4 pm
- meet at Titheradge Place
- bring hat, gloves, weeder, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet ☼

## Future programme

Provisionally the year looks like this:

November 21<sup>st</sup> - waterwatch old dam.

December 3<sup>rd</sup>. PC Christmas Party, 5.30, Athllon Drive

December 19<sup>th</sup> - GAN/Chauvel, weeding ☼

## October log

081004 Rabbit burrow reopened previously, now unused.

151004 fox, Fencepost Hill

151004 \**Linaria arvensis*, \**Papava somniferum*,

\**Capsella bursa-pastoris* flowering

171004 *Asperula conferta* flowering ☼

## Equipment

Report from Doug

The group has a number of diggers, loppers and pruning saws for use on the Ridge. If anybody needs some equipment give me a call (6288 8589). I'm also storing

## Newsletter November 2004

### Nowra Australian Native Plant Society

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> several of our members met the Nowra branch of ANPS at Kathner St for a walk taking in the caretaker areas up as far as Reet's patch. They were interested in the post-fire regeneration, and all the local species we could show them. They had a particular affection for *Lomandras* and admired our flowering *L. bracteata*, *L. multiflora* and *L. filiformis*. We found their company stimulating and tried to sign them up for this time next year, but since they are off to West Australia then, we've left them to sort out something else. We'd have liked to show them GAC where we were for the AGM but their day was too tightly scheduled to permit it. ☼

### "Conservation Grazing"

Thanks to Jean Geue who drew our attention to this, the second in a series of visits to various parts of Canberra Nature Park for discussing methods of suppressing growth of bearded oats and other grasses that are perceived as fire hazards. From our group Pauline, Malcolm, Alan and myself had turned up. We walked up the fire trail past our northern group area to a patch of varying oat density.

A talk was given in an interactive way by a NSW agronomist who started by discussing the problems and aims of the activity before discussing solutions. Oats and phalaris were named as problems.

We were able to describe what our views were from the conservation angle, and the improvement in native vegetation we'd seen since the removal of cattle some 10 years ago. Other weed reduction procedures such as slashing, burning, wick-wiping and hand weeding were also discussed.

Cattle were claimed to eat the tops of the grasses while leaving the understorey ground cover relatively untouched. The time that grazing should be undertaken would be before the setting of seed, ie. early October, not later. It was also proposed that any cattle grazing would be of very short duration in contrast to the long-term grazing during the early 1990s.

CNP has proposed planning trials of various methods of exotic grass control next spring.

*We seized the chance to show interested rangers our caretaker areas, and were pleased by their positive response. Gösta ☼*



## What's around



This is  
an  
event,  
good



always  
enjoyable  
and a

### ASPHODELACEAE

*Bulbine bulbosa* – Bulbine Lily

Perennial native herb 27-75 cm with thick roots, and often with bulb

*bulbos* Gr: bulb,

opportunity for meeting people. ☼

## Mt Taylor

Anne has enticed some of our members to join her in walking through their very own spectacular Spring Floral Display. Reet and I met her at the Sulwood Drive entrance and marveled at the diversity on offer. Why have they so much that we don't see on Cooleman? Anne told us that unlike Cooleman, the area we were admiring had never been heavily grazed by cattle. A little further on we crossed a small gully to a grassy slope, home to a large mob of kangaroos. Here the diversity was much reduced.

I encountered over a dozen species new to me, but fortunately for my self-esteem was able to contribute a few identifications.

Anne's husband John, a pasture scientist, says that phalaris becomes weakened as it uses up the soil nitrogen. It will then be gradually out-competed by the native vegetation. ☼

## Tree survey Sunday, October 19th

We looked at 13 trees, of which 8 were *Eucalyptus blakelyi*, 4 *E. melliodora* and one *E. polyanthemos*. All the trees except one *E. melliodora* had flower buds. Only about half the trees had seedlings, with *E. polyanthemos* having none. The trees were mostly large, with small damage to their crowns. Thanks, Malcolm. ☼

## Park Care Christmas Party

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at Athllon Drive. Time: 5.30 p.m.

Pauline Lynga, 6288 7009, [gosta@webone.com.au](mailto:gosta@webone.com.au) November 2004

## STACKHOUSIACEAE

*Stackhousia monogyna*

Creamy candles

Perennial native herb to 70 cm

John Stackhouse 1742-1819 Cornish botanist and artist;  
monogynus single pistil. Gr. *monos* + *gyne* woman ☼

## Insurance

Make sure you sign the enclosed/attached *Membership Application Form for the Southern ACT Catchment Group Inc.* Return it to: Katie Hollingsworth

Southern ACT Catchment Group Coordinator  
PO Box 144 Lyneham ACT, 2602

P: (02) 6205 4876

E: [katie.hollingsworth@act.gov.au](mailto:katie.hollingsworth@act.gov.au) ☼

## Web site

Please note that the web site URL is:

<http://coolemanridge.inventivedingo.com> ☼

## Potted eucalypts

Janice has been talking to Angela and Katie about the potted tree seedlings that many of us have been caring for during the parched spell. Now that conditions have improved they can be planted out. Please let Janice know how many seedling you are holding and their state.

Appropriate sites can then be found for them.

Janice: phone 6288 3953

e-mail: [janice.paull@aph.gov.au](mailto:janice.paull@aph.gov.au) ☼

## BrushOff

Doug was so captivated by the picture of 21 Rangers on the Ridge that he coined the collective noun "a round-up of rangers" tempting me to add: a marked advance on zero. ☼