

COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter September
2015

Previous Meeting Sunday 16th August – GAN Chauvel

Eight of us emerged for this working bee. Eight brown quail rose as we passed them. Great views are a reward at this site, and it was a grand afternoon to be outside working.

The usual weeds presented themselves –
*Great Mullein *Verbascum thapsus* and
*Phalaris *P. aquatica*. From ground softened by recent rain, we ripped seedlings aplenty of
*Privet *Ligustrum spp.*, plus some
*Sweetbriar *Rosa rubiginosa*, *Ivy *Hedera helix*, *Firethorn *Pyracantha angustifolia*, and Cootamundra Wattle *Acacia baileyana*.

There was also a new woody weed – *NZ Pittosporum *P. tenuifolium* (?). We'd heard it was popping up in other reserves.

Other achievements? Track checking, rubbish removal and the discovery of a pot-plant, surrounded by barbed wire (to deter rabbits?). You guessed it – two *Marijuana *Cannabis sativa* seedlings!

A cuppa completed the outing for the stayers. Particular thanks to the loyal members who came out despite suffering from winter ailments.

Condolences

Long-time member David at Monkman Street is mourning the recent loss of his wife of 56 years, who passed away on 30 August. We extend our sincere sympathy to David and his family at this time of grief.

Future programme

NB – Afternoon meetings this time of year!

Sunday 20th September

Group Area Central – Darrell Place

Time:- 1.30 pm – 4 pm.

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

Tasks:- plant ID and weed removal.

For more info, contact Arminel 6231 7392

Wild Things

Jenny reports seeing a large hare near the Old Dam. Pat reports seeing Wallaroos on Arawang, as well as the usual swarms of Eastern Grey Kangaroos. COG has identified a bird's nest found at our Kathner St site as being that of a Noisy Friarbird.

Farrer Ridge

**Guided Walk to view Spring Wildflowers
Sunday 27th September 10 am - 12 noon,
Meet at the top of Muresk Street.**

*For more info, call Parks & Cons Stromlo on
6205 7384*

Annual Joint Planning Meeting 2 Sept.

President Alan, plus committee cohort Doug, Arminel and Linda, met with Craig Wainwright and our new Ranger, Josh Mulvaney, at Athllon Depot. Kate Hadden joined us for the latter part of the meeting. Members interested in the details can ask Alan for a copy of the minutes. We can report here that Josh has recently fixed the Old Dam Fire Trail (undermined by a very persistent wombat) and repositioned a misleading sign. Hooray for Josh!!

What's around

**Araujia sericifera*

Common Names: Moth Vine, Kapok Vine

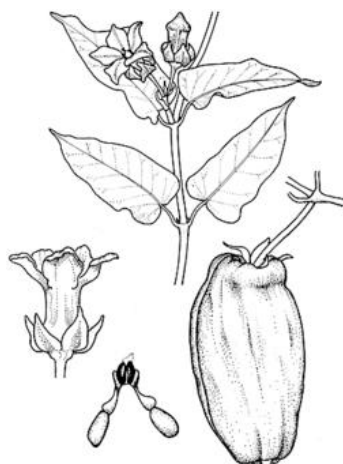
Declared Noxious Weed (NSW)

George and Arminel found a single juvenile specimen of this vine on Mt Arawang on 11 February (see Newsletter March 2015). Its identity has been officially confirmed – the second confirmed naturalised occurrence in the ACT so far. Identification was notified to us on 31 August.

We have reason to believe it may not be the only occurrence, given that we are aware that this plant was formerly (informally?) available in the ACT and was planted in suburban gardens. Other escapees are likely to be lurking.

ACTION!!!

Please notify the Group's Weeds Officer Linda Spinaze of the location and number of any plants that you find in our reserve – use your GPS or ask for help to do so. Seed heads must be bagged and removed for proper disposal.



The flowers attract evening **moths**. The moths wriggle into the throat of the bell to get at the nectar, and are imprisoned for a day or two until the flower withers.

Description: Evergreen climber with twining stems to 10 m high on supporting vegetation. Milky latex sap; sets like indiarubber.

Flowering: Terminal clusters of bell-shaped, sweet-scented flowers in summer.

Fruit: Pale green, like a small pear or choko in size and shape. Pods split open to release abundant seeds, covered in fluffy down. Wind-borne seed spread.

Distribution and occurrence: Widely naturalized (eg South Coast). Likes disturbed sites. Marginally frost-hardy.

Origin: Native of S.America.

Family: Apocynaceae (aka the dogbane family). Prefix *Apo-* from Gk. = from, away, detached + Lat *cyno-* combining form from Gk. = dog

Genus: *Araujia* New Latin, honouring António de Araújo e Azevedo †1817 Portuguese statesman + New Latin -ia

Species: *sericifera* = silk-bearing, silk-producing. From *Seres* Lat. = silk (orig. Gk. name of the Asian/Chinese people from whom silk came west to Europe) + *fer[o]* adj. Lat = bearing, producing, carrying.

Warning – Seeds may be poisonous to poultry and dogs.

References – excellent photos and details are to be found at <http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Details/92>. My other research included (online) Wikipedia and PlantNet (source of drawing); plus (print sources) Encyclopaedia Botanica, A Modern Herbal (Mrs M. Grieve), Cassell's New Latin Dictionary and The Shorter Oxford Dictionary.

Acknowledgements – Weeder George Wing, Sleuth and Photographer David Mackenzie (watch our Webpage), Weeds Officer Steve Taylor, Anna Monro (Manager, Botanical Information, ANBG), Jo Palmer (CSIRO National Herbarium) and Dr Philip Spradbery (Insect Hotline).

Nature Trail Brochure Reviewed 6 Sept

On Father's Day, Arminel marshalled nine members of the Group to march along our Nature Trail, scribbling notes on the old brochure in preparation for its revision. Lois Padgham from Stromlo Depot kindly made the time join us – such publications and photos are her responsibility.

The event also marked Arminel's recent 70th Birthday. Tea Laddie Pat brought the cake and the Gills provided boiling water for a cuppa.

Chapman Bush Kids

Jenny, Doug and Arminel have been taking turns to attend these weekly sessions. We've only been able to participate in this school programme by suspending our Wednesday morning weeding sessions on Arawang. We intend to resume these soon, before too many weeds invade our site again!!

Prickly Pear Update

Michael Sim informs us that there is **Opuntia ficus-indica* on Scrivener Hill and **Opuntia puberula* on Isaacs Ridge. Thanks, Michael!!