



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter October 2014

Previous Meeting – Sunday 21st Sept. - Cooleman Trig

Calm, bright conditions prevailed for our annual assault on weeds at this site – for once the equinoctial gales held their breath! Nine members clambered the new staircase up from Monkman Street.

The previously rampant Spurge *Euphorbia depauperata* plants were instead small, struggling and scattered. With our mightiest Weed Warrior leading the charge, and a cohort of poisoners spraying it too, we gave the weed another hiding. Hopefully, we are close to beating it.

Malcolm went after *Tweedia Oxypetalum coeruleum*, bagging its seeding heads before uprooting the plants. Arminel decapitated a big *Cotoneaster sp.* near the drain, then attended to propagating the Mother Shield Fern. *Polystichum proliferum* is not a rare fern, but we believe this is the only specimen on the Ridge. To ensure its survival, we are trying two methods this season. Five fernlets were layered in situ. Another six were removed to be cosseted by Green Fingers Graham (he has a reputation as a striker). The greatest challenge of the working bee was consuming the splendid afternoon tea.

Thanks to all volunteers and contributors – a great effort!

Tools? Fly-Veils? Gloves?

It's a great time of year for working on the Ridge. Make the most of the season with good equipment. Contact Arminel to tell her what you need.

Future programme

Sunday 19th October

Annual General Meeting

Time:- 1.30 – 2 pm Daylight Saving Time

Place :- Kathner Street Entry

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 lundier@webone.com.au

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. (Close by the Kathner Street meeting place.)

President's Log

I assisted PCS to implement the ACT Woodland Restoration project on the Ridge. This has provided some woody debris on various parts of the Ridge to enhance habitat for very small creatures. I also attended a briefing by Friends of the Pinnacle on their weed registration program.

Alan Ford

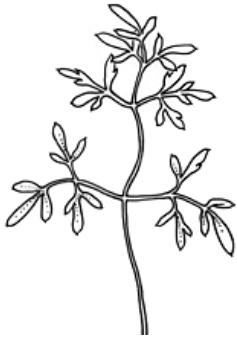
Fauna Log

White-winged Choughs and a Frogmouth are nesting at the Kathner Street Dam. A large hare has been seen, and lots of 'roos.

What's around

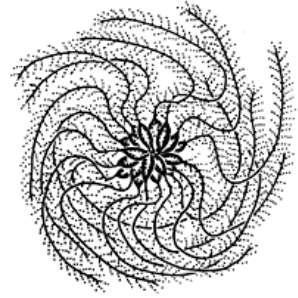
Clematis leptophylla

Common Name: Old Man's Beard



Drawings of leaf and seed-ball from PlantNet.

Family: *Ranunculaceae* – from Lat. *ranunculus* = buttercup
Genus: *Clematis* – from Gk. *clematis* = vine, climbing plant. (nb stress is on first syllable.)
Species: *leptophylla* – from Gk. *lepto-*, combining form meaning fine, delicate, slender + Gk. *phylla* = leaf



Description:

Woody climber to c. 3 m high.

Leaves ± ternate to biternate or partly triternate, or occasionally a few leaves entire; longest ultimate leaflets or lobes usually <15 mm long and <3 mm wide; ultimate leaflets oblong-ob lanceolate to oblong, 2–15 mm long, 1–3 mm wide, apex usually obtuse, margins sometimes with 1 or 2 basal lobes but lacking teeth.

Sepals creamy-white. Anthers lacking an apical appendage.

Mature achenes with margins markedly thickened and glabrous.



Reference: PlantNET Flora Online



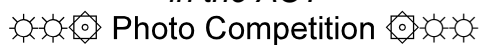
Above - gnarled base of vine and thick stems growing over a small boulder. Left - closer view of flowers with reddish new leaf growth.

Photos P. Ryan:

Distribution and occurrence:

Rare in the north of N.S.W.; more common in valleys and slopes of the southern highlands, usually below 1000 m alt. (This may be the only one on Coolman Ridge.) Other Australian states: Qld Vic

*Celebrating
25 years of ParkCare and Landcare
in the ACT*



REFLECT, EXPLORE, INSPIRE

The top ten photos will form a roving display intended to captivate and inspire future ParkCarers and Landcarers.
Entries close Wed 8 Oct.

News from the Troops

Sharon, who moved to Sydney, now has a paid job as a bush regenerator there. Her experience as a volunteer with us gave her some of the necessary background, skills and knowledge for her new position.
Congratulations!