



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter September 2011

Previous Sunday Meeting 21st August GAC Darrell

A very pleasant late winter day welcomed the eleven workers who assembled at Group Area Central. We tackled Great Mullein *Verbascum thapsus*, Horehound *Marrubium vulgare*, St John's Wort *Hypericum perforatum*, African Lovegrass *Eragrostis curvula* and Wild Sage *Salvia verbeneca*. There is now a dense thatch of Kangaroo Grass *Themeda australis* in the parts of this area we've worked over in previous years. Yellow Buttons *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* is also thriving. Malcolm and Reet counted emerging *Eucalyptus* sp. seedlings – 48!! A few of the Cootamundra Wattles *Acacia baileyana* cut down by the Scouts last year have re-shot. Removing the sprouting stumps and poisoning an isolated Blackberry *Rubus fruticosus* will be follow-up tasks. We caught up on news and had a cuppa at the cars before heading home.



This echidna and some kangaroos were also at the working bee. Photo A.Ryan

Future programme

**Next meeting, Sunday 18th September
on top of Cooleman Trig.**

- 1.30-4 pm
- revisiting the *Euphorbia depauperata* infestation. Removal or herbicide application.
- bring hat, gloves, hacker, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet. ☼

2XX Radio LandCare 98.3 fm

Tony Brownlie's engaging speech from the Cooleman Ridge PC 20th Birthday celebrations will go to air on Tuesday 20th September around 9:30 after the 'what's on' segment. Tune in!

Caretaker Co-ordinator

Philip Selmes is our temporary Parkcare Officer, 'caretaking' at Stromlo Depot until the end of January. He has been involved in natural resource management as a volunteer and professional for over 20 years. As well as being an active member of Queanbeyan Landcare for that time, he is known from the Queanbeyan Landcare Radio show he started with Tom Baker over 14 years ago. And you may have met him at Floriade as an explainer with the Bush Friendly Garden. Phil and his son joined the merry mob of Joeys and Scouts helping us at Kathner Street in August (see report Page 2).

Changes at Athllon Depot

Acting Ranger-in-Charge Lara Woolcombe is taking 12 months maternity leave. Until the 12 month acting position is filled, Kristy Gould will act in her place.

We wish Lara all the best in this new stage of her life, and thank her for her very courteous and considerate assistance to our group. Simon Tozer is now working at Namadgi.

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 16th October at Kathner Street Nature Trail ☼

We are delighted to report that long-time member Tammy Lee has been co-opted to the Committee as Secretary, and has also indicated that she will stand for this position at the AGM. Thankyou, Tammy!!

Joeys and Scouts at Kathner Street dam Saturday 27 August



Photo J. Millington

Plenty of water. Damp soil and holes ready dug. Composted weeds for mulching tender roots. Mild, sunny late winter weather. A pile of rocks available to shelter and anchor new plantings. Twigs to protect them, too. Seedlings ready to transplant – aromatic *Cassinia* from up the hill; Tall Ammobium Daisy *Ammobium alatum* from Arminel's garden. From the same garden came stacks of Blue Flax Lily *Dianella revoluta*. Willing hands set to work, and the slopes of the dam wall and overflow drain are now set to resist weeds, retain soil, and provide a lovely show of local flowers. In a year or so, birds will feast on the *Dianella* berries.

This dam is one of our most accessible and popular sites, often used by horse riders as they follow the Bicentennial National Equestrian Trail. We are very grateful to Weston Creek Scouts and Joeys, and their parents and leaders, for helping us make it more of a showcase. The foot-track is now safer too – using little folding saws, the Scouts pruned away dangerous and broken branches from the Eucalypt saplings alongside. Thanks also to our volunteers who came to help – Jennv. Karl. Gösta and Erika.

Committing to Cooleman Ridge Park Care Group

Incorporated entities like ours need turnover and generational change on their committee to stay viable and relevant.

There are many jobs that are done by your committee members – organising work parties and publicity, looking after our tools and equipment, keeping lists of members, reading reports, preparing submissions, attending relevant meetings, discussing issues, identifying plants, preparing the newsletter – the list goes on. None of these are onerous tasks, nor are they physically demanding, but without enough committee members to do them, the chores become taxing. Resilience depends on recruitment.

Since the beginning of 2011, our committee has diminished by two. Most of you know that Pauline passed away and that Gösta has since resigned. The remaining committee members have shouldered additional responsibilities to keep the Group operating.

As reported on page 1, Tammy has come aboard as Secretary. But at our Annual General Meeting in October, we are looking for more members, old and new, to nominate.

Cont'd next column

The Group must also find a new President. I can continue to serve on the committee in some capacity, if that is the will of the AGM, but I shall not accept nomination as President. Family circumstances preclude my continuing in the role.

Please speak to Doug 6288 8589 or myself if you would like to help keep us functioning through the next year and ensure the Reserve and the Group flourish for the next twenty!

La Presidenta Arminel 6231 7392

Welcome to new member Madeleine!

Medal for a Modest Member

The 2011 Ecological Society of Australia Gold Medal is to be awarded to Dr Malcolm Gill. The ESA Gold Medal is awarded in recognition of an ecologist who has made a substantial contribution to the study of ecology in Australia over the course of their career and is presented annually as a Plenary at the ESA annual conference, this year in Hobart, November 21-25. Congratulations, Malcolm!