



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter April 2015

Previous Meeting Sunday 15th March – GAN Chauvel

Plumes of white smoke were rising from the mountains as our dauntless warriors gathered to the afternoon fray. Autumn burning to reduce fuel loads has the Fieries working long hours this year. They provided us with a wonderful display on a beautiful early autumn afternoon.

Access to Group Area North is a long uphill slog, but the troops (Rob, Graham, George and Pat) set off with a will. Targets were **Rubus fruticosus* Sweet Briar, **Ligustrum spp.* Privet, and a range of feral fruit trees (**Prunus* and **Malus* the main culprits). Rohan went after **Phalaris aquatica* in the drainage line again. Some **Hedera helix* Ivy turned up again in the top copse. We found time to sow a little mixed native grass seed near the top fence-line. In general, this area is looking much better, with very good native grasses after a very successful and well-timed burn.

While others worked at GAN, Doug donned protective gear to work his way up the overgrown nature trail, wielding the Whipper-Snipper. Arminel (as token female) got the overseer's job – ensuring no-one blundered into his way. Alan and Malcolm ranged – and met Ranger Ani. Rabbits and erosion were noted.

Afternoon tea was as usual convivial and splendid. George's Brownie is to die for!!

Next Meeting

When: 1.30pm to 4.00pm

Sunday 19 April

Where: Group Area Central. (Darrell Place)

What: Plant ID and weed removal.

Bring: Hat, gloves, hacker, drink. We have a few tools you can borrow.

Contact: Doug Tinney 6288 8589

Canberra Nature Map

In mid-March, Michael Mulvaney of Parks and Conservation in TAMS (and also a Red Hill Regenerator) launched the Canberra Nature Map (canberranaturemap.org) project which allows people to record plant sightings in and around the ACT. Interested persons need to register as a contributor. You also need a camera and GPS device to log your position.

Contributors need not know the species of plant they are uploading (it helps to know the genus, however) as the Environment Directorate has a group that provides the identification.

At present the canberranaturemap requires a PC or Mac. But applications are being developed for Apple and Android devices that will enable contributors to transfer data from the site.

A Word from Alan on Erosion

Recently I attended two erosion control workshops organised by the Southern ACT Catchment Group and facilitated by Cam Wilson of Earth Integral. The focus was on the repair of erosion gullies and rehydration of the surrounding landscape and demonstration of practical means to implement solutions to these problems.

Day one was devoted to understanding the processes of erosion and what could be done about it. Day two involved repairing a gully on Farrer Ridge by fixing logs both in the actual gully and further up the slope. The logs were covered with pine or wattle branches to trap sediment.

Small scale and doable by parkcarers. An interesting approach to a major problem.

What's around

**Cyclospermum leptophyllum* Common name: Slender Celery

Status, distribution and occurrence: We've asked for guidance on this one. According to PlantNet, it is not a native but exotic - a naturalised weed of gardens and roadsides and other disturbed areas, widespread. Note - We found it in the mown area adjacent to the Ridge, near the Arawang noticeboard. Mowing appears to spread it. Linda had it identified by the ANBG. Thanks to both!



Description: Erect annual herb, 15–70 cm high, glabrous.
Leaves usually 2.5–4 cm long, 3–4 times dissected; segments filiform, to 1 mm wide, glabrous; lower leaves petiolate; upper leaves sessile.
Inflorescences with umbels 1.5–2.5 cm diameter; sessile or shortly pedunculate; rays 2–4, 8–16 mm long; umbellules 8–12 mm diameter; pedicels usually 6–20, 3–7 mm long. Bisexual flowers with petals c. 0.3 mm long, white.
Fruit: ovoid, 1–3 mm long, glabrous.
Flowering: Flowers throughout the year but mainly Oct.–Jan.

Drawing (above) from PlantNET. Scan (right) A. Ryan

Uses/toxicity – Caution advised. May be toxic to mammals. May have culinary uses as a condiment. May have medicinal uses, as did Marsh Parsley in Culpeper's time. (Mrs M. Grieve – A Modern Herbal.)

Family: *Apiaceae* - from Lat. *Apium* = Celery, Marshwort. (The Family was formerly called *Umbelliferae*, and includes other familiar aromatic plants with hollow stems and flowers in umbels, such as Coriander, Parsley, Carrot, Fennel, Hemlock etc.)
Genus: *Cyclospermum* – *cyclo* - from Gk. = circle, circular + *spermum* = sperm, seed.
Species: *leptophyllum* – from Gk. *lepto*-, combining form of an adjective meaning fine, delicate, slender + Gk. *phyllum* = leaf



Rockin' on the Ridge

As part of our revision of the information pamphlets for our two nature walks, the following notes relating to the geology of the Ridge have come to hand:

“The rocks of Cooleman Ridge are Upper Silurian in age and are part of the Laidlaw Volcanic Suite which is widespread in west and south Canberra. The rocks are rhyodacites, being high in silica and mainly composed of quartz and feldspar. They were deposited about 420 million years ago by violent volcanic eruptions in a shallow marine rift which lay N-S along much of eastern NSW.

The eruptions were large and widespread, totalling many cubic kilometres. The flows forming Cooleman Ridge are referred to as ignimbrites or welded ash flows which were

highly mobile lavas and volcanic ash lubricated by incandescent gases. Although these rocks extend from Yass to Michelago it is thought that the main centre for these huge eruptions was somewhere south of Yass.”

Wallabies – again

Further to the excitement in the last newsletter about the first sighting of red-necked wallabies on the Ridge, your hawk-eyed Wednesday Weeders recently spotted another specimen of *Macropus rufogriseus* on Mt Arawang. In addition, there were a number of wallaroos in the vicinity.

Heritage matters

Space precludes starting our history of Arawang this month. Watch this space!