



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter February
2006

Previous Sunday Meeting

January 15th

From Doug:

Nine hardy souls braved the hot weather and marched up the hill from Kathner Street to the knoll known as Group Area North. The area is one of the better sites on the Ridge with a good range of sturdy locals. The plan was to work on the skeleton weed surrounding the site with a view to encouraging expansion of the natives. Time will tell, but we made an impact on the weeds. Hopefully themeda and other grasses will move into the area where the skeleton weed once was.

Being close to the grazing trial, Gösta took digital images from the seven sites he has established to record developments. The biomass of the grazing plot is clearly less than the non-grazed areas outside the fence. But the effect on wild oats, the target of the trial, has yet to be determined. The indigofera patch was showing excellent recovery from the effects of being chewed. Quite heartening. ☼

Next Sunday meeting, February 19th

- GAC/Darrell for clearing of exotic growth, plant ID
- 1.30 - 4 pm
- meet at Darrell Place or GAC/Darrell
- bring hat, gloves, hacker, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet ☼

Reinforcements

It's heartening to see so many new faces on the Ridge. Chris brought Louis and Hallam along to the January work party where they got to know quite a lot about *Chondrilla juncea* (Skeleton Weed).

Susan now has her friend Arminel signed up, and together they boost the Friday morning group working up from Kathner Street. ☼

January log

Maintenance track widened, mowing strip behind houses cleared of rocks

280106 2 wood ducks beside Kathner St dam

310106 control burn. ☼

Future programme

We will continue to rotate through the three Group Areas (GA) when there is no special programme, meeting as usual on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 1.30 p.m. ☼

Control burn

Late on Tuesday 31st Doug got a call from Bill Woodruff thoughtfully advising him of the control burn that was soon to take place behind Chapman houses – provided, of course, wind did not blow up.

It was decided to pass the message on to our contacts in the targeted area – from Kathner Street to Niblo Place.

With the first call we learned that CNP had notified the residents concerned: the neighbourhood fire units were mobilised, and, already kitted out, were hosing down their gardens in the expectation of a 4.40 start. During our conversation Kathryn told me that she is steadily working away at the Rye Grass in her surroundings, and that she has seen lots of snakes this summer.

On Friday morning we could see that the paddock next to Malcolm's was scorched as well as the slope below the Maintenance Track below Reet's area. ☼

SACTCG

New members could well be challenged by the above acronym.

The Southern ACT Catchment Group Inc. is an umbrella group whose primary aim is to improve the environs of southern ACT and to support the activities of its members.

SACTCG acts as a link for small groups such as ours to the world of large scale government and non-government programs dealing with the environment eg. the Australian Government's National Heritage Trust and the likes of Conservation Volunteers Australia (which provides work groups for specific projects such as woody weed removal).

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Briony is now arranging for a CVA team to put in 2 days work on the Ridge within the next couple of months. ☼

What's around

Family CYPERACEAE



Carex appressa
Perennial native herb to 1.20 m
carex fr.Gr: *ceirein* to cut,
appressus L: closely pressed ☼



Carex inversa – Knob Sedge
Perennial tufted native herb to 50 cm
carex fr.Gr: *ceirein* to cut,
inversus L: inverted ☼

Boobook Owls

Jerry Olson, lecturer at the University of Canberra, is giving a public talk entitled *Boobook Owls in the Aranda Bushland*

Tuesday 14th February 2006, 8.15pm
Catchpole Room
Western Districts Rugby Club, Macquarie
For further information please contact the Convenor,
Friends of Aranda Bushland,
Mary Falconer on 6251 1345. ☼

The Lunt report:

Effects of Stock Grazing on Biodiversity Values in Temperate Native Grasslands and Grassy Woodlands in SE Australia, by Dr Ian D. Lunt. was prepared for the ACT Government.

If you wish to read the Lunt Report, Macolm has a copy he is happy to lend. ☼

Our web site

is an invaluable and elegant tool. It is time we purchase our own domain name, and Karina is looking into pricing details for us. She is happy to maintain and develop the site, welcoming contributions, suggestions and wish lists. A priority will be refining the on line herbarium, and making it more accessible to people at large. During upgrading, parts of the site may not be available at all times. ☼

Good bye, Bill

For many years Bill Woodruff has been CNP's South side manager. He has recently also been acting as both Park Care and Land Care coordinator. With those roles going to our new contacts in the former ACT Forests, Bill decided a change of scenery (and career) might be appropriate, so he has moved to an area dealing with rural policy in the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. We wish you all the best, Bill. ☼