



# COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter January

2011

## Previous Sunday meeting December 19<sup>th</sup>

Attendance at GAS Arawang- 10 (most included in Gosta's photo below), three of whom have joined the Group. Welcome to new members John, Peter and Saskia!

Tasks accomplished - 1 large bag flowering St John's Wort *Hypericum perforatum* removed by Reet at GAN; 17 large bags removed by the gang at GAS. The difference was visible!

Lots of rosettes of *Verbascum thapsus* removed at both locations. Rohan attacked *Phalaris aquatica*.

Cleaned wooden bridge (gravel from erosion of path creating a slip hazard on the surface.)

Other notes

Fabulous weather!

Worsening erosion of track - reported to Parks at Athllon Drive.

Lots of buds on the Native Raspberries *Rubus parvifolius*. Lots of fluffy Wallaby grasses *Austrodanthonia* spp. flowering. A flourishing patch of Common Onion Orchid *Microtis unifolia* beside the track. (See *What's Around*.) Wild Sorghum

*Sorghum leiocladum* spreading and carrying good seedheads.



Photo G. Lyngå

## Future programme

Next meeting, Sunday 16th January

Note early morning start during the summer

- 8 to 10.30 am
- GAN/Chauvel for clearing exotic growth. Plant ID
- meet at the Kathner St entrance or at GAN/Chauvel
- bring hat, gloves, hacker, drink, snack. ☼

## Family Orchidaceae

This family had the second largest number of genera world-wide (880), with 21 950 species. There are 105 genera native to Australia, with 862 species. On Cooleman Ridge we find only two genera and three species – Tiger Orchid *Diuris sulphurea*, *D. dendrobioides* and Common Onion Orchid *Microtis unifolia*. (See *What's Around*.)

Five characteristics for Orchidaceae are listed in the Australian Plant Family recognition tutorial at

<http://www.csu.edu.au/herbarium/> (developed by Geoff Burrows, Senior Lecturer at Charles Sturt University). These are as follows:-

1. Herbaceous plants
2. Flowers zygomorphic (see definition below)
3. 6 perianth segments (see definition below)
4. One of the inner perianth segments is distinctly different to the others and is called the labellum
5. The stamen(s), stigmas and styles are united into a generally upright structure called the column.

*Zygomorphic means "yoke-" or "pair-formed". The flowers can be divided by only a single plane into two mirror-image halves, much like a yoke or a person's face. Examples are orchids and peas. Zygomorphic flowers generally have petals of two more different shapes, sizes, and colours. In most cases, different kinds of floral symmetry are linked to particular pollinators*

*Perianth is a collective term for the calyx and corolla. The calyx (the sepals) and the corolla (the petals) are the outer sterile whorls of the flower, which together form what is known as the perianth.*

Definitions from Wikipedia.

## Changing Guard

Long-time newsletter editor Pauline Lyngå has had to relinquish that responsibility due to ill-health. Arminel is filling in for this reason. There will be changes in the roles of people on the committee as a result of this circumstance – we'll let members know next issue.

We all owe a great debt to Pauline for her devoted service to the Ridge. Thank you, colleague and mentor of many years!

## What's around

This attractive exotic plant, formerly known as Tweedia, was first recorded on Cooleman Ridge in November 1996, above Chauvel Circle. The scans below show flowers (left), with seed pods (right). It now persists on the urban side of Cooleman Trig above the Maintenance Track, in and above the ditch. It should be removed on sight.



Family Asclepiadaceae  
*\*Oxypetalum coeruleum*  
 oxys Gr: sharp  
 Stiff exotic herb or subshrub to 1m.  
 Stems and leaves pubescent with pale hairs.  
 Follicles: narrow-ovoid, 9–13 cm long, pubescent;  
 coma long.  
 Native of America



Family Orchidaceae  
*Microtis unifolia*  
 Common Onion Orchid  
 Slender to robust native terrestrial herb,  
 usually 20–60 cm high.  
*micros* Gr: small + *ous*, *otis* the ear  
  
 First recorded on Cooleman Ridge in  
 December 1995, growing on the Maintenance  
 Track near Mt Arawang. Noted at Mt  
 Arawang during our Sunday meeting, 19<sup>th</sup>  
 December 2010.



### Scribbly Gum

We have a few paper copies of the latest *Scribbly Gum*, the ACT Park Care periodical in which groups report on their activities. t

One of Gösta's photos of the dam at Kathner Street is featured on the cover of this issue. Contact Erika or Arminel if you'd like to read it in print. Otherwise you can have a look at it on-line at

[http://www.tams.act.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/211329/Scribbly\\_Gum7.12.2010FINALlores.pdf](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/211329/Scribbly_Gum7.12.2010FINALlores.pdf)

There is a Discussion Paper on the review of the Nature Conservation Act at [http://www.environment.act.gov.au/environment/review\\_of\\_the\\_nature\\_conservation\\_act](http://www.environment.act.gov.au/environment/review_of_the_nature_conservation_act)  
 A copy of the Nature Conservation Act 1980 is available at [www.legislation.act.gov.au](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au).  
 Submissions close on 18 February 2010.

### Plan to return mynas to the place from whence they came— or at least to where their ancestors called home

Asis Das from Sydney is concerned that Indian Mynas are reported to be dropping in numbers back in India – it seems that the modern concrete-jungle cities of the new India are not as conducive to them as the more traditional urban areas. So Asis is developing the concept of trapping mynas to return them back to their natural range. He has set himself a huge challenge as there will be many practical problems that stand in the way to his success. Problems of capture, collection, containment, transport, and Indian quarantine issues to name a few.

Myna Matters Christmas issue Bulletin 20