



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter September 2014

Previous Meeting - Sunday 17th August: GAN Chauvel

It was a very soggy afternoon, so we four steadfast starters abandoned the idea of any work at Group Area North. Instead, we had an interesting and useful walk, followed by a convivial cuppa.

Acacia decurrens and *A. baileyana* were in flower, so we could compare and distinguish them. We also observed that Rohan's application of poison to the *Paspalum* clumps last season had been very effective.

St John's Wort *Hypericum perforatum* continues to proliferate, despite our best efforts. It's the most serious invader in this area, and on much of the Ridge.

Fine grass growing amongst the rocks at the top of our site was *Aristida ramosa* (aka Purple Wiregrass or Kerosene Grass). Featured in *What's Around* on p.2 is *Carex breviculmis* (aka Short-stem Sedge) – not a plant we've noticed in flower anywhere before. Common Raspwort *Gonocarpus tetragynous* was thriving in the drainage line. Heaths (Epacridaceae) were just coming into flower, promising a lovely display.

Next Meeting: Sunday 21st September

Where: Cooleman Trig

Time: 13.30 – 16.00 hours

Meet: Monkman Street Steps or Summit

Activity: Weed Removal (*Euphorbia depauperata* and *Oxypetalum caeruleum*)

Don't forget something to drink. Please wear suitable protective clothing.

ALL WELCOME!

For further info, contact Arminel 6231 7392

President's Report 18/08/2014

Arminel Ryan, Doug Tinney and I met with Craig Wainwright and senior staff of PCS to discuss a range of issues relating to the management of the Ridge, as they affected the operations of the Parkcare Group. These included, among other things, weeds, the area around the old dam at the eastern end, the future of the Pink-tailed Worm Lizard, the future of a number of tracks and the work program proposed for the Ridge in the next year.

Alan Ford

Filming Session Friday 22 Aug

Thanks to members who turned out. Cinematographer, Richard Snashall, got some good footage of volunteers around the dam and in our drainage line, as well as an interview with Arminel beneath the nearby *Eucalyptus nortonii*. Some of this may end up in the final cut – we'll keep you posted!

FARRER RIDGE NATURE PARK

SPRING WILDFLOWERS WALK
SUNDAY 14th SEPTEMBER, 2014
10 am – 12 noon,

Meet at top of Muresk street, Farrer.

More information:

Jasmine Foxlee, Parks Stromlo depot: 6205 7384

Kathner St. Pole and Pamphlet Box

Thanks to our noble and industrious members, Jenny and Rob Horsfield, who have fixed this fixture. There will be pamphlets for the public – including the expected 300 or so cyclists and walkers blazing the Centenary Trail on Sat 14 Sept.!

What's around

Carex breviculmis

Common Name: Short Stem Sedge

Family: Cyperaceae – from *Cyperus*, Gk. name for an aromatic marsh plant.

Genus: *Carex* –Lat. = rush or sedge

Species: *breviculmis* – from Lat. *brevis* = short + *culmis* – from Lat. *culmus* = stalk, haulm

REFERENCES: Eddy et al -*Grassland Flora – a Field Guide for the Southern Tablelands*
PlantNet – Flora Online

PHOTOS
PAT RYAN



Description - densely tufted perennial sedge. Rhizome short. Culms erect, terete to trigonous, smooth or scabrous, 3–10(-20) cm long, c. 0.7 mm diam. Leaves to 35 cm long, 2-3 mm wide. Flower stem 3-10 cm tall with 2 – 5 spikes 1.2 – 1.8 mm long, with loosely clustered flowers. Found in drier sites.

43rd Annual Black Mountain Wild Flower Ramble

Saturday 11 October 2014:

9.30 am sharp to midday

Belconnen Way entry, just before Caswell Drive
turnoff (look for the balloons).

Discover the surprising diversity of tiny orchids, bush peas, wattles and billy buttons with experienced guides. relatively easy bush tracks and good company.

"Our Patch" field guide will be on sale for \$15 and some handouts will be provided.



Bring your friends - especially those who are new to plant identification.

BYO morning tea, hat, sunblock, water and stout shoes.



Please book by providing your name and phone number to friendsofblackmountain@gmail.com
or contact: Jean Geue on 6251-1601.

Macropods on Arawang

Wednesday Weeders often see our shy Wallaroos on the sunny, wooded lower slopes. Further up, in the open grassy slopes nearer the summit, Eastern Grays again abound. David counted 27 on 3 September!

Girls' Gossip

Happy news! Former President Anna See is expecting a baby. She sends greetings to all!

Member Martha Sear has curated *Spirited*, the forthcoming Horse exhibition at the National Museum of Australia (11 September 2014 to 9 March 2015). Local TV programme 7.30 ABC featured the story on Friday 5 Sept. (Horses belong to the pastoral history of our Reserve – weeders still find the occasional horseshoe – and of course many local and interstate riders enjoy our part of the Bicentennial Equestrian Trail.)