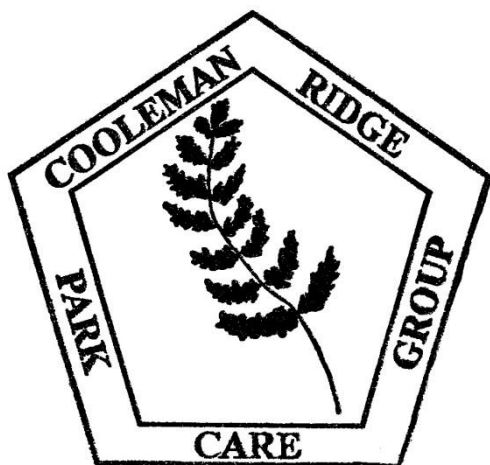


COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP



Newsletter
February 2019

Previous meeting
Sunday 20 January
Kathner St

Thankfully the weather was a bit cooler than the previous days of 40C when we met for our weeding party. There were 11 of us including our two latest members Natasha Cole and Natasha Oates, who were warmly welcomed. The others were Chris Oates, Brigitte Brickwood, Alan Ford, Gosta Lynyga, Natasha Cole, Malcolm Gill, Linda Spinaze, Natasha Oates, Rohan Thomas, Doug Tinney, Jenny Horsefield. A fabulous turn-out.

We spent most of our time manually removing the *verbascum*, both the woolly and the twiggly varieties, and also removing some patches of ALG (*African Lovegrass*) from the area just south of the Nature Trail loop at Kathner St. However, we also spent a lot of time admiring many native species which were abundant and had some flowers. These included *Solanum*, *Glycine tabacina*, *Convolvulus* and *Bursaria*. The native grasses were also abundant and we saw *Themada*, *Sporobolus creber/elongatus*, *Cymbopogon* (Barb-wire grass), *Panicum effusum* (Panic Grass), *Chloris truncata* (Windmill grass), Redleg grass (*Bothriochloa*) and the two *Austrostipa* species which were mentioned in last month's newsletter.

At the end we climbed over/under the fence to inspect the Friday Group's patch, and to remove some ALG. This area is looking

Next Meeting
Sunday 17 February
Above Chauvel Circle

Time: 8.30 am – 11.00 am

Meet: End of Kathner St or at the site

Bring: hat, gloves, secateurs, dabber-doober, hacker, drink, raincoat if it is wet

Task: plant identification, weeding

Contact: Linda Spinaze 6288 6916

Mar meeting: Sun 17, Darrell Place

fabulous with many of the exotic weeds now under control. Thanks to everyone for your hard and efficient work.



New volunteers: Natasha Oates and Natasha Cole
Photo: Linda Spinaze

Linda Spinaze

***Persicaria lapathifolia* at the Old Dam**

Also known as Pale Knotweed, *Persicaria lapathifolia*, has shot up around the Old Dam after recent and welcome rains. It is a [herbaceous](#) species of [plant](#) in the family [Polygonaceae](#), with a [self-supporting](#) growth habit. It is a [photoautotroph](#).



Persicaria lapathifolia at the Old Dam
Photo: Pat Ryan



Persicaria lapathifolia Photo: Linda Spinaze

Linda Spinaze, Pat Ryan, [Canberra Nature Map](#), [Encyclopedia of Life](#)

African Love Grass: February 2009

Ten years ago in the February 2009 CRPCG Newsletter, it was reported as follows that ALG had been sighted at the Kathner St Dam.

“We first met Ranger Lisa Poulsen from the Athllon Drive Depot, and the tall form of

Eragrostis curvula on the same Friday morning. Lisa was out mapping *E. curvula* for the spraying programme, and we were able to guide her to some outbreaks. We showed her the handsome and vigorous *Eragrostis* plant just discovered on the Kathner St dam wall and she promised to get an identification from their weed expert as soon as possible. That same day she came back to us with a provisional identification of African Lovegrass, to be removed straight away. By the following Friday that tussock was gone but we found more. These were all bagged and removed. A specimen was taken to the Botanical Gardens for confirmation of botanical name, and there was no escape: *E. curvula*. This form has been causing concern for some time, as a new arrival in the ACT. Those who went on the Weed Identification course at the Stromlo Depot in June 2007 will remember Jenny Conolly telling about it. Our experience points to it now being well and truly established.”

Too true. It still is and we continue the battle.

What a difference a week and rain makes



Kathner St Dam 8 Dec 2018

Photo: Rob Lundie



Kathner St Dam 16 Dec 2018

Photo: Rob Lundie
Rob Lundie