



# COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

## Newsletter February 2011

Pauline *Requiescat in pace*

### Previous Sunday meeting 16<sup>th</sup> January

At Group Area North above Chauvel Circuit, eight of us met in shoulder-high dewy grasses for our 8 o'clock start. Rob and Arminel set off with loppers and weed-brush to tackle four flourishing Sweet Briars *Rosa rubiginosa* while Doug directed an assault on Goatsbeard *Tragopogon dubius* (see *What's around p2*) and St John's Wort *Hypericum perforatum*. As predicted previously by Pauline, the spiky rosettes have grown into Saffron Thistle *Carthamus lanatus*. Ugh!! A nicer find was Queensland Bluegrass *Dichanthium sericeum* flowering in this area.

Morning tea, news and views were shared at Kathner Street (see photo by Rob Lundie below). Carnarvon visitor Kath from WA helped the troops drag the bagged seed heads down. Thanks to Kath and Pat, who together staffed the Tepper Circuit Tea Trolley.



### Future programme

**Next meeting, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February**

*Note early morning start during the summer*

**TIME** - 8 to 10.30 am

**LOCATION** – along the Kathner Street Nature Trail, especially near Points 1,2,3,4 and 16.

**TASKS** – We will clear exotic growth and poison woody weeds including Sweet Briar *\*Rosa rubiginosa*.

**PLANT ID** –Distinguish African Lovegrass *\*Eragrostis curvula* from Weeping Lovegrass *Eragrostis parviflora* and Native Millet *Panicum effusum*.

**MEETING PLACE** - at the Kathner St car park and entrance, Chapman.

**WHAT TO BRING** - hat, gloves, hacker, drink, snack.  
FOR MORE INFORMATION RING DOUG ON 6288 8589



Our beloved Pauline died peacefully on 17 January. On 25 January, many members joined the throng assembled at Weston Creek Community Centre to farewell her. Later in the day, we walked with Gösta to "Pauline's Patch" on Fencepost Hill, where he scattered his dear wife's ashes (easting 068 3706, northing 608 6127).

We express our heartfelt condolences to Gösta and the Lyngå family.

Pauline's final Friday visit to Coolleman Ridge was on 7 January. The photo above was taken by Arminel after we'd walked around the Kathner Street regeneration area with her.

### Famine Food

Did you know that desperate settlers hereabouts ate koalas during the droughts of the 1860s and 1890s? Poet A. B. "Banjo" Paterson tells the tale in his ballad, "The Gundaroo Bullock", but it is also documented in Erroll Lea-Scarlett's fascinating local history, *Gundaroo* (Roebuck Society publications No 10, Canberra 1972), pages 45-46, and 123-124.

### Sayonara Sally!

Sally McIntosh has accepted a position as the Regional Landcare Facilitator with the ACT Department of Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water. She finished as Community Programs Officer with Parks and Conservation Service on Friday 28th January. She says thankyou and well done to us all. We will keep in touch, as she has been an exceptionally effective advocate for our work, and has become a valued friend to the Group.

## What's around

Family: ASTERACEAE \**Tragopogon dubius* – Goatsbeard (Photos Pat Ryan)



*tragos* Gk: goat; *pogon* Gk: a beard (referring to the bristle-like seed head); *dubius* L: doubtful.  
Erect exotic biennial herb to 1 m high.  
Yellow flowerheads 15–30 mm diam., Dec-Mar, which open in morning and close later in day.  
Native of Europe.  
(Close relative of purple-flowered \**T. porrefolius* - Salsify, featured in our newsletter Nov 2002.)



### Committee arrangements

Arminel remains President and continues as Editor. Doug remains Vice President but is acting as Secretary and Membership Secretary, while Gösta is on bereavement leave. Anna has agreed to represent the Group in place of the President/Vice President at most meetings and official functions. Other positions remain as is. The committee may co-opt another member to help fill the gap left by Pauline's death.



As part of Heritage Week this year, we will guide two walks on the Ridge, showing off our work, the local flora and fauna, and the wonderful views of our beautiful, well-designed city. SACTCG and FOG are our partners in this venture. Bring your friends!

#### 1. Chapman Primary School Trail.

Leader: Doug (tel 6288 8589).  
When: 10.00am, Sunday, 10 April 2011.  
Duration: About 1.5 hours (13 waypoints on a track of about 1 kilometre in undulating terrain).  
Degree of difficulty: Easy.  
Meet: Guinness Place, Chapman. Assemble at the entrance to the Ridge.

#### 2. Vistas and Vulnerable Vegetation – Cooleman Ridge Nature Trail

Leader: Gösta (tel 6288 7009).  
When: 10.00am, Saturday, 16 April 2011  
Duration: About 2 hours (16 waypoints on a track of about 2.7 kilometres in undulating terrain)  
Degree of difficulty: Easy.  
Meet: Kathner Street, Chapman. Assemble at the entrance to the Ridge.

### Our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

We're planning an early afternoon gathering at Kathner Street on Monday 18 April. Bess Sledge, our founder, and Tony Brownlie, who was in charge of Parks at the time, both expect to be able to come along. More details next time – but make sure you've pencilled it in!

### Web-site update – Regeneration Report

Read our 20-page Regeneration Report (large font) at <http://www.coolemanridge.org/news/RegenReport.pdf>  
This documents the effects of the prescribed burn conducted in the fenced Regeneration Area in November 2009. Pauline's plant list and other contributions to this monograph were invaluable.

### Refuge on the Ridge

Wildlife Carer Erika, a valued member of the Friday Weeders, tell us that she has raised possums, wood ducks, a lapwing, crested pigeons, thornbills, pardalotes, silver-eyes, wattle birds, friar birds, a cuckoo shrike, and welcome swallows so far this summer. She often releases her charges on Cooleman Ridge.

### Drains

Canberra Times Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Feb – 2 notices on p14.

- ◆ Part of the Reserve will remain closed until Monday 6 June 2011 to allow construction work behind Chapman. For more information ring Canberra Connect 13 22 81.
- ◆ North and West of West Kambah residential area – dam and drain repairs etc April – June 2011. (This work will be in the horse paddocks and along the back of the houses along Fiskens and McGiverns Circuits. No works are envisaged within the reserve.) Peter Tait from ACT Procurement Solutions is the contact for comment – 6207 5424. Consultation closes Monday 28 Feb 2011.