



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter March 2006

Previous Sunday Meeting, February 19th

Our Sunday work party at Group Area Central, (GAC)/Darrell, was well attended in spite of it being a typically hot February afternoon. Never the less we were left wondering if it would be wise to schedule the monthly meetings to (early) morning through the height of summer. Half our number got held up at a Verbascum patch (in full sun) while softer (more sensible?) people removed Cootamundra Wattle and other nasties in the shade of the old exotic Eucalypt plantings.

After knocking off we relaxed together discussing the identification of some of the nearby plant species, particularly the various Eucalypts shading us.

Although exotics such as St. John's Wort, thistles and Salvia persist, GAC is looking cleaner and Themeda seems more abundant. ✧

Next Sunday meeting, March 19th

- GAS/Arawang for clearing of exotic growth, plant ID
- 1.30 - 4 pm
- meet on Namatjira Drive just before the Kambah Pool Road turn-off, or GAS/Arawang
- 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. ✧

Biodiversity, anyone?

The latest *Scribbly Gum* outlines the new management arrangements for Environment ACT.

Support for Park Care will now be provided through a new Community Linkage Management Team managed by John Freeman, with Rebecca Blundell undertaking the Park Care and Rural Landcare role.

John is a forester, and will focus on the public use of the ACT land management estate including recreation, community programmes, publications and indigenous landcare and interpretation. Phone: 6207 2491.

Rebecca has most recently been the ACT Forests Recreation Management Officer. She can be contacted on 6207 2193. The Team will be located at the Stromlo Depot on the Cotter Road. ✧

Feb log

030206 White-faced Heron at Kathner St Dam. ✧

Eastern Greys

Eastern grey kangaroos have been fitted with coloured ear tags at certain places around the city. If a tagged kangaroo is seen anywhere except inside a security fenced area* or on the Federal Golf Course at Red Hill, please refer the sighting to Don Fletcher, Sen. Ecologist, Wildlife Research and Monitoring, Natural Environment Policy and Research Division, or any of the following: David Wong, Simon Godschalx, or Murray Evans. If you are able to do so, please note which colour is in the kangaroo's left ear and right ear, eg, 'Dawn' wears Yellow left, Green right, but 'Thorpie' wears the same colours in reverse. The tags are very conspicuous on the Federal Golf Course, as these are mostly small, tame kangaroos, with the same full size tags as wild adult kangaroos. Phone: 620 72104.

* kangaroos inside security fences are tagged at Government House, Royal Canberra Golf Course (near Government House), and Belconnen Naval Station (aka Lawson Grassland), but occasionally find their way to the outside, especially after going swimming. ✧

Why?

The immediate reason for tagging kangaroos over the next few years is to assess the efficacy of an oral contraceptive to be developed at the University of Newcastle. Individual females whose age and reproductive performance is known are needed, in 'treated' and 'untreated' populations. Another longer-term opportunity is to collect ecological information relevant to kangaroo management. That is, information on ageing, movements, fecundity, and mortality. (Eastern Grey Kangaroos can live more than 20 years.) Kangaroos can be aged after death from their skull and teeth but it is preferred to start with sub-adults because their age is known in advance. Because ear tags sometimes get pulled out in fights, the 'girls' all have implanted 'microchip' tags as well, like pet dogs. They have also provided a little of their DNA.

Like any research involving animals the project has been approved in advance by a legally constituted animal welfare ethics committee. ✧

Conserving the ACTs Lowland Vegetation - which way forward?

a free public Forum to discuss how to protect native woodlands and grasslands for the long-term
Wednesday 15 March 2006, 2pm to 5.30pm
Optus Theatre, CSIRO Discovery, Clunies Ross Street, Black Mountain, ACT. No booking. Ph: 6247 7808 ✧

What's around

Family FABACEAE/Faboideae



**Trifolium subterraneum* – Subterranean Clover
Prostrate exotic annual
tri L: 3, *folium* L: leaf, *sub-* L: under,
terra L: earth
Native of Europe, Mediterranean region ☼



**Trifolium arvense* – Haresfoot Clover
Erect or ascending exotic annual
tri L: 3, *folium* L: leaf, *arvensis* L: growing in
fields
Native of Europe, Mediterranean region ☼

European wasps

Parks and places writes:

“European wasp nests are always concealed, nests can be found by the constant stream of wasps flying to and from a particularly location. The wasps are about the same size as a honey-bee but are a bright lemon yellow with black banding and spots down their abdomen. The wasps are very aggressive if you disturb their nests. If you suspect you have found a wasp nest confirm it with the European Wasp Hotline on 6162 1914. Do not attempt to treat the nest yourself.” ☼

Grassy Ecosystems Management Kit

A Guide to Developing Conservation Management Plans

If you wish to read this, Malcolm (Ph 6288 4122) has a copy he is happy to lend. ☼

CVA

We hope to have the help of a CVA team on Thursday 6th and Friday 7th April. Ring Jenny on 6231 4535 for details if you are able to join them. ☼

Professor Ian Lowe

presents a special seminar titled

Water: a crucial factor for sustainable futures

Arranged by *The Murray-Darling Basin Commission*
together with *Bureau of Rural Sciences*

at: Edmund Barton Conference Centre

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Edmund Barton Building, Kings Avenue, Canberra

Tuesday, March 21, 2006 from 10:45am to noon

No RSVP is required. ☼

Cough mixture

My herb book suggests that the larger herb garden is incomplete without a few plants of King's Candle. Tea made from the flowers helps with bronchitis and a stubborn cough.

It's a biennial with a long flower stalk growing from a rosette, and has bright yellow flowers.

You've guessed it: *Verbascum thapsus*. ☼