



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter September

2009

Previous Sunday meeting August 16th

Once again at GAC/Darrell it was an afternoon for seeking shelter. Down from the ridgeline phalaris and salvia were chipped out, and Malcolm cut off young *Acacia baileyana* close to the ground. This is a measure Reet has employed successfully close to her area. Erika found herself working in a group of *Dodonaea viscosa ssp angustissima*, and the male plants were spectacular.

There was demand for a short ID walk – *Lissanthe strigosa* and *Melichrus urceolata* were in full flower, and the buds of *Cryptandra amara ssp amara* were opening. A line of small mystery plants puzzled us. After electronic consultation with Ros Cornish and her Australian Native Plant Society colleagues it was decided to monitor their development and make sure that they really are *Stackhousia monogyna*, the only likely candidate.



What's around?

STACKHOUSIACEAE
Stackhousia monogyna -
Creamy Candles
Perennial native herb to 70 cm
John Stackhouse 1742-1819
Cornish botanist and artist;
monogynus single pistil. Gr.

Future programme

Next meeting, Sunday September 20th

- 1.30-4 pm
- revisiting the Euphorbia infestation (it is already flowering). Manual removal and herbicide application
- meet on the top of Cooleman Trig
- bring hat, gloves, hacker, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet.
- herbicide and heavy equipment will be provided, and driven along the management track on the rural side of the Trig. Plants to be bagged and removed.

AGM Sunday October 18th Nature Trail ☼

ACT Landcare Quiet Achiever Award 2009

Report from Arminel, Thursday September 10th

"Congratulations, Cooleman Ridge Park Care Group members! Joy Burch MLA presented us with this award this morning at a breakfast ceremony at Regatta Point. We shared the prize with a 91 year-old (Vic Grosvenor). He wasn't there to accept it himself, but has propagated 104,170 native plants for revegetation works throughout our territory!"

"Doug, Gösta, Linda and I enjoyed the ceremony on your behalf. We're delighted to tell you that the Group is the recipient of a cheque for \$250, a framed certificate signed by Jerry Ellis (Chairman of Landcare Australia), and a bottle of Taylor's wine. Members can see the certificate and share celebratory cake at tomorrow's weeding party at Kathner Street – the Friday weeders got a special mention. Both cake and certificate will also come along to Cooleman Trig for our monthly work party on 20th September, where the fate of the wine will be determined.

"Particular thanks to Doug and the team who scrambled to put the application together in my absence, and to Sally McIntosh at Stromlo Depot for nominating the group." ☼

Celebrate 20 years of Park Care on World Parks Day

A celebratory breakfast will be held on Saturday, 19 September, from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon.

Presentations will be made in recognition of the efforts of all park carers in the ACT.

All park carers, present and past, are welcome, as well as PCL staff involved in Park Care.

Venue: Southern Cross Yacht Club, Mariner Place, Yarralumla.

RSVP for catering purposes:

Sally McIntosh by September 10th

Ph: 6205 7384 or email: sally.mcintosh@act.gov.au

Please indicate any special dietary requirements. ☼

Fuel reduction trial/Grazing trial report

Monday 19th October Greg Baines, Wildlife Ecologist, has agreed to present the results of the grazing trial on Cooleman Ridge.

All welcome.

Time: 10 am. **Venue:** Stromlo depot, Cotter Road

RSVP by October 10th: Sally McIntosh

Community Programs Officer Ph: (02) 6205 7384)

sally.mcintosh@act.gov.au

What's around



Below Mt Arawang

drawn by Bella Brooks, aged 6.

Permission to publish in our newsletter has been sought and granted by the artist and her parents. ☼

ANPS

The Wednesday Walkers of ANPS (Australian Native Plant Society) chose Cooleman Ridge for their outing August 5th. Three of our Friday Group joined them and Reet had figured out a suitable route. So as to avoid the dangerous descent down the badly eroded track on the urban side of Cooleman Trig we followed the Nature Trail in reverse, starting from Kathner St. Progress was painstakingly slow, with leader Ros Cornish keying the names of plants into her neat device as they were spotted. Just getting up our new section of track to the Kurrajongs took a fair while, and morning tea coincided with Reet's area.

It was helpful to have the Vittadinias sorted out, and to learn that even experienced plant-spotters found *Epilobium* species tricky to differentiate.

Lunch was below the highest plantation, facing the ranges.

It was nice to find that the gate across the trail just before the dried-out Old Dam was no longer locked so the step-through did not need to be negotiated.

Ros has posted her trip report on <http://nativeplants-canberra.asn.au/index.aspx> - Wednesday Walks leads to *Plant Lists* and some spectacular photos. ☼

Choughs

The old nest in the agistment paddocks was occupied one Friday, but then was abandoned in favour of a new construction in a Red Box just uphill from the Kathner St dam - which furnishes suitable building material. It was hard to spot, and on September 4th impossible. The word from Erika is that it has fallen down, posing a problem for observers focusing on the higher branches.

The birds have flown, probably to somewhere close by. ☼

Guided spring wildflower walk

Celebrate 20 continuous years of work by park carers who have been restoring Farrer Ridge Nature Park. Come along and enjoy the wildflowers, the wildlife and the company.

Sunday 27th September starting at 10 am from the top of Muresk St. Farrer. Bring cameras and binoculars. For more details contact Sally McIntosh, Stromlo depot, phone 6205 7384; sally.mcintosh@act.gov.au. ☼

M2G

"As you are probably aware, ACTEW has recently put out its Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer Environmental Impact Statement for community comment. Copies can be inspected at ACTPLA's Customer Service Centre in Dickson or viewed on line at www.actpla.act.gov.au. It is vital that the community does read, consider and comment on this large infrastructure project before the close of business on Monday 18 September. No changes to this project will be considered without strong community support."

Tanya Rucosky Noakes

ACT Waterwatch Facilitator. ☼

Distant vistas

Notes from Arminel:

"Pat and I spent June and July Driving nearly 13,000 km. I notice that each time we head outback, I recognise more roadside plants. For me, the regular homework on Cooleman Ridge – weeds as well as native vegetation – deepens the delights of the long trips away."

"As park carers, we were impressed to find free wash-down facilities for vehicles in western Queensland. We used one at Mt Surprise, removing much of the dust, mud and seeds picked up between Borroloola and Normanton." ☼

Platypus census

ACT Waterwatch in partnership with Australian Platypus Concervancy will be providing free public programmes on platypus this spring. Learn how to gather important monitoring detail about this iconic species

October 10th : meet at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve parking lot
Time 3.15 pm

Further details: Tanya Noakes, ACT Waterwatch Facilitator,
Phone: 6207 2246; tanya.rucoskynnoakes@act.gov.au ☼

First Aid on the Ridge

To support park care activities the ACT Natural Resource Management Council and the Southern ACT Catchment Group are funding volunteers to participate in training courses for the Senior First Aid Certificate.

I was given this opportunity to participate, and took part in an intensive one-day course at the St John Ambulance Centre in Deakin after having studied the comprehensive work book that had been provided. At the Centre we followed a full-on programme of bandaging, splinting and reviving casualties. 18 participants, four of whom were from catchment groups, alternated between being casualties, first-aiders and assistants in numerous role plays. The vivacious course leader Cheryl demonstrated, checked and corrected before giving us a set of 20 test questions. Luckily I passed and received the certificate.

So, I'll bring my first aid kit when I come to the ridge in case a bull or a bee attacks you. Hopefully that won't happen but just in case.

Thanks to the ACT NRMC and the SACTCG!

Gösta Lyngå ☼

