

# COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter October 2013

## **Previous Sunday Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> September: Cooleman Trig**

Five lucky Parkcarers enjoyed a brilliant Sunday afternoon up on Cooleman Trig officially sanctioned to "Purge the spurge". Well, our group's efforts over recent years have paid off and with a spray or two of herbicide on the remaining spurge (*Euphorbia depauperata*), attention turned to salvia (*S. verbeneca*) and verbascum (*V. thapsus*).

DOUG

## **Group Gathering 24 September**

Doug attended this meeting, organised by Southern ACT Catchment Group. He reports the shared concerns are "weeds, seeds and rabbits" – with the weeds being \*Blackberry *Rubus fruticosus* and \*St John's Wort *Hypericum perforatum* in particular, and the seeds being a request for native species to strew where hand-weeding has been undertaken.

## **Frogwatch Census 20 – 26 Oct**

There's an enthusiastic amphibian chorus at our dams even in daytime this season. As frogs are indicators of environmental health, the annual Frogwatch Census is a fantastic way of monitoring the impacts of our Landcare work. Venture out at nightfall with our Waterwatchers Pat and Arminel on **Thursday 24 October** to count croaks, creaks, and critters.

Insect Identification HotLine 6162 1914  
Free Service to ACT Residents

## **Future programme**

*Sunday 20 October*

### **Annual General Meeting**

**Time:- 1.30 – 2 pm**

**Place :- Kathner Street Entry.** (If it rains, we'll adjourn to the Gill's garage next door!!)

**Purpose: - to receive the reports of the previous year and conduct elections for all committee positions. Nominations and Apologies to The Secretary, Cooleman Ridge Park Care Group Inc, at**

**[tamstardeluxe@hotmail.com](mailto:tamstardeluxe@hotmail.com)**

If you can't attend, but wish to nominate, nomination forms are available from the Secretary, Tammy Lee.

**Note** – Members will receive a copy of the Annual Report with this newsletter.

### ***Kathner Street Working Bee***

**Time:- approx 2 pm – 4 pm**

**Bring:- hat, gloves, hacker, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet.**

**Task:- Plant ID and weed removal on Pauline's Rocky Knoll and Fencepost Hill. (This is a short distance from the Kathner Street meeting place.)**

### ***Canberra Centenary Trail Launch and 'Try the Trail Day' Sunday 26 Oct***

Walks to begin at 10am and conclude by 2pm. ACT Scouts to co-ordinate walks. "Hub" (parking, toilets etc) junction of Hindmarsh Drive and Eucumbene Drive, 15 minutes walk from the Kathner St entry to Cooleman Ridge. Any members able to help greet and guide the trail walkers, please contact Anna.

## What's around

### *Luzula densiflora* – Common Name: Woodrush

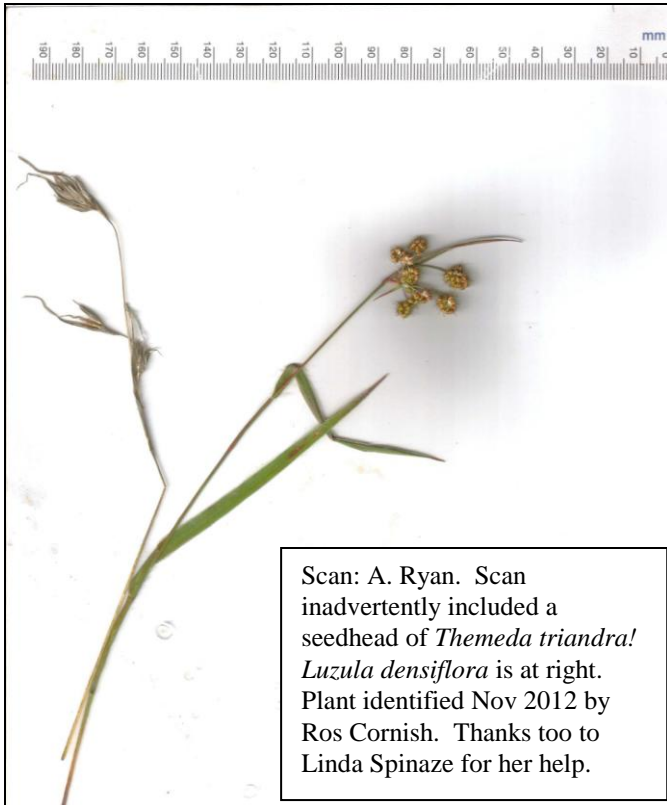
**Family – Juncaceae**

**Genus – Luzula.** From Italian *lucciola* (lit. meaning Firefly or Glow-worm; colloq. meaning Prostitute! The allusion isn't clear, though I found a suggestion it may also mean midsummerfield.)

**Species – densiflora.** From Latin *densus* (adj.; combining form) = thick, close, dense + Lat. *flora* = flower, after Flora, the Roman goddess of flowers & spring.



Line Drawings from PlantNET.



Scan: A. Ryan. Scan inadvertently included a seedhead of *Themeda triandra*! *Luzula densiflora* is at right. Plant identified Nov 2012 by Ros Cornish. Thanks too to Linda Spinaze for her help.

Luzulas “..have flat, grass-like leaves, covered with long white hairs, a brownish chaffy perianth of six parts, six stamens with yellow anthers, and a one-celled capsule containing three seeds.” (Probert Encyclopaedia).

**Location:** This specimen was found growing on Mt Arawang last October.

**Description:** *L. densiflora* is a “small perennial with scattered, often few-leaved, but rather robust tufts, ..bulbous at base.” (PlantNET)

**Flowering:** Spring – Summer

**Distribution & occurrence:** Widespread. Grows in moist rather shady sites, often on clay, in eucalypt woodland or open grassland.

PlantNET also notes that this is “a variable species, most noticeably in the density of the hairs on the leaf margins and tepal size – may include more than one taxon but needs further study.”

## Seasonal Odds & Sods

### Fire

The ACT fire season began on 1 October. This year's bushfire operational plan includes a grazing program, slashing and mowing, hazard reduction burns and some track upgrades. (*The Chronicle 1 Oct 2013 p5*)

### Tweedia taking off?

\**Oxypetalum coeruleum*, commonly known by its older name of Tweedia, is a garden escape that turned up first at the base of Cooleman Trig. We featured it in our Jan 2011 newsletter. Not yet flowering, but betraying its identity by its distinctive “bird's-beak” seed cases, it has now turned up at the base of Arawang.

### Flies from Dr Phil

From next month, we'll feature a series on flies, with notes kindly provided by Dr Spradbury.

### Flyveils

Our Bushflies don't seem to read the labels on repellent products. (Pun me!) Volunteers needing flyveils contact Arminel 6231 7392. She keeps the Group's official supply.

### Snake Scene

Joe Blake, the resident Red-Bellied Black snake, is out and about. Take care when intruding into his terrain! If bitten, apply a pressure bandage to the limb and seek medical advice. **Keep dogs on a short leash, or walk in safer places.**