



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter March

2007

Previous Sunday Meeting, February 18th

Once again it was a lovely morning to be out and about on the Ridge. GAN/Chauvell was looking great with new growth showing clearly in ground bared by the control burn of September last year. Some expanding patches of *Modiola caroliniana* were chopped out, and *Phalaris aquatica* was further reduced.

Sixty-six plant species were recorded, 44 of them being native, the highest score yet for here. The check list takes in an ever-expanding area in keeping with our weed removal, and it's gratifying that weeds only start showing up towards the periphery.

Attendance was light for this last morning start of summer, and we must evaluate whether it's a popular regime for next summer. ☼

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.

Start: 8 a.m. November, December, January, February

:1.30 p.m. during the rest of the year ☼

Next Sunday meeting, March 18th

- GAC/Darrell for clearing of exotic growth,
- **1.30 – 4 p.m.**
- meet at Darrell Place or GAC/Darrell
- bring hat, gloves, hacker, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet ☼

This month's pictures

Featured are two unrelated ground covers.

Glycine tabacina is very prolific at least at the Kathner St end, and seems to have responded vigorously to the recent rains.

**Tribulus terrestris* receives a dubious welcome to our plant list. Malcolm found several examples along the track leading from the Equestrian Trail, through the gate, past the *Eucalyptus nortonii* grove and up to at least the eastern upper end of the grazing-trial area.

Who can tell us whether this latter species should be removed or be regarded as native? ☼

February log

100207 Kathner St dam full

7 pine trees removed – total (2004-2007) 25

250207 **Tribulus terrestris* found D2 ☼

Blooming Threads

Lynne Stone is having a solo exhibition of her amazing 3-dimensional flower embroidery at the Australian National Botanical Gardens in Canberra – including eucalyptus, acacia, and callistemon blossoms.

The Exhibition runs to Sunday 27th May.

Lynne has a website with photos of her work at

<http://www.bloomingthreads.info> ☼

What lies beneath? The role of soil biota in the health and rehabilitation of native vegetation

This Australian Network for Plant Conservation national three-day forum in Canberra will provide an opportunity for sharing the latest research on the key roles of soil organisms in ecosystem function and native vegetation rehabilitation.

17 - 19 April 2007

Further information on this forum - on the ANPC website www.anpc.asn.au or

Sally Stephens: 6250 9523. ☼

Mt. Taylor

Mt Taylor Parkcare's new web site:

<http://taylorparkcare.cabspage.com/>

Their January kangaroo count? – 182. ☼

Heavy rain

Kathner St dam filled rapidly in the furious storm of Saturday evening, 10th February.

For Malcolm's spectacular pictures, go to our web page.

The general view is that this dam never dried out before the fire – grounding of the duck-platform would surely have been memorable. Our thanks to regular walker Barry for checking back through his photos for such an event – his picture from 170303 is now No.0 in our series.

However, the dam was without water by

13th August 2004 and filling 3rd September 2004

18th March 2005 " " 24th June 2005

15th December 2005 " " 16th February 2006 ☼

What's around

Family FABACEAE –the Pea family



Glycine tabacina

Perennial native stoloniferous scrambler
glycys - Gr: sweet ☼

DRAFT: TOWARDS A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR COOLEMAN RIDGE CANBERRA NATURE PARK (continued)

Over the next century we would hope to see the Ridge being managed by a highly professional team ably assisted by community groups. A series of walking tracks would be part of an integrated system of ACT-wide walkways. To the north would be a link to the Molonglo River Corridor: to the west would be a rural avenue to the Murrumbidgee River Corridor: to the south would be a link to Urambi Hills Reserve and to the east a link to Mt Taylor Reserve. The Ridge vegetation, while not pristine, would be to a large extent native and indigenous. Trees being planted now would be mature. Reservoirs and southeastern suburbs would be screened. Vistas to the city and the mountains would be a drawback. The National Horse Trail would be fenced by post and rail adjacent to a realigned southwestern boundary at the northern end of the Ridge. The suburban boundary would include a 20m wide joint management zone in which only approved indigenous native plants could be grown but in which fuel control by local residents would be encouraged. Low impact recreation would be common: motorized recreation would be banned. Fuel control by management authorities would be strategic and ecologically wise: it would be integrated with controls by neighbours, especially householders.

Note: the whole draft can be read on our web site ☼

Pauline Lyngå, 6288 7009, paulyn@inet.net.au, March 2007

Family ZYGOPHYLLACEAE – the Caltrop family



**Tribulus terrestris* – Caltrop

Prostrate herb, branches to 80 cm
caltrop L: a spiky weapon, also this plant
Native to Europe, Asia, Africa and northern Australia. Now a cosmopolitan weed. ☼

FNQ

On a January trip to Cape Tribulation we discovered the Bat House right on the edge of town – chemist, general store and bistro.

Staffed by volunteers, it is part of the Cape Tribulation Tropical Research Station. The bat, with its injured wing, lives securely in a corner of the Information Centre.

Hugh provided us with a numbered pamphlet and we followed the points through the old sugar field that has been bought with donated funds and is gradually being rehabilitated. Given the climate, growth is rapid, and after a few short years there were rain forest trees to tower over us. Weed re-growth is similarly fast and the team must work hard to keep one step ahead. in the heat and humidity.

North Queenslanders are a hardy lot. ☼

Open day garden

Sat-Sun 17 and 18 March from 10 am

10 Wickham Crescent, Red Hill.

A general large-scale native garden, it has a large, centrally positioned native grassland. This is the second opening of the garden but may be the last for a while. Entry is by gold coin donation, and proceeds go to Friends of the Australian National Botanical Gardens. ☼

Web site URL www.coolmanridge.org