



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter April
2006

Previous Sunday Meeting, March 19th

There seemed to be no stopping those hot summer days, and this was yet another. It was also the Canberra Day long weekend so it was a surprise to have a good turn-out at GAN/Arawang and we were encouraged by the improvement we found in the area. We cleared away more exotics – dry grass, *Chondrilla juncea*, *Hypericum perforatum*, *Acetosella vulgaris* – piling the rubbish in the ditch.

We discussed the possibility of a grant for spraying the blackberry thickets but have since been assured they were in fact sprayed in recent weeks, and that there will be follow-up treatment.

Knock-off time was welcome, and everyone brought plant snippets into the shade of the tree for *Show and Ask*.

Nearly everyone had found *Epilobium billardierianum* as it was in full flower (see Newsletter October 2001) and there were *Cheilanthes sp.* in various stages of hydration (August 2002). Most discussion centred round some drought-stricken pieces of *Plantago sp.* (January 2002). The leaves were too shriveled to go by, so it was necessary to rely on the flower spikes for identification.

To date we have identified 54 plant species in GAS of which 33 are native. Natives added to the species list were *Sorghum leiocladum*, *Dodonea viscosa/angustissima* and *Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia*. ✨

Next Sunday meeting, April 16th

- GAN/Chauvel for clearing of exotic growth, plant ID
- 1.30 - 4 pm
- meet at Kathner St or GAN/Chauvel
- bring hat, gloves, hacker, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet ✨

Future programme

We will continue to rotate through the three Group Areas (GA) when there is no special programme, meeting as usual on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 1.30 p.m.

12-13 April CVA team providing work. Ring Jenny for details if you are able to join them: 6231 4535 ✨

March log

Lots of *Eragrostis curvula* reported at Arawang end.
10-170306 large branch fell from E. rossii Fence Post Hill
190306 0684195 6085590 696 m - pine seedling removed
190306 0684339 6085622 712 m - pine seedling removed
190306 0685486 6084610 689 m - pine seedling removed
24-310306 minor branch fell from E. rossii Fence Post Hill
24-310306 notice board Perspex broken again. ✨

Risk Assessment

Doug went to the workshop and writes:

Conservation Volunteers Australia recently held in Canberra a risk assessment workshop to help community conservation groups such as ours learn about volunteer risk management.

We all know there's risk in everything we do. Drinking a cup of coffee, getting out of bed – both have an element of risk, but the probability of injury is low. On our patch, risks resemble those akin to bushwalking; sunburn, scratches, cuts and abrasions, snakes and perhaps more seriously, falls in rough country. The use of tools is another layer of risk, still slight since they are not usually powered.

Given the overall low likelihood of injury to park carers, or others using the Ridge accidentally hit by a wayward digger, there seems little need to develop a formalised plan. Nevertheless there is a common law duty of care on all who voluntarily work on the Ridge. We need to think about our activities and how to avoid injury to ourselves and others and damage to property.

Individuals working alone on their patch need to have an idea of how they might get assistance if they damage themselves. I take my mobile and carry a crepe bandage. Others may have their own plan – but it's worth thinking about.

Evacuation or first aid treatment is simpler in a group. We even have a brand new first aid kit, courtesy of Environment ACT, which now comes along to our monthly meetings.

On that point, I've canvassed the executive as to who has first aid qualifications (there are two) but it would be useful to know of others in the group so qualified. Let me know on 6288 8589 or tinneydoug@hotmail.com.

Ultimately, each volunteer has to assess the level of risk in the activity in which they are engaged. Most of us have been around long enough to be well aware of what can happen. As a volunteer conservation group it seems unnecessary for us to document each and every potential risk we face when operating on Cooleman Ridge. Basically avoiding injury and damage is a matter of good sense. ✨

Oh well

Our March meeting hit the Canberra Day long weekend. Our April meeting lands on Easter Day – shouldn't affect the exotics one way or another. ✨

What's around

Family AMARANTHACEAE



**Amaranthus retroflexus* – Redroot Amaranth
Exotic annual to 1m
Native of America

This very aggressive plant is growing vigorously beside the maintenance track above Lincoln Close – presumably brought in by service vehicles. ☼

Pinus radiata

Seedlings continue to turn up, and once their positions have been recorded they are removed. Since the fire a total of 11 have been found, three being taken out Sun 19th. There were none recorded before the fire. ☼

Weed Management Manual

The CRC for Australian Weed Management and the Department of Environment and Heritage have produced a training resource for individuals or groups involved in weed management: www.weeds.crc.org.au/documents/manual.pdf. Printed copies of this manual (available as a ring-binder folder) are available at no cost to people or organisations that wish to use this resource. Contact Nikki Ward, Vegetation Management Policy Section, Department of Environment and Heritage 6274 2082 nikki.ward@deh.gov.au

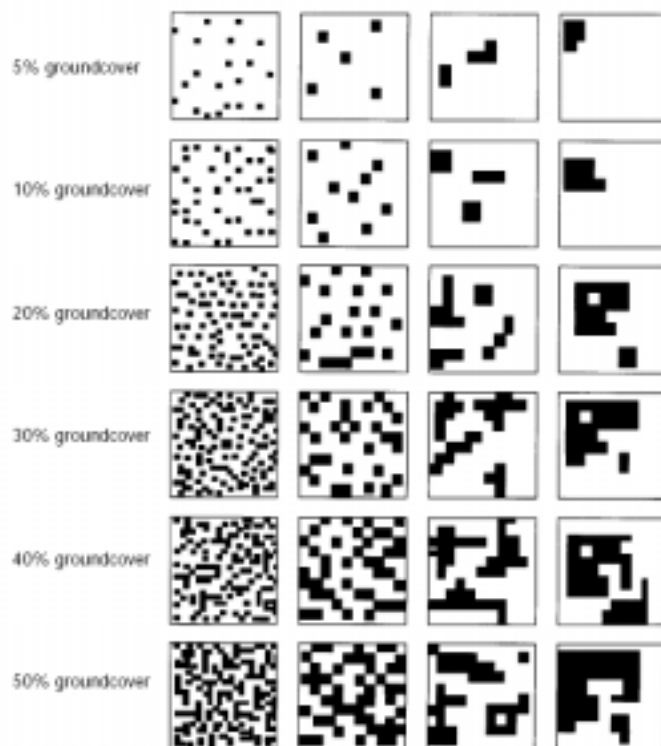
The diagram in the next column (from page 18 of 90) is *A guide for the visual assessment of weed infestation as a percentage of ground cover*.



Alternanthera nana
Ephemeral native herb
alternanthera ref. to filaments without
anthers, alternating
nana L: dwarf ☼

cont.

Figure 3: A guide for the visual assessment of weed infestation as a percentage of ground cover.



Bayley, D (2001) *Efficient Weed Management*, NSW Agriculture Pearson NSW

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