



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARKCARE GROUP

Newsletter November 2002

Previous Sunday meeting October 20th.

Our windy AGM was held at Namatjira Drive and we were fortunate in having Vivien Rafeale from Environment ACT with us, undisturbed by calls to injured wildlife or fires.

The new committee is made up of

- Janice as president
- Doug as vice president
- Paul as treasurer
- Gösta as secretary
- Pauline as project officer

Minutes and reports accompany this newsletter. ☼

Next Sunday meeting November 17th.

- 1.30 - 4 pm
- meet at Kathner St entrance. Brendan Lepski will lead a plant walk, taking us to Mike and Pat's patch above the Chauvel Circle gate. Brendan will identify species, instruct us in setting up a survey area and tell us what to do with it
- a brief general meeting will follow
- bring hat, gloves, drink, snack, and rubbish bag for collecting milk cartons etc from the Olympic Site as we return to Kathner St. ☼

Future programme

December 15th Tree survey. ☼

Activity figures for October

The AGM was attended by 12 people, and 4 reported time spent weeding and tree-surveying. Adding the AGM to general administration, our tally for October came to 69 hours of which nearly half were spent on administration.

Contact Janice with your hours at the end of each month on 6288 3953 or e-mail at

janice.paull@aph.gov.au Could you please let Janice know what weeds you are removing when you provide the statistics. This level of detail is forwarded to CNP.
☼

October log

181002 young bearded dragon in from Kathner Street.

251002 30 cm long bearded dragon at Kathner St entrance ☼

Action plan?

In his book *Canberra: Its History and Legends*, John Gale (1830-1929) presents extracts from the diary of Samuel Shumack.

Droughts and Ringbarkings

“About this time (1880) landowners began to improve their holdings by ringbarking the growing timber, which, as this caused the timber to die off, also caused water springs to break out where never before had they existed, and dry creeks to flow with sweet water that had heretofore ran (sic) only in rainy seasons. Thus the great droughts of 1881 and 1885 did not result in heavy losses of live stock, owing to improved water supply. As time elapsed the settlers made still better provision for water, and in consequence losses in live stock were averted to a still greater extent. In my opinion as well as that of others, water conservation has been shamefully neglected by successive Governments; but it is to be hoped that in the near future this important matter will receive the attention it deserves.”

To be continued. ☼

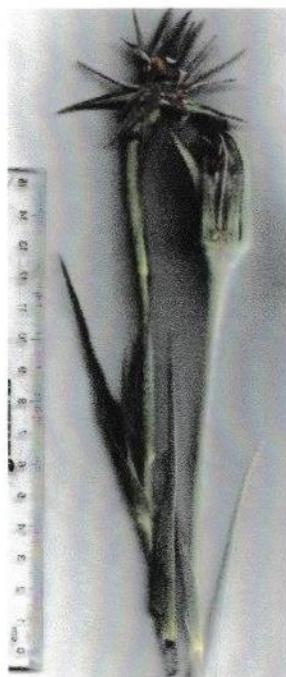
Welcome

Brian tracked us down recently and after a thorough reading of our Web Page was well prepared for Friday morning on the Ridge. Many of our weeds are familiar to him from his work as a ranger in Sydney's Parramatta region. As I stooped low over a *Tragopogon* he pulled me back pointing to a young bearded dragon at my feet, showing that he is not afflicted with my tunnel vision. He has now taken on a sweep of the Ridge for woody weeds.

When I came down at lunch time last Friday there was a 30 cm long bearded dragon parked beside my back wheel - it remained frozen while I cautiously unlocked and eased away my bicycle. ☼

What's around

Family: ASTERACEAE



Tragopogon porrefolius

Salsify

Biennial purple-flowered weed with thick tuberous taproot said to taste of oyster. It develops a spectacular spherical seed head; from Southern Europe and North Africa.

The second community forum on woodland conservation in the ACT

We have received an invitation from Environment ACT for people to attend the second community forum on woodland conservation in the ACT. This forum follows on from the forum held on 22 August 2002. This second forum is being held to enable community groups and interested individuals to provide input to the development of the new Woodland Conservation Strategy.

The forum will be held on Thursday 28 November 2002 from 5.30 - 9.00 pm in the O'Connell Centre Theatre, Corner of Stuart Street and Blaxland Crescent, Griffith.

The forum will discuss the following:

- goal of the Woodland Conservation Strategy;
- three major aspects of woodland conservation in the ACT arising out of the discussions at the last forum;
- application of the Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative system to the conservation of woodlands in the ACT;
- woodland conservation off-reserve; and
- recovery and rehabilitation of degraded woodlands.

RSVP to Marjo Rauhala (ph. 6207 2114) or email marjo.rauhala@act.gov.au by Thursday 21 November 2002.

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Arctotheca calendula

Capeweed

Annual or perennial yellow-flowered weed from South Africa. ☼

Flashes

Kathner Street dam is getting very low.....there is more Patersons Curse in the horse paddocks than on our side.....the exotic grasses are not as high this year as usual.....it is dry dry dry ☼

The Web Page www.webone.com.au/~kpelling ☼

.....has some new, experimental features for identifying plants so check them out and send comments to Karina at kpelling@webone.com.au

Thanks.

We have received further thoughtful contributions towards the cost of sending out newsletters. ☼

Extras

There is lots more coming to you this time than just the newsletter. **Time sheet** - remember to sign on whenever you work on the Ridge - vital for insurance purposes. For coverage you must also be a member, so send in your **membership forms now!** ☼