



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter July 2015

Previous Meeting Sunday 21st June – GAS Arawang

Group Area South can be a bleak place in winter, but we were blessed with glorious sunshine for this session. Our hardy elder statesman, Gösta, turned up in long trousers instead of his usual shorts! He then complained he was too hot!!

We seem at last to be gaining ground on the *Blackberry *Rubus fruticosus* at this site. Poisoning, chopping, digging out – members have toiled season after season, working with the conditions and making the best of available resources. Hopefully we'll see more native grasses and Native Raspberry *Rubus parvifolius* establishing in spring.

Rangers Kate and Ani came by, putting up fierce notices arising from the new Conservation Act. A brief chat ensued.

Malcolm joined the other six of us, having walked the length of the Ridge. It was too cold to linger for our business session. We left two lads hoeing into *Phalaris aquatica*, while we cowards retreated to the Ryans' fireside in Kambah.

Chapman Primary Event

Five of us attended an official school walk, followed by a splendid sausage sizzle, on Thursday 2 July. The Group is delighted to re-connect with the school's programme. Hopefully, we'll be able to revise and republish their walk brochure this year – any volunteers to help make that happen?

Future programme

NOTE – Afternoon meetings this time of year!

Sunday 19th July

Nature Trail and Pauline's Patch – Kathner St Entry in Chapman

Time:- 1.30 pm – 4 pm.

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

Tasks:- Trail clearing, plant ID and weed removal.

For more info, contact Arminel 6231 7392

Erosion Report

We've received Campbell Wilson's site report summary and recommendations for stabilising the Kathner St dam and the gully above it. We'll discuss this assessment at our next Group meeting on 19 July. Or it can be forwarded electronically to interested parties.

2015 ACT Tree Week , 20 to 26 July

Activities at the Australian National Botanic Gardens

www.anbg.gov.au/whatson.

National Arboretum

Friends Events for 21st Anniversary of the Discovery of the Wollemi Pine

Bookings via www.arboretumcanberra.org.au

Footnotes

A huge thankyou to Doug for editing the last three newsletters, during the Ryans' rambling. And an update from Malcolm – new mistletoe plants may be seen on many trees.

What's around

MANTIS EGG-CASE



Phylum Arthropoda; **Subphylum** Hexapoda; **Class** Insecta; **Order** Mantodea

These are beneficial insects – if you find similar egg cases in your garden, leave them there!

Photo Pat Ryan
Information from the Web ,
especially keys.lucidcentral.org/keys

Life cycle - Sperm transfer from male to female in the praying [preying!] mantis is direct, and notoriously, in some species the female may attack and eat the male during or after mating. Depending on the species, females lay 10–400 eggs. The eggs are encased in a foamy substance that hardens into an egg case (ootheca), usually found attached to grass stems, branches, tree trunks, logs, fences and house walls or in the ground beneath a rock or wood. Some females guard the ootheca until the eggs hatch while others simply lay their eggs and leave. On hatching nymphs resemble small adults, but lack wings. They develop through a series of nymphal instars before adulthood. In cooler areas nymphs may take up to one year to reach maturity. In warmer regions there may be up to two generations per year.

Frogs and Frost – from Doug

Those of you bewitched by the splendour of Sunday, 21 June (you remember, the day of the work party on Mt Arawang – bright and sunny), will recall the overnight minimum was around -4°Celsius. By mid-morning the risk of frostbite was sufficiently reduced to head off on a regular Sunday morning walk through Fisher Parkland (the area between the Emergency Services station on Sulwood Drive and the south eastern outskirts of Fisher). The Parkland incorporates a large dam and a significant wetland.

Despite the ambient temperature having rocketed to around 5°Celsius, the wetland and surrounding damp gullies were roaring with the calls of a single species of frog. This was in an area where shaded surface water still was iced over! What manner of cold blooded aquatic creature was this? Didn't they need warmth to be this active?

While you could hear them, they weren't visible. In the opinion of Waterwatcher and all-round nature lover (and newsletter editor), Arminel, they were likely to be the Common Eastern Froglet (*Crinia signifera*). It's a small frog (three centimetres) of brown or grey colour. It's definitely not endangered (official conservation status "least concern") and is distributed from south east Queensland to South Australia. [*Ed.*: In our area, males call only from June to January.]

Interestingly, a quick *Google* search brings up another two species of the *Crinia* genus. Both are small frogs, usually brownish but the call descriptions are different from the occupants of Fisher Parkland.

Mind you, last Spring the Fisher wetlands were roaring as well. But at that time there were at least three different species calling. No wonder there's a procession of egrets, cormorants, ducks and moorhens paddling around looking for a feed.