



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter August 2014

Previous Meeting - Sunday 20 July Nature Trail plus Pauline's Patch

Glorious weather it was at Kathner Street, where our hardy weed warriors gathered for the fray. Doug led a contingent of lads to clear our little foot-track, much used by walkers and cyclists seeking to avoid the dangers of the "yellow brick road" (ie the eroding fire-trail). The women worked within the fence. Jenny spread grass seed in newly weeded areas of the drainage line, then hoed out emerging seedlings of Proliferous Pink *Petrorhagia nanteuilii*. Arminel revisited the southern side of Fencepost Hill, finding it regenerating well. Old weed-piles are suppressing some of the nasties. She removed a few woody weeds – Sweet Briar *Rosa rubiginosa*, Blackberry *Rubus fruticosus*. The troops joined forces to chip out the few African Lovegrass *Eragrostis curvula* clumps along the track on the way down to afternoon tea.

Thanks to all six workers, and to those who sent apologies!

Next Meeting: Sunday 17th August
Where: Group Area North – Chauvel
Time: 13.30 – 16.00 hours

Meet: Kathner Street Entrance
Activity: FILMING OF WORKERS as we
identify plants and remove weeds.
(Jasmine plans to bring a film crew.)

Don't forget something to drink. Please wear suitable protective clothing. For further info, please contact Arminel 6231 7392

News & Views

Many thanks to Greening Australia, who put in about 200 plants in several locations on our Ridge on 16th June. Project Officer Kristy Gould of the ACT Woodlands Restoration Project arranged the work.



Photo Gösta Lyngå

One of the pamphlet boxes at Kathner Street has succumbed to age and moisture – its post has rotted at the base. We've filed a report.

We hear that our fenced regeneration area is scheduled for burning in the coming season. It was last burnt in November 2009. Our December 2010 *Regeneration Report*, documented what happened.

Fireweed is a hot topic again, being the subject of a current ACT Biosecurity Alert. (The previous Alert for it was in Spring 2011). This weed (aka *Senecio madagascariensis*) has dollar-coin size yellow daisy flowers with 13 petals. The local native plants we also call Fireweeds (*S. hispidulus* and *S. quadridentatus*) are much less showy plants.

What's around

**Erigeron karvinskianus*

Common Names: Bony-tip Fleabane, Seaside Daisy

Native of America



Image from PlantNET.

Family: Asteraceae – from Lat. astrum = star

Genus: *Erigeron* – from Lat *eri* = early + Gk *geron* = old man (ie *erigeron* was the Romans' name for groundsel, an early-flowering herb with a fluffy grey "beard" of blow-away seeds).

Species: *karvinskianus* - For Baron W. F. Karwinsky von Karwin (1780-1855), German mining engineer collecting botanical specimens in Mexico.

"This is a sprawling perennial herb to 15 cm in height with numerous stems branching from the base, sometimes [forming] dense clumps.

Stems spread horizontally with the ends growing upwards or weakly erect. They are slender, branched, ribbed and sparsely-hairy to smooth.

Leaves are deep green above and grey/green below. Lower leaves are 3-lobed or 3-5-toothed at apex; upper leaves are linear-lanced or elliptic, entire to toothed or shallowly lobed with a short leafy stalk. Leaves are in clusters arranged alternately along the stem. A pleasant smell is given when crushed.

Only a few flowerheads can be found on slender, almost hairless flower stalks. Ray florets (petals) grow in several rows and are often pale mauve, turning white and becoming pink with age. Disc florets (tiny yellow flowers in the centre of the "flower") are numerous with yellow petals.

Fruit is an achene which is pale brown, oblong and sparsely hairy. The pappus (the appendage on the seed) consists of fine whitish hairs. The seed is very fine and spreads easily assisted by the wind.

This plant is easy to remove."

Weed fact sheet

www.iewf.org/weedid/Erigeron_karvinskianus.htm

Steve Taylor (ACT Parks & Conservation Service Senior Weeds Officer) says "it turns up naturalised in small numbers occasionally - so not invasive here. More of a problem in coastal areas. The Environmental Weeds of Australia app does not regard it as an environmental weed in the ACT. It is however regarded as an environmental weed in SE NSW, Victoria, SA and Tasmania. So it may well be a 'sleeper' weed in the ACT - particularly if winters become milder."

More News & Natter

Mystery Map

An old contour map of Mt Arawang, with handwritten notes about planting, has turned up. An unknown lady gave it to Anna. The map is undated. No-one remembers who made it or why. The committee will try to ensure it is properly preserved.

\$270,000 Waterwatch funding secured

The Chronicle (8 July, p 9) reported this welcome news (*Waterway guardians stay on course*). The ACT Govt thus fills the void left by closure of the Commonwealth's "Caring for our Country" Program. Great photo of our mate Martin Lind at Lake Tuggeranong with a dead rakali (water rat) and an Opera House trap!

Grass Half Full or Grass Half Empty? Valuing native grassy landscapes

A Forum organised by Friends of Grasslands,
Thurs 30 Oct – Sat 1 Nov
CSIRO Discovery Centre
www.fog.org.au/forum2014.htm

Want Lake Tuggeranong Cleaned Up?

Have a decko at the Petition, on-line at
<https://petitions.act.gov.au/CurrentEPetition.aspx?PetNum=11&Index=-1>

The petitioners seek to have the ACT government honour the election promise to build wetlands in the Tuggeranong Valley. Wetlands will improve the quality of water flowing into our lake and so reduce closures due to blue-green algal outbreaks.

The Last Word – Thanks to Doug for editing the previous 3 newsletters. *Ed.*