

# News of Friends of Grasslands

supporting native grassy ecosystems

January - February 2000



## FOG'S COMING EVENTS

### SUMMER 2000

**Saturday 22 January 2000, 8.30am – Common grasses identification workshop, Mugga-Mugga, Symonston** We are putting this activity on early in the new year so we can still obtain fresh specimens for identification purposes. Isobel Crawford and David Eddy will give a basic understanding of how to identify common grasses, and also provide insights for those who are more advanced. We'll look at the characteristics of grasses and do some identification in the field – bring in your own specimens for identification! Please BYO lunch - tea/coffee provided.

**Saturday 29 January, 9am - Removal of Briars and Hawthorn on Radio Hill, Cooma (Part I)** Please lend a helping hand with this, which is part of FOG's project for which we received the Threatened Species Network (TSN) grant. We need lots of volunteers to make the day successful. Please contact Margaret if you can join us - there'll be carpooling.

**Saturday and Sunday 5-6 February 2000 – Alpine grassland weekend and Y2K bug identification** We shall send out details in mid January 2000 to everyone who has booked for this activity.

**Saturday 19 February, 4pm – FOG's AGM, Mugga-Mugga, Symonston** *This is a key FOG activity especially as some of our most active committee people will be stepping down and we need to fill their shoes. Please read Geoff's article on page REFLECTING*

*ON 1999 AND PLANNING 2000. The meeting will take an hour, and then we'll have a BBQ and a chance to catch up with fellow members. (BBQ goodies provided.)*

**Saturday 26 February, 9am - Removal of Briars and Hawthorn on Radio Hill, Cooma (Part II)** This is more of FOG's contribution to the TSN projects, and we hope to be joined by lots of enthusiastic volunteers. Once again, contact Margaret for more details and to let us know you'll be joining us.

**Sunday 9 April, 8am – Brooks Hill Reserve, Birdwatching and Identification** FOG will join the Brooks Hill group for this activity. Members may know of Brooks Hill Reserve, which is a 71 hectare remnant of native vegetation and wildlife habitat off the Kings Highway between Bungendore and Queanbeyan. It is dominated by dry forest and woodland with either a shrubby or grassy understorey. The reserve is available any time for bushwalking, birdwatching, photography and passive recreational pursuits. Dogs, horses and trail bikes are not permitted within the reserve. The reserve is on the right of the Kings Hwy, 7 kms on the Queanbeyan side of Bungendore, on the NSW/ACT border – there's a big carpark, picnic area and composting toilet. For more information contact Hilary Merritt, 6236 9317.

### ALSO OF INTEREST

**Saturday 15 January 2000, 9am – Brooks Hill Reserve, Seed Collection and Picnic Lunch** Meet at the bottom car park and bring hat, gloves, paper bags, secateurs, and your lunch. For more information contact Jan Gough Watson, 6238 1654.

**March 16-17, 2000 – Inaugural National Grasslands Conference** (Please note that details for this conference have changed since our last newsletter.) To be held by Stipa Native Grasses Association, the conference will explore in greater depth a number of the issues and developments discussed at the recent Clare conference. These will include pasture cropping techniques; providing a forum for the dissemination of such information in northern areas; and a focus on the exhibition of new and innovative developments relating to the harvesting and establishment of native grass seed in the Central West region. The

conference will be in Mudgee and the basic cost will be \$170 for government/industry funded delegates or \$150 for self-funded delegates. The fees cover all sessions, morning and afternoon teas, two lunches, a conference dinner, conference handbook and proceedings, and some local transportation. Please contact Margaret for a conference brochure if you are interested.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2000

**Please send in renewals if your newsletter has a red dot**

Renewals have come in at a steady rate and I would like to thank everyone who has sent theirs in. I'm hoping that another gentle reminder will yield a new rush that will enable me to get everyone's membership records up-to-date and everything shipshape for the AGM in mid February. So, please send them in - membership is \$20 for individuals/families, \$5 for concessions and \$50 for corporates.

Margaret Ning (6241 4065 (h))

Please note that if you joined FOG in the last six months of 1999 your membership carries over to the end of 2000, and there is no need to renew. We did not include a renewal form in the last newsletter for these members. Call me if you wish to check this.

### WWF FLIERS

The enclosed Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) membership fliers were sent to us with the request that they be sent out to all FOG members. This is in connection with the Threatened Species Network grant that FOG has received for the two projects on the Monaro, i.e. Radio Hill in Cooma and the Adaminaby Golf Course. WWF is also a member of FOG.



#### Important notes on coming events:

- Please put firm dates in your calendar.
- For outdoor activities, don't forget your hat, sunblock and drinking water.
- For insurance purposes, sign in/out at activities.
- For information about activities (including times, venues and carpooling details), please contact Margaret Ning on 6241 4065 (home) or 6252 7374 (work).

## NEWS ROUNDUP

News Roundup reports on grassland activities by other groups (local or otherwise) and news of grassland and conservation issues. Please contact Margaret if you have an item you wish to include in the next newsletter. Reports on recent FOG activities commence on page 7.

### Murrumbidgee Corridor Grazing Strategy

On 13 October FOG was represented at the launching of the Tharwa to Pine Island Murrumbidgee Corridor management strategy. The strategy calls for intensive grazing of areas dominated by African Love Grass, and revegetation by island planting in inaccessible areas to stock. This was a Weedbuster Activity and was organised by Geoff Butler. The strategy is breaking new ground because it will reintroduce stock into the reserve. Local graziers will graze animals at critical times to prevent Love Grass flowering and seeding, although stock will need supplementary feeding. To avoid grazing native remnants, electrical fencing will be employed. The strategy will largely rely on non-use of herbicides. FOG members who visited the site a few weeks earlier, are excited by this approach as a way to weaken the Love Grass and to stop its spread. ACT Government Parks and Conservation Service has since formally adopted the strategy. Geoff, congratulations for being elected to the Yarrowlumla Shire Council.

### Willows Workshop.

On 14 October approximately 20 people attended a half-day workshop which was another Weedbuster activity.

### Grassy Woodland Conservation

On 27 October 1999, some FOG members attended the Environment ACT and Conservation Council forum to discuss future action arising from the completion of the final version of Action Plan 10 on Yellow Box/Red Gum Grassy Woodlands. Alan has written a report on this (see page 10). Both Art Langston and Geoff Robertson participated frequently in the debate. The Conservation Council held a first meeting of the "Woodland Group" in November and the next is planned for 20 January, 2000. The group will focus on protecting and monitoring grasslands and grassy woodlands in the ACT.

### Mount Jerrabomberra

On 12 November, three FOG members took up an opportunity to visit Mt. Jerrabomberra's open forest and grasslands with Michael Calkovics. The Mount Jerrabomberra Preservation Society, as many members will know, have been running full-page ads in the Chronicle. Michael had plenty to show us. Good luck with the campaign.

### David Eddy's Slides Show at Parkcare Group

At the last Parkcare Quarterly Meeting on 17 November, David Eddy showed, through his slides, a variety of regional grassland sites, grasses and forbs, and explained his project to the Parkcarers who were suitably impressed. FOG regularly attends these meetings and this is an example of FOG getting the message out to other conservation groups, something we have been actively promoting.

### St. Mark's Grasslands Open Day

21 November was the St. Mark's Grassland Open Day, also sponsored by the ACT Government and FOG. Solid rain no doubt kept the crowds away. Nevertheless those who attended were treated to some interesting talks, walks, displays and an art show. There had been some excellent publicity in the various media, including Church media, hopefully reaching new audiences for grasslands, and a couple of new members were signed up on the day.

Well-known Canberra gardening identity, David Young, opened the event. There were talks on the history of grasslands, and theology and grasslands. Displays were made by the Society for Growing Australian Plants, Environment ACT, the Conservation Council, the Environment Centre, and FOG. Sarah Sharp, who has been active in the St. Mark's Grassland Group, led a walk of the St. Mark's grassland and had a lot of interesting plants to show. Even though this was done in soaking rain, it did not deter the throng who followed her.

Another most pleasing aspect of the day was the Canberra Wildlife and Botanic Artists art display, using grasslands as its theme. This was the first time the Artists had organised its own display, which was very professionally presented. It was really pleasing to see Canberra artists painting our favourite grasses and forbs. This group and FOG have agreed to exchange newsletters and continue to cooperate where possible.

### ANPC Conference

The Australian Network for Plant Conservation (ANPC) held its Fourth National Conference from 25-29 November in Albury Wodonga. The Conference covered a broad range of subjects. FOG is a member of ANPC and was asked to give a paper, which it did. The paper, titled *Community organisation approaches to threatened species presentation: Friends of Grasslands' experience*, was authored by Geoff Robertson and Michael Treanor, and presented at the conference by Michael. FOG's posters were also on display. Michael reported that the Conference was very interesting and a lot of interest was shown on grassland issues. A copy of the paper can be obtained from Margaret Ning.

### Rainer talks at SGAP

On 9 December, Rainer Rehwinkel spoke at the Canberra Region Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP) monthly meeting on his work in recovering natural temperate grasslands in south-eastern NSW under the National Parks and Wildlife Service Threatened Species Program. Hopefully details of his talk will appear in a future edition of the SGAP Journal. His talk was illustrated by many slides. The first part showed a number of grassland and grassy woodland landscapes and illustrated how each was very different. His next series of slides showed threatened grassland species followed by ROTAP's rare and Rainer's "significant species". From his work is emerging an excellent understanding of the location and (lack of) abundance of plant species. He talked of his putting together data from each site and emphasised the importance of groups visiting some of the 600 sites in his survey, recording plant species (especially following his methods), and adding to our knowledge of plant species and sites.

### Conder Grasslands

We have reached year's end, and Conder Grassland (Site 4A) was again spectacular. Better still, there is still some possibility that a suitable compromise may be found to protect the site. This has been due to tireless work by Michaels Bedingfield and Treanor who have run an amazing campaign, and many people, including many readers, have visited the site and otherwise supported them. Those of you who live on the south

side will have seen a lot of discussion in the local press on the campaign. Michael Bedingfield has exhausted many roles of film compiling a photo album of plants of the site and has also written a short article for this newsletter (see page 10).

## REFLECTING ON 1999 AND PLANNING 2000

*Geoff Robertson*

This time last year, I remember thinking that the past year (1998) had been successful for FOG and that in the coming year (1999) it would be hard to sustain that effort. In fact, I thought that as committed persons tire and move on, 1999 would probably see a downturn in our fortunes.

Judging by results, 1999 has eclipsed 1998. Achievements include: increased membership, six quality newsletters, two good workshops, publication of 1998 workshop proceedings, a well attended program, a sustained if straining lobby effort, better publicity, increased visits to members' sites, presence outside Canberra, increased links to Canberra conservation groups and better contact with grassland groups in other regions. Other achievements may be pointed out as well.

However, I still have the same end-of-year foreboding. Some very valued committee members will be moving on. While I would not say we have had failings, lobbying has left some tensions and we still have a long way to go on our Monaro projects. Demands continue to increase. Have we delayed a downturn? Hopefully not, but we will need new energies and enthusiasm (i.e. some new people) to take on what others drop.

Many of the tried and true successes will continue to work for us, although we will need people for these. These include:

- working with and not competing with other groups
- a continued good newsletter
- an active field program balanced by suitable non-field activities
- providing valued services to members, particularly those in parkcare and landcare, and those owning or managing sites
- a well-targeted workshop in late 2000
- focus on plant ID and land management skills
- thoughtful lobbying and education

- publicity, and
- sound organisation

We need to strive to get a better theoretical understanding of grassland issues, build better regional and interstate links, complete our two Monaro projects, be seen as relevant by the rural community, look at how we can contribute to protecting/monitoring grassy ecosites, and recruit persons committed to grassland conservation. We also need to strive for more people to take responsibility and allow present FOG activists to take on different roles.

I would also like to see us prepare notes on large numbers of grassland sites, which would facilitate persons visiting them (including tourists) and taking on monitoring and/or management roles. These notes would include instructions on how to get there, maps, plant lists, what to expect to find there, management notes, etc.

So if there is any way in which you wish to help FOG please call me NOW, especially as we need to get things sorted for the AGM.

## THE ENDANGERED GOLDEN SUN MOTH *SYNEMON PLANA*: A GRASSLAND INHABITANT.

*Cheryl O'Dwyer, Biologist Zoological Parks and Gardens Board, PO Box 74 Parkville, 3052.*

The Golden Sun Moth (*Synemon plana*) is a brightly coloured diurnal moth, with clubbed antennae, and is often thought to be a species of butterfly. It is one of the many species of invertebrates associated with grasslands, but it is the only species of invertebrate confined to a particular type of grassland for its survival. It has only been found in grasslands dominated by Wallaby grass, in particular *Austrodanthonia carphoides*, *A. auriculata*, *A. eriantha* and *A. setacea* (previously *Danthonia* spp). The moth cannot survive if the grassland is not dominated by *Austrodanthonia* or if the area is heavily invaded by weeds.

The Golden Sun Moth belongs to the family Castniidae whose unusual distribution indicates a very ancient Gondwanan origin. About 160 species inhabit tropical regions of central and South America and a further 40 species live in tropical and temperate mainland Australia. The genus *Synemon* is endemic to Australia. Historically, the Golden Sun Moth,

restricted to south eastern Australia, was widely distributed, its distribution showing a close correlation with the distribution of native grasslands. There are reliable records from Bright, Eildon, Broadmeadows, Altona, Broadford, Flowerdale the Grampians and other places throughout Victoria, in Bathurst and on the Yass Plains in New South Wales, Canberra in the Australian Capital Territory and Bordertown in South Australia.

Pressure on the moth populations increased greatly with the widespread replacement of native vegetation with pasture plants and changes in vegetation in land management due to ploughing, addition of chemical fertilisers and urbanisation. Temperate native grasslands are one of the most endangered vegetation types within Australia with less than 0.5% of native grassland remaining. Much of this is heavily degraded by weed invasion and grazing. With the loss of its associated habitat, the distribution of the Golden Sun Moth has also declined and become restricted in its range. Concern over the extent of decline prompted the CSIRO Division of Entomology and the Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) to initiate research into the populations of the Golden Sun Moth. This led to the listing of the Golden Sun Moth as an endangered species. It is one of the few invertebrates listed and protected under the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988, the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 and the ACT Nature Conservation Act 1980.

The Golden Sun Moth is also referred to as the mouthless moth due to the lack a major part of its anatomy, it has no mouth!!!!!! The adult moths only survive for up to 4 days, living off the food reserve it accumulated whilst as a larvae. Little is known about this moth but it is thought to have a two-year life cycle, spending it as a larva, feeding underground on the roots of *Austrodanthonia* spp. Adults emerge in November-December, depending upon the season, for a six-week period.

The adult moths virtually starve to death whilst searching over the short swards of native grasses for mates. Males are readily attracted to the bright orange flash of the female's hindwings and can be very indiscriminate in their choice of partner. Some males have been observed alighting on broken beer bottles!

Females rarely fly and when they do so it is

only in small short bursts. This inability to fly vast distances makes it difficult for the moth to (re)colonise suitable areas. When grasslands were continuous, although dynamic in nature, individual moths were able to hop from one area to the next utilising patches dominated by *Austrodanthonia* and hence maintaining populations. Today, however, patches of native grassland are fragmented and isolated making colonisation difficult if not impossible.

In 1997 and 1998 the CSIRO Division of Entomology, and the Zoological Parks & Gardens Board of Victoria (ZPGB) funded by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service surveyed native grasslands throughout NSW. Ten new sites were located in 1997 and another 18 sites were located in 1998 taking the total number of extant populations within Australia to 35. Most of these sites are small and genetically isolated, persisting on roadside verges, on private properties that do not implement pasture-improving practices, and on Travelling Stock Reserves in NSW.

The survival of the Golden Sun Moth requires that good quality native grasslands dominated by *Austrodanthonia* be retained, which ultimately depends upon the correct management for the remaining habitat patches. This information is vital if restoration of grassland habitats for the Golden Sun Moth is successful.

The ZPGB previously funded a post graduate degree at the University of Melbourne to research the habitat of the Golden Sun Moth. The results of this research form the basis of establishing a captive colony. Eggs have been collected and are housed at Melbourne Zoo. A site within Victoria's Open Range Zoo at Werribee is being restored as a native grassland site dominated by

*Austrodanthonia* spp. for the reintroduction of the Golden Sun Moth. By April 2001, 40,000 wallaby grasses will have been planted. In addition genetic variability within and between populations of moths are being determined. The outcomes of this research will enable a greater understanding of the Golden Sun Moth's basic biology, provide



The glorious Golden Sun Moth (*Synemon plana*). As they become rarer we have to increase our efforts to make sure this species survives. Photographed here is a female.

Photo: E.D Edwards CSIRO Division of Entomology.

information on breeding and genetic variability, and will provide information on restoration and translocation techniques; information that is necessary if we are to successfully save this species.

The adult male Golden Sun Moth is bronzy brown in colour with dark markings whilst the females have bright orange hindwings and bronzy coloured forewings. The wing span is about 3.5 cm across. The males have a characteristic flying pattern; they fly about 1 m from the ground and fly very quickly. They are easily seen, quite distinctive and are common where they occur. So next time you're walking through an *Austrodanthonia* grassland keep your eyes peeled for the mouthless moth, a relict of old Australia.

For further information on the Golden Sun Moth, contact Cheryl O'Dwyer at Melbourne Zoo on 03 9285 9424. Conservation and Research, ZPGB, PO Box 74, Parkville. Vic. 3052.

## THE VEGETATION INVESTMENT PROJECT

Alison Elvin

Have you seen a handsome Hooded Robin or a shy Speckled Warbler recently?

You're in luck if you have, as these once common birds, along with many other small, insect-eating woodland bird species, are hard to find today. What has happened?

With much of the original woodlands and grassy woodlands cleared for grazing, urban development or rural sub-division, and the remaining Eucalypts scattered through paddocks without their natural understorey, the birds have lost most of the habitat and food chain that they depend on for survival. Even in areas where high-conservation remnants remain,

these may be too small, or too isolated for many birds to survive there long-term.

### What can be done?

Greening Australia received funding from the Natural Heritage Trust to undertake a three-year **Vegetation Investment Project** - affectionately known as **VIP!** - to remedy this situation, and they employed me as the project coordinator.

The project is based on Rob Lambecks' Focal Species analysis of fragmented landscapes, and incorporates Environment ACT's draft action plan on the conservation of Yellow Box-Red Gum grassy woodlands, the ACT & SE Region planning strategy; and NSW NPWS research into grassy ecosystems of the south east. The ultimate purpose of VIP is to maximise floral and faunal diversity by buffering, linking and revitalising native remnant vegetation in northern and western ACT, and in surrounding NSW, from Sutton to Nanima

to the Murrumbidgee River. Wherever possible, appropriate grasses, forbs, groundcovers, understorey and mid-storey shrubs and occasional trees will be established on sites that will eventually re-connect these existing remnants of grassy woodlands, forests and grasslands.

#### How does the project assist the landholders?

VIP has funding to provide \$1,200 per km for 80km of fencing; advice, equipment and herbicide for weed control during the site preparation; and seeds and/or tubestock to re-vegetate 95ha of land. As with all NHT funding, every dollar provided to a landholder needs to be matched by an in-kind, one-for-one contribution from the landholder. There is also room within this project to sometimes assist with the landholder's labour component, using volunteer groups, Greencorps, and occasional contractors. The project will implement the most efficient revegetation techniques and engage the vital support of the community for fencing, weed control, plant propagation and tubestock planting.

Sounds good, but it doesn't tell us which species to plant, which remnants to protect, how large the remnants or new planting sites should be, nor how inter-connected the vegetation patches need to be.

Seeking answers to these questions is essential for the long-term success of vegetation management. CSIRO Wildlife and Ecology was contracted by Greening Australia to develop revegetation guidelines for the Vegetation Investment Project based on the Focal Species Approach. This approach to landscape analysis (from CSIRO's Rob Lambeck, 1997, research in the wheat-sheep belt of WA) assesses features of the landscape that are potential threats to the persistence of native plants and animals by identifying the animal species most sensitive to each threat. The most sensitive species becomes known as the 'Focal Species'. CSIRO focused on bird species in the VIP area because "they use the landscape at a scale of thousands of metres - which is similar to the scale at which re-vegetation is usually planned - and also because they could be surveyed within the time constraints of this project" (David Freudenberger, CSIRO). The VIP study has focused on the threats of habitat loss, habitat degradation, and habitat fragmentation (i.e. where patches are isolated from one another). The idea is that if the habitat needs of the most sensitive 'focal' species are met, then the habitat and

landscape requirements of most other species will also be met. It is theorised that other faunal families, such as reptiles, insects, and smaller marsupials will also return to these sites along with the focal species.

The habitat threats analysed by CSIRO for the VIP project include:

- the minimum size and shape of each vegetation patch;
- the structural complexity of the vegetation in each patch;
- the diversity of plant species and composition; and
- the physical distances between each patch.

Undertaking the Greening Australia/VIP contract, Dr David Freudenberger (CSIRO), James Watson, and members of the Canberra Ornithologists Group (COG), completed a 3-month survey and analysis of the habitat needs of 25 species of local insectivorous woodland and grassy woodland birds. Analysing bird surveys of 72 sites within the VIP project area, they found that the survival of nearly all these bird species depends on a vegetation patch of at least 10ha. This patch must include quite complex habitat - that is, fallen timber for nesting and shelter, a range of grasses, forbs, groundcover, small prickly shrubs, medium to large shrubs, and scattered trees. If patches of this size are within a 500m to 1km distance of each other, then most of the bird species studied appear to thrive within them.

However, for a few species, including the locally threatened Hooded Robin, a very large, complex patch of about 100ha appears necessary. With such a requirement, we believe that the ultimate, long-term success of the VIP project (probably 10 years down the line) will be when the Hooded Robins are once again a common sight in the Yass, Sutton, ACT and south east areas. As such, the Hooded Robin will become the Focal Species for this Project. In the meantime, the Rufous Whistler will become the "Intermediate Focal Species". While this is a relatively common and highly mobile bird, it is not found in structurally simple patches less than 10ha. David Freudenberger predicts that the renewed presence of the Rufous Whistler in revegetated sites will be an earlier indicator of success of the project.

David Freudenbergers' draft revegetation guidelines for the VIP project that arose from this research are currently available for public

comment, and are as follows:

- Revegetation should be directed towards increasing the area of individual woodland patches to *at least* 10ha and introducing *at least* a 20% shrub cover within these patches.
- Enhancement actions for patches that are *larger* than 10ha should be to first introduce or increase the shrub cover; second, to increase the area of the patch; third, to reduce the isolation of the patch by creating intermediate patches within 500-1000m (stepping-stone analysis).
- Revegetation should simultaneously address as many environmental threats as possible, including dryland salinity and erosion, as well as habitat loss.
- Conservation of large (>100ha) woodland remnants with high structural diversity (abundant groundcover, low shrubs, mid-shrubs and wattles, occasional eucalypt overstorey) is a high priority for vulnerable woodland birds. Enhancement of large remnant vegetation patches through patch planting of shrubs may be warranted.
- A longer-term goal should be to create enough structurally diverse patches, each greater than 10ha and within 500-1000m of each other, to create effectively connected networks of patches that function like a series of large and complex patches (>100ha)
- Linear plantings should have first priority along riparian systems. Linear plantings for connecting patches that are larger than 10ha should be of lower priority. Linear plantings should be at least 25m wide, and should comprise a range of shrub and tree species.

NB- Linear plantings are not recommended as a high priority. Stepping stone plantings, each of at least 10ha, are a more efficient way of increasing connectivity. They also need less fencing. Over 4km of new fencing is needed to enclose a vegetation corridor 25m wide totalling 10ha, assuming a parallel fence already exists. A 10ha square patch in a corner of a paddock requires only 630m of a new fence assuming 2 fences already meet there. Even a free-standing square 10ha woodland patch needs only a 1.26km perimeter fence."

Using these guidelines, VIP is seeking landholders within the project area who'd be interested in participating in the project, by conserving, protecting, enhancing or establishing appropriate vegetation on their

land. This participation includes appropriate long-term management regimes of the site to ensure biodiversity is maximised, utilising the latest knowledge with regard to grazing, weeding and burning regimes.

Response from NSW farmers has been overwhelming, with at least 140ha of private land already dedicated to revegetation for VIP! This land is either connected across private boundaries, or is bordering a high-conservation remnant, so the stepping-stones are being realised. With some of the sites connecting across deeply eroded creeks and gullies, many land degradation issues are being addressed at once. A number of rural lessees in northern ACT have recently expressed interest in participating in the project, and are seeking complementary management advice.

I shall be working closely with each landholder throughout the project to ensure appropriate site preparation is undertaken; to tackle problems arising on-site; to devise effective site management plans; and to carefully monitor and evaluate the successes and failures of the project. As many of the understorey species necessary for VIP haven't yet been used in large-scale revegetation projects, it may take some trial and error to establish them. Both direct seeding and propagated tubestock will be used.

Putting theory into practice, linking flora and fauna conservation, and being open to new knowledge and techniques along the way, makes this "Focal Species" Vegetation Investment Project an extremely interesting and challenging one.

(For further information, please contact Alison at Greening Australia, on 6253 3035.)

## NSW LAND FOR WILDLIFE

### WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

*Rachelle Carritt, Project Officer,  
Environmental Protection Unit, NSW  
National Parks and Wildlife Service*

In mid 1999 the first series of Land for Wildlife Notes were released marking the commencement of the program in NSW.

Land for Wildlife is a voluntary program which aims to encourage and assist private landholders to provide habitats for wildlife

and achieve nature conservation. Land for Wildlife is a new conservation program in NSW, and is based on the highly successful Land for Wildlife program that has run in Victoria since 1981 and which also currently runs in many other States in Australia.

The program aims to build on the existing commitment of many landholders by providing information, advice and encouragement through an extensive communication network. Land for Wildlife is voluntary and not legally binding - as such it will not change the legal status of private land.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is aiming to strengthen its role in conservation by placing greater emphasis on recognising and supporting community involvement in nature conservation. In bringing you the Land for Wildlife Notes and the Land for Wildlife Newsletter, the NPWS hopes to enhance contact with dedicated landholders.

The inaugural edition of the Land for Wildlife Newsletter will be released in the next few months, and will contain information on broad nature conservation issues, funding opportunities and information gathered from various landholders undertaking conservation projects. We have placed particular emphasis on providing articles written by landholders, expert naturalists, various researchers and professionals in the area of conservation and land management, as well as providing snippets of information from other interstate Land for Wildlife publications. It is hoped to publish at least 2 editions of the newsletter a year. The newsletter will be a good place to share information, advice and suggestions on managing for nature conservation.

If you require further information regarding the program please contact Rachelle Carritt on Ph 02 9585 6671, fax 02 9585 6495 Email: [rachelle.carritt@npws.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rachelle.carritt@npws.nsw.gov.au)

## UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA DISPLAY GARDEN PROGRESSING WELL

*Andrew Paget*

A project to establish a display garden on campus at the University of Canberra is progressing well, and two planting bees are planned for Autumn and Spring 2000. The project is supported by the Society for Growing Australian Plants (ACT) Inc, and Friends of Grasslands Inc, as well as being

sponsored by several nurseries including Aabulk Nursery, Dealbata Nursery, and Bywong Nursery.

The project plans to create an educational display of local native plants (tree, shrubs, grasses, wildflowers), around the faculty of Environmental Design building (building 7) on the campus of the University of Canberra. The aim of the project is to provide an educational resource/tool for students of Landscape Architecture being trained at the University of Canberra, so that they can learn their names, learn to identify major plant families, and become familiar with indigenous plants useful for landscaping works in Canberra and the ACT. The campus of the University of Canberra is set in grounds which have been developed as a natural bushland landscape, and therefore the theme for this display garden is indigenous plants (local to the ACT) to fit within the theme of the campus landscaping.

The project has commenced with funding obtained from the Open Garden Scheme's Community Garden Grants scheme, which has provided money to pay for signage for all the plants in the garden. 300 sign holders have been purchased with this funding, and over 75% of the sign inserts have now been desk-top published, and are currently being laminated for installation early in 2000.

Plant propagation is also well underway, with over 600 plants growing in one of the university's greenhouses, ready for planting in Autumn 2000. These plants already under propagation include a wide range of local species, but additional assistance is sought in obtaining seed and cutting material of a range of indigenous species listed below. Seeds can be collected and posted to me as the lecturer involved in the project, and people with cuttings to offer can contact me to arrange for their delivery, collection, or posting. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

### Seeds Needed

*Acacia implexa*  
*Acacia lanigera*  
*Acacia terminalis*  
*Banksia marginata*  
*Billardiera longiflora*  
*Brachyscome decipiens*  
*Brachyscome spatulata*  
*Brachyscome scapigera*  
*Bursaria lasiophylla*  
*Calotis lappulacea*  
*Clematis aristata*  
*Coprosma hirtella*

*Cymbonotus lawsonianus*  
*Glycine clandestina*  
*Goodia lotifolia*  
*Gynatrix pulchella*  
*Hovea linearis*  
*Hymenanthera dentata*  
*Kennedia prostrata*  
*Leptospermum lanigerum*  
*Myosotis australis*  
*Plantago varia*  
*Podolepis jaceoides*  
*Psoralea tenax*  
*Rumex dumosus*  
*Solenogyne dominii*  
*Solenogyne gunnii*  
*Stylidium graminifolium*  
*Swainsona* spp.  
*Wahlenbergia luteola*

#### Cuttings Needed

*Adriana glabrata*  
*Alternanthera denticulata*  
*Atriplex semibaccata*  
*Bossiaea prostrata*  
*Calotis scabiosa* var. *integrifolia* (division)  
*Centipeda minima*  
*Gonocarpus micranthus*  
*Lagenifera stipitata*  
*Lycopus australis*  
*Lythrum salicaria*  
*Mentha diemenica*  
*Passiflora cinnabarina*  
*Stackhousia viminea*  
*Tasmannia xerophila*  
*Veronica notabilis*  
*Zieria cytisioides*

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### The Murrumbidgee Corridor

Alan Ford

On Sunday 10 October, 18 intrepid souls from FOG and Parkcarers of South Murrumbidgee (POSM) set out from Point Hut Crossing to Pine Island to explore the ecology of the Murrumbidgee valley and to look at the

work of POSM.

It took about 2-3 hours to make this short journey as there was a variety of flora (and fauna) to see along the way. The beginning of this walk does not look at all promising but either side of the track soon revealed a rich and diverse fauna. (The real difficulty for the people working in the area is the severe infestation of African Lovegrass.)

The track follows a line some 10-15 metres in height above the river for most of the way, although it has to cross some minor steam beds. This meant that the flat area above the river was accessible for most of the time. It is also within the corridor proper and that meant that we did not have to negotiate too many obstacles, such as fences.

We soon saw Creamy Candles (*Stackhousia monogyna*) and a little later Scaly Buttons (*Leptorhynchus squamatus*) and these proved to be quite common. Sheep's Burr (*Acaena ovina*) also revealed itself to onlookers. The really interesting flora showed themselves a little later, a greenhood orchid (*Pterostylis* sp), a Sun Orchid (not in flower) (*Thelymitra* sp) and a Yam Daisy (*Microseris lanceolata*).

The significant species then began turning up, a Swainson-pea (probably *Swainsona sericea*), Australian Anchor Plant (*Discaria pubescens*) and finally the group was taken to see the Tuggeranong lignum.

About 70 taxa were seen during the excursion.

The group was shown some of the work that POSM has been undertaking. Parkcare groups do not have an easy time and it is clear that this group is working hard to ensure that the management of their area is at a high standard.

We also took note of other things, such as a Rufous Songlark and a Water Skink.

The excursion ended with a pleasant barbecue at Pine Island. Our thanks to Michael Treanor for organising the day, and the ranger, Darren, who accompanied us.

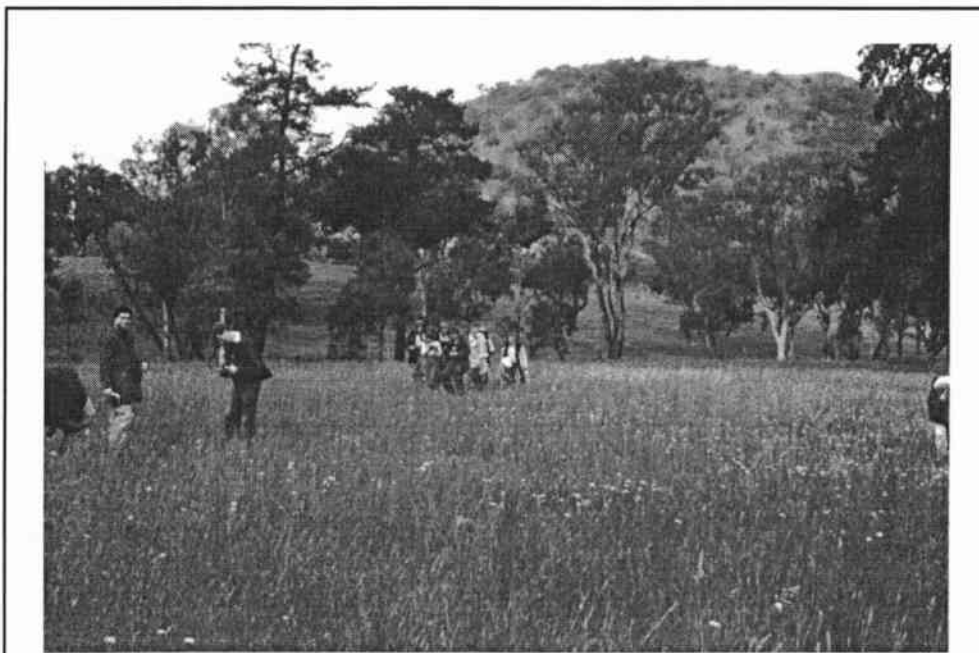
### Northern Cemeteries Tour

Geoff Robertson

On Saturday 30 October, for the second year in a row, FOG celebrated Halloween by visiting some northern cemeteries and other grassland sites; again led by Rainer Rehwinkel. Our initial group set out from North Canberra to visit Nanima Reserve, eight kilometres along the road from Murrumbateman to Gundaroo. There, members of the Murrumbateman Land Care Group joined us. By the end of the day, approximately 30 people had attended this function.

Nanima is an interesting site because it ranges from wet grass areas, grassland, grassy woodland to open forest with a Red Anther Wallaby Grass (*Joycea pallida*) understorey (a non-threatened grassy ecosystem). At each of the sites visited, a number of members compiled species lists, and our members' plant ID skills continue to expand.

After lunch we visited Yass Gorge, which while fairly weedy had a wide variety of plants and spectacular



Foggers enjoy the spectacular show of flowers at Bowring Cemetery. The more they explored, the more species they found. They didn't want to leave, but the best was yet to come at Bookham...

views of the Yass River. We also spotted a Swamp Wallaby. Most impressive were the masses of Bulbine Lilies (probably *B. glauca*), the large ornate florets of Brushtail Speargrass (*Austrostipa densiflora*) and, for many of us, a first sighting of the yellow Calotis (*C. lappulacea*). Bowring Cemetery was found after some confusion over direction (this is an area where my on-ground skills definitely need attention) but we were suitably rewarded. There were many colours in the grassland with mass showings of Milkmaids (*Burchardia umbellata*), Chocolate Lilies (*Dichopogon fimbriatus*), Bulbine Lilies (*B. bulbosa*), threatened (and a favourite) Yass Daisies (*Ammobium craspedioides*), fairly common but delightful Scaly and Billy Buttons (*Leptorhynchos squamatus* and *Craspedia variabilis*), Creamy Candles (*Stackhousia monogyna*), Fringe Lilies (*Thysanotus tuberosus*), Buttercups (*Ranunculus lappaceus*) and Goodenias (*G. pinnatifida*). Two more delights were in store, Native Flax (*Linum marginale*) and a very unusual burgundy-coloured Curved Rice-flower (*Pimelea curviflora*).

The final site for the day was Bookham Cemetery, a grassy woodland dominated by Yellow Box, Blakely's Red Gum, and Red Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*, *E. blakelyi*, and *E. polyanthemos*). While this site was less showy than the previous site it clocked many more species and a real delight was sighting the showy blue Finger Flower (*Cheiranthra cyanea*). One of my most memorable experiences was standing around discussing issues at the end of the day in the steady rain.

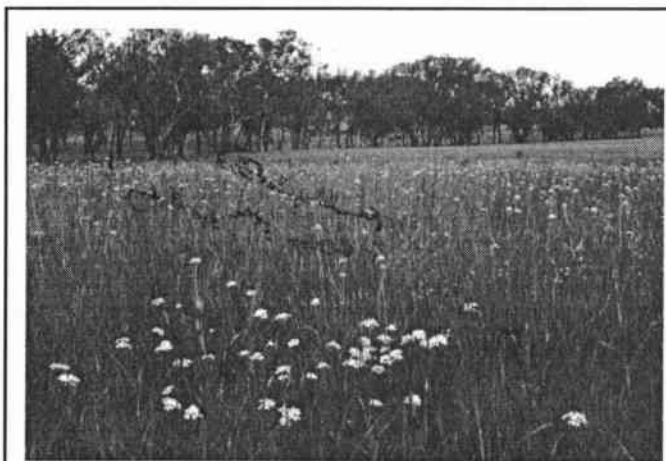
While many persons compiled species lists, I am indebted to Ros Cornish for the use of her lists. It was also a delight having Andrew Paget join us on this trip; he brings to FOG a wealth of plant experience from Victoria.

Again a very special thanks to our leader who never tires of taking us to his special places and teaching us – Rainer Rehwinkel. For those who persevered to the end it was hot chocolate and ice cream in a Yass café to talk about vision and experiences.

## FOG's Fifth Birthday Celebration

Geoff Robertson

On 13 November FOG celebrated its fifth birthday. A great setting, cooperative weather and a very special occasion! While the weather was a little windy, the sun came out



There was a beautiful show put on for the FOG 5th Birthday Celebrations at Mulligan's Flat.

and the group wandered off for a pleasant stroll led by David Eddy. What more could one ask for except a healthy turnout of FOG members to enjoy it? And almost 30 of them came to appreciate this local grassland and enjoy a celebratory birthday drink. The prize for the youngest member on this occasion went to Henry Corbell.

Mulligan's Flat was spectacular with many colours appearing amongst the grasses. A very wide range of forbs, grasses and shrubs were in flower but my main memories were of an extremely impressive display of Milkmaids (*Burchardia umbellata*) and the relatively unobtrusive *Polygala japonica*, a delicate, pretty purple-flowered forb. Even Rainer stated that Mulligan's Flat rivalled his favourite NSW sites.

After the pleasant stroll, members reassembled to drink some generous quantities of champagne (Margaret insisted that it be good quality) and Turkish bread and dips (equally wonderful). There were calls for speeches and many short impromptu speeches entertained and informed us. They included thoughts, musings from a selection of our original members, our newest member, our youngest (adult) member, etc. Toasts were made to absent previous and current members including Edwina Barton and Sarah Sharp,

without whom FOG may not have become a reality. A presentation was also made to Leon Horsnell to thank him for all the work he did for the August workshop 'Pasture Management for Production Catchment and Biodiversity'. The candles for the cake refused to be lit in the wind. The finale was an impromptu duet by Rainer and Dave.

Thanks go as well to our leader on the day, David Eddy, whose indefatigable energy once again blazed a rapid trail across the grassland.

*To sum up, with apologies to all,  
the sun showed,  
the wind blew,  
the members grewed,  
the flowers glowed,  
the champagne flowed,  
the crowd mellowed and  
the speeches to and fro'd.*

## Planning Meeting Part 1

Geoff Robertson

Instead of its usual committee meeting on Tuesday 23 November, FOG had a facilitated discussion on its objectives, led by Stuart McMahon. Stuart is a Senior Facilitator with the Farming for the Future Program in south-east NSW and has, over the last six years, worked with families helping to develop plans for their family's and farm's future. He also facilitates groups to clarify their objectives, strategies and plans. It was decided that in this meeting we should limit ourselves to FOG's objectives – strategies and planing should come later. The committee and a couple of other members attended the four-hour session at Mugga-Mugga. At evening's end we had established a consensus about FOG's objectives and found them to be consistent those appearing in our rules. Thanks Stuart. We hope to follow up this work in 2000. Thanks also to Mugga-Mugga Centre.

## Majura Field Firing Range

Geoff Robertson

On 27 November FOG visited the Majura Field Firing Range, which is a restricted site and contains one of Canberra's quality grasslands. Eleven people turned out on this somewhat cold, windy and rain-threatening bleak morning, but the rain held off, and we

were able to do a lot of walking around the grassland site.

Sarah Sharp led the walk and it was a good opportunity to hear from her about the management history of the site and ACT grassland management policy. The whole site is about 3000 hectares, 200 hectares is covered by grassland. The site is covered by a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Defence and Environment ACT, and is effectively managed as a reserve. Similar arrangements exist with the Naval Station, HMAS Harman, Campbell Park and the CSIRO Hall site.

Until 1994 the Field Firing Range had been grazed by sheep and shows some bad signs of disturbance in patches. However, management seems to be on top of Serrated Tussock although we still saw quite a few plants. In 1997 an unplanned fire burnt half the grassland but appears to have done no damage to the threatened Grassland Earless Dragon and Striped Legless Lizard. The site also contains the Golden Sun Moth, the Perunga Grasshopper and 30,000 plants of threatened Button Wrinklewort which were showing some tentative signs of flowering. Bulbine Lilies were flowering in enormous numbers and Fringe Lilies were fairly common, each providing spectacular displays. We saw and heard several Brown Songlarks that delighted those among us with an ornithological leaning. Thanks Sarah.

### Southern Tablelands Grassland Hotspots

Alan Ford

Over 4-5 December 1999, thirteen FOG members visited six Travelling Stock Reserves (TSRs) in south-eastern NSW under the guidance of David Eddy. We visited sites from the vicinity of Bredbo to two near Bibbenluke, which is north of Bombala. A fair amount of travelling for the drivers, indicating the spread of native remnants in the south east.

Throughout the days we pondered the

mystery of the *Poas*, looked on at one point while David carefully tested his knowledge of Wallaby Grasses to species level, no mean feat in the field, and gradually began to absorb some knowledge of lesser known grasses, such as Nineawn Grass (*Enneapogon nigricans*).



*My Favourite Martian* was spotted at the Bowning Cemetery along with lots of great wildflowers.

There was, as usual, the careful search for Kangaroo Grass in these grazed areas.

Murrumbucca TSR, to the west of the Monaro highway, half-way between Bredbo and Cooma was the first stop. New Holland Daisies (*Vittadinia* sp.), *Solenogyne*, and Common and Clustered Everlastings (*Chrysocephalum apiculatum* and *semipapposum* in close proximity) - raising the question as to whether *semipapposum* is only a woodland plant. I also began to appreciate the knowledge of *Carex* and *Juncus* which was available within the party. I have been involved in a Parkcare group recently and these two have been utter mysteries until this weekend. This site also introduced us to *Swainsona*, an exquisite genus that was to be with us all weekend.

Round Plain church yard and TSR on Rocky Plains road, south of Eucumbene Dam was the jewel in the crown as far as I am concerned. The church yard was covered with Showy Copper-wire Daisies (*Podolepis jaceoides*) and the lower areas of the adjacent TSR with fields of Billy Buttons (*Craspedia* sp.). The party found two Veronicas (*Veronica gracilis* and *calycina*) here. There is an art to even finding one in Canberra.

Cobbin TSR, south of Jindabyne, was the third stop - notable for more *Swainsona* (*S. behriana* and *S. monticola*), Narrow-leaf New Holland Daisy (*Vittadinia muelleri*) and Many-flowered Knawel (*Scleranthus diander*).

Not far from Beloka, on the road from Jindabyne to Dalgety, lies the woodland site known as Liddells Reserve. While we had been in woodland during the day, notably at Round Plain, this reserve was solely woodland and a contrast to the rest of the day.

On day two we left Nimmitabel and went south to Bibbenluke on our way to Bukalong Siding Reserve. At first sight this was a desolate, forbidding place - as you would expect of a site which was part of an abandoned railway siding. However, there was plenty to keep us occupied, such as

*Veronica* and *Swainsona*, to say nothing of Austral Sunray (*Triptilodiscus pygmaeus*) and Native Flax.

The final site was to the east of Bibbenluke, at Black Lake Reserve. We were on the side opposite the lake itself, although we found Blown Grass (*Agrostis* sp.) around the lake shore. In the non-lake section we came across Mountain Psoralea (*Cullen microcephalum*) - the resulting photos may be candidates to appear in a new edition of *Grassland Flora*. This site was also interesting for another display of Native Flax, a wonderful sight when it is a plant that you only come across every now and then.

A very big thank you to David for leading us and to Margaret and Geoff for their hospitality at Garuwanga on the Saturday night.

## WOODLANDS FORUM

*Alan Ford*

On Wednesday 27 October 1999 a number of FOG members attended a forum organised by Environment ACT and the Conservation Council to discuss future action arising from the completion of the final version of Action Plan 10, which is concerned with the management of the endangered Yellow Box/Red Gum grassy woodland remnants in the ACT.

The forum was based around talks provided by five speakers. This was designed to describe the background to future work and what was being done at the present time to monitor and restore species and habitats.

Robert Boden commenced by describing the work of the ACT Fauna and Flora Committee, which makes recommendations to the Minister concerning species or communities considered under threat. He was followed by Dr David Shorthouse, the head of the Wildlife Research and Monitoring Unit (WRMU) of Environment ACT. He described the role of the WRMU in terms of preparing the response of the Conservator of Flora and Fauna to a Ministerial Declaration concerning a species or community. This document is the Action Plan, which addresses conservation issues and management action.

Bruce Lindenmayer then spoke for the Conservation Council, stressing the need for planning to utilise the Environmental Impact Statement process from the start, the need for a comprehensive system of reserves and for action to protect areas within rural leases and other forms of land management units, such as the urban parks.

Alison Elvin then spoke about the Greening

Australia project, known as the Vegetation Investment Project. This project aims to develop revegetation guidelines with aims to buffer, link and revitalise patches of remnant vegetation in northern ACT and adjoining areas of NSW. Implementation of the guidelines should provide useful habitat for birds and other biota that cannot otherwise persist under present land management regimes.

The presentation session was concluded by Jenny bounds from Canberra Ornithologists

Council offering to prepare a paper for submission to the Minister for the Environment concerning the implementation of the Action Plan, with reference to management and monitoring of the woodlands/grassy woodlands/grasslands involved. The Council is to consult with member groups about the issues in the process of preparing the paper. One of the central questions will be the level of monitoring/research that will be required to implement this and other Action Plans and how the constituent groups of the Conservation Council can assist in this process.

## CONDER 4A UPDATE

*Michael Bedingfield*

- The situation for the issue is very good.
- Field work is continuing and the species list now exceeds 140 native plants.
- Legal action has been taken, and work on the development project cannot proceed for the moment (work was to have commenced by early November).
- The Commissioner for the Environment, Dr

Joe Baker, is making an investigation into objections to the proposed road through the grassland. As part of this investigation, Environment ACT is doing a survey of the site and other comparable sites to check Conder 4A's floral value. The Commissioner had hoped that his investigation and report would be finished before Christmas, but it will be later. The survey work by Environment ACT has been done, but the analysis of the data on over 20 sites has not been completed. In late January or early February 2000, the Commissioner hopes to have another meeting with interested parties to present the findings of the survey and several options regarding the future of the site.

- There is good support from Opposition members in the Legislative Assembly.



Fringe lilies were amongst the spectacular grassland species we were treated to on the Northern Cemeteries Tour.

Group (COG), who outlined the COG surveys in the woodland areas, which are designed to provide ornithological data as part of the monitoring process.

Some of the issues referred to during the discussions were:

- the need to review the Action Plans in the light of new knowledge and changes in adjacent land use,
- cross border aspects,
- bench mark sites,
- linking birds/other fauna with vegetation monitoring and how to organise this between the various groups, and
- the role of community groups such as COG, FOG and the Society for Growing Australian Plants in monitoring sites.

The Forum concluded with the Conservation

## GRASSES ON THE WEB

Will Inveen

Sorry for missing you folks last newsletter. If I said "I can't believe how fast time is going these days", would you believe me? Anyway, I hope some of you checked out the ANBG web site. It really is worth a look and is the source of lots of info.

This newsletter I thought I would take a gander at the FloraBank web site. Even though the site is still officially under construction, it's worth a look and it will only get better. Essentially it's a networking site to serve individuals, organisations, business, and community groups interested in Australian native plant seed - identification, collection, storage, distribution and use for revegetation and conservation purposes. The whole FloraBank project is a joint project between Greening Australia, ANBG and the Australian Tree Seed Centre (CSIRO) and is funded by the Bushcare program of the NHT.

The best bit about the site at this stage is the links page. Just like the ANBG site, if you can't find what you want on this site, the links will in almost every case, point you in the right direction.

The Search engine seems to work well, putting you on to good pages relevant to your query. At the moment there is limited info available, but again, I suspect this site will grow quickly. The greatest hassles I had were searching for material on *Danthonia* sp. and constantly being led to articles in the ANPC newsletter *Danthonia*.

If you are looking for lots and lots of great information and pictures of Australian grasslands and Australian grassland plants, you may be a little disappointed. Don't let that stop you looking at the site because it has a lot of wider picture stuff which is very relevant to grassland species and conservation.

If you know of any other good sites which I may be unaware of and you think would be good for FOG members to know about, mail me on [will@dynamite.com.au](mailto:will@dynamite.com.au)

Look forward to seeing you all again!

## NEWSLETTERS RECEIVED

Naarilla Hirsch

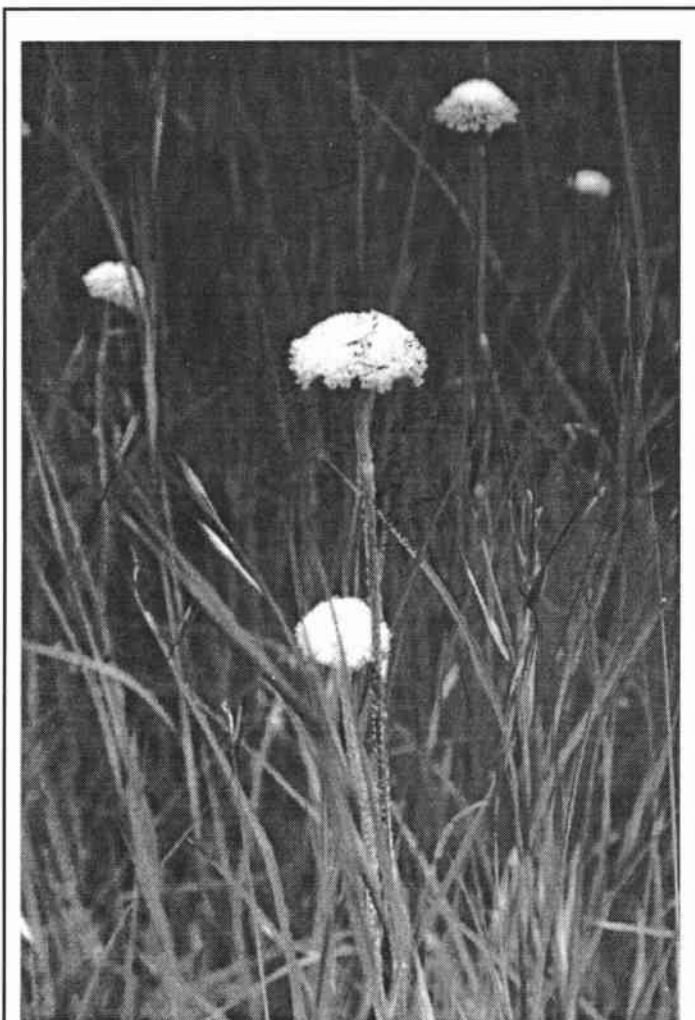
*Stipa* newsletter has a number of interesting articles, including two on native grass seeders and one on marketing opportunities for native grasses. The one on 'Smart pastures' discusses the differences between C3 and C4 plants (it's all in the way they

The latest issue of *Sustainable Times* mentions refurbishment of the Environment Centre, to take place early in January 2000. They'd appreciate any help with either the refurbishment itself, or moving the library and shop to temporary quarters. I eye the library off every committee meeting in the Centre - it looks like a very useful resource if you need any publications in the environmental area. There was also a leaflet from Volunteering ACT, which is a non-profit organisation offering a range of support services such as training programs, a library and bookshop, information and advice, and volunteer recruitment. Call them on 6242 1311 for more information if you're interested.

*Danthonia* has an article discussing the NSW draft Native Vegetation Conservation Strategy and a series of associated background papers. The papers cover social, Aboriginal, economic, ecological and greenhouse values of native vegetation, and one covers administrative arrangements within NSW to protect native vegetation. A sobering statement made in the article is that clearance rates of native vegetation are still too high to meet national and state biodiversity, greenhouse and land degradation mitigation objectives. The draft strategy should be completed by now, and available for public comment. Phone the Department of Land and Water Conservation on 02 9228 6415 for more information.

Other newsletters received and available if members would like a look are The Web (Threatened Species Network), The Hub (Canberra International Airport), Groundwork and a publication catalogue (Australian Minerals and Energy Environment Foundation).

photosynthesize) and how, by combining them in different pastures, we can take best advantage of our climate variability. C4 plants need more sunlight than C3 plants, and provide varying quantities of green feed from spring to early autumn. C4 plants are most productive from autumn to the end of spring/early summer. (We shall include this article in our next newsletter with the permission of the *Stipa* group with whom FOG is exchanging newsletters.)



*Craspedia* sp.? There were plenty of suitably qualified people to ID most plants we encountered on the Northern Cemeteries Tour but a few slipped through the net!

**FRIENDS OF GRASSLANDS INC*****Supporting native grassy ecosystems*****Address: PO Box 987, Civic Square ACT 2608****Web address: <http://www.geocities.com/Rainforest/Vines/7769/index.html>****Your committee:**

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**FRIENDS OF GRASSLANDS  
NEWSLETTER**

You have read this far, so we must have kept your interest. If you are not a member of Friends of Grasslands why not subscribe to the newsletter? It comes out six times a year and contains a lot of information on native grassland issues.

You can get the newsletter by joining Friends of Grasslands. You do not need to be an active member - some who join often have many commitments and only wish to receive the newsletter.

However, if you own or lease a property, are a member of a landcare group, or actively interested in grassland conservation or revegetation, we hope we have something to offer you. We may assist by visiting sites

and identifying native species and harmful weeds. We can suggest conservation and revegetation goals as well as management options, help document the site, and sometimes support applications for assistance, etc.

Of course you may wish to increase your own understanding of grasslands, plant identification, etc. and so take a more active interest in our activities. Most activities are free and we also try to arrange transport (or car pool) to activities.

If you are already a member, you might encourage friends to join, or even make a gift of membership to someone else. We will also send one complimentary newsletter to anyone who wants to know more about us.

**HOW TO JOIN FRIENDS OF  
GRASSLANDS**

Send us details of your name, address, telephone, fax, and e-mail, etc. You might also indicate your interests in grassland issues. Membership is \$20 for an individual or family; \$5 for students, unemployed or pensioners; and \$50 for corporations or organisations - the latter can request two newsletters be sent. Please make cheques payable to Friends of Grasslands Inc.

If you would like any further information about membership please contact Margaret Ning, or if you would like to discuss FOG issues contact Geoff Robertson. Contact details are given in the box above. We look forward to hearing from you.

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