



# COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter July  
2005

## Previous Sunday meeting,

### June 19th

Sunday was cold and wet, so Doug needn't have risked all, hurrying home from Sydney. We modestly believe the rain is an even greater force for good than we ourselves are, so we gladly surrendered the afternoon to it. And what wonderful falls we've had since then! ☼

## Future programme

*Provisionally 2005 looks like this, rotating through the three Group Areas (GA) when there is no special programme:*

July 17<sup>th</sup> Lichen Walk with Prof. Elix GAS/Arawang  
August 21<sup>st</sup> GA weeding, fuel assessment, plant ID  
Sep 18<sup>th</sup> Brendan Lepski Plant Walk  
Oct 16<sup>th</sup> ? AGM  
Nov 20<sup>th</sup> GA weeding, fuel assessment, plant ID  
Dec 18<sup>th</sup> GA weeding, fuel assessment, plant ID ☼

## Next Sunday meeting, July 17th

- GAS/Arawang: Lichen Walk with Prof. Jack Elix
- 1.30 - 4 pm
- meet on Namatjira Drive just before the Kambah Pool Road turn-off, or GAS/Arawang
- bring hat, gloves, weeder, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet. ☼

## Lichen

Circle Sunday July 17<sup>th</sup> in red on your calendar so that nothing gets in the way of your attending our next Park Care day when Prof. Jack Elix is to lead our Lichen Walk.

It will be just 12 months since we first scheduled this walk, and this time conditions should be perfect with lichens and mosses thriving after all the lovely rain.

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 be our guide, and appreciate his willingness to share his enthusiasm with us. ☼

## Our new notice board

After a long season of fuel reduction distractions our ranger Graeme Heanes and his crew erected the board last Friday morning – ironically having to wait till the week's rain cleared.

A few hours later Gösta was on the spot with display material, which won an immediate audience.

The board is positioned near Post 3 along the Nature Trail, just down from Fencepost Hill. Friday morning regeneration work is clearly visible from here and this site should be far enough from the parking area not to attract vandals.

Western Creek Rotary Club financed the board, and we thank them for their support and generosity. ☼



## Fuel management trials

Environment ACT's preparations are going ahead in the area round the water tank up from Chauvel Circle.

Gösta has taken GPS readings of all the metal posts that are in place ready for fencing. These fences will define the 3.1 ha grazing area and the three non-grazing treatment plots.

I made a vegetation list, finding 66 species of which 39 are native, 24 are exotic, and the three remaining I have not identified.

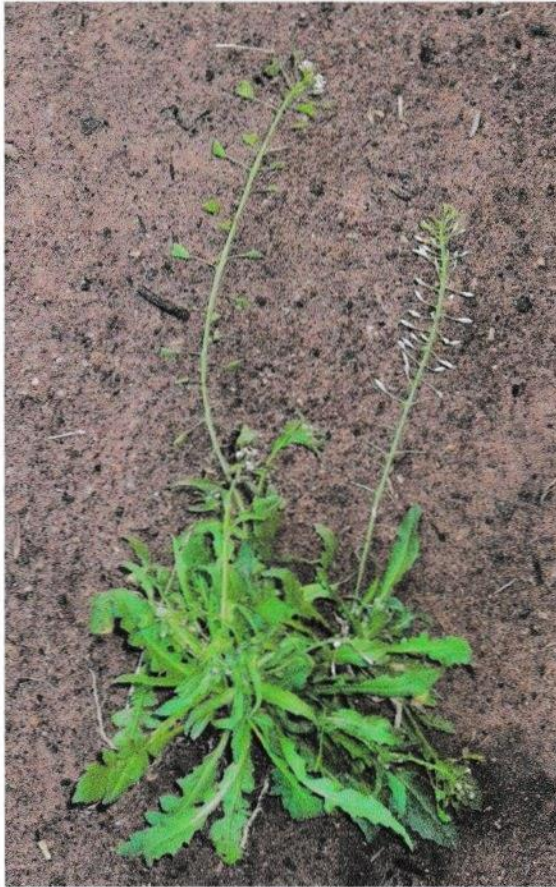
Our Group has previously undertaken wide spread planting here – including Lomandra, Hardenbergia, Acacia, Eucalyptus, Bursaria, Xerochrysum.

Our Group's opposition to the reintroduction of cattle is unchanged. ☼



## What's around

Family: BRASSICACEAE – previously Cruciferae. The Mustard family



*\*Capsella bursa-pastoris* – Shepherd's Purse  
Exotic annual herb  
*cap*sa L: box or case, *bursa* L: purse, *pastoris* L: of the shepherd  
Native of Europe



*\*Lepidium africanum* – Peppergrass  
Exotic annual or perennial herb to 70cm  
Native of Africa ☼

### Chapman Poem

When I go to Cooleman Ridge I feel safe and happy.  
Lots of animals live there.  
I like to find kangaroo bones and rocks,  
We pull out verbascum and oats,  
the ground is slippery and bumpy  
and the plants are prickly and itchy.  
I hear dogs barking and bees buzzing.  
It gets very dusty when we all walk on the rocks.  
It is still burnt from the bush fires.  
If we are lucky we see kangaroos.  
The sun shines down on the ridge.  
It is special to me because it is native to Australia.

Bella Class 2GM ☼

### Litter

Graeme Heanes advised that plant litter should not be piled up by the fences, as in the event of another fire, the fence could burn. ☼

### Grant

The money from the equipment grant has arrived. Doug will now set off to spend it. ☼

### Land and Water Australia

Native Vegetation Research and Development Program:  
"Australia's leading broker of research into managing native vegetation in rural landscapes."

Their web site deals with research activities, vegetation management information, *Bush Thinking* magazine, recent publications and products.

<http://lwa.gov.au/nativevegetation>. ☼

### Annual survey

Completed forms have been coming in. If yours is not among them, send it off to Doug now. It will help him prepare his report to CNP.

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e-mail [tinneydoug@hotmail.com](mailto:tinneydoug@hotmail.com) ☼

### Dams

Both are filling!

### Note from Cotter

Thanks again for all you have taught me - the wealth of knowledge that our volunteers hold is something to be respected and appreciated - a resource to value."

Angela. ☼