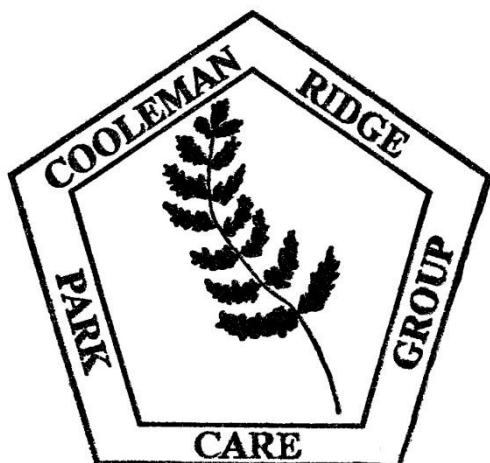


COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
March 2019



Previous meeting
Sunday 17 February
Above Chauvel Circle

Another not-too-hot Sunday began with a welcome to Natasha's son, Sam, and the distribution of equipment (secateurs, rabbit hoes), clothing (shirts, fleeces, hats), and compression bandages. Then 10 of us headed up to our site above Chauvel Circle and beyond. Natasha and Linda dug out *African Love Grass* plants to the east of the area. Linda had sprayed this area before but there was re-growth, especially encouraged by the control-burn carried out last March. Rob tackled *Verbascum*, *Fleabane* and *Briar Roses* along the main back track.

The others manually removed the *St John's Wort* that was encroaching on some native species, and Rohan was busy with his relentless campaign against *Phalaris*. Those who spread out over this part of the Ridge included Natasha Cole and son Sam, Natasha Oates, Chris Oates, Doug, Gosta, Rohan, Rob, Linda and Jenny.

Although early days, it is encouraging to note that 11 and 10 people have attended the first two working groups for 2019 and that this compares with an average attendance of seven for all of 2018. It is also heartening that the average age of Group members attending the working parties has dropped significantly!

Linda Spinaze and Rob Lundie

Next Meeting
Sunday 17 March
Darrell Place

Time: 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm

NOTE TIME CHANGE

Meet: End of Darrell Place

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

Task: plant identification, weeding

Contact: Linda Spinaze 6288 6916

Apr meeting: Sun tba, Lincoln Place

If only ...

At the Arawang work party there was this enormous, yellow field of *St John's Wort*. Not everybody saw this as a challenge. A passing gentleman told me "There are so many of them, they must be natives". Ignorance is bliss!

Gosta Lynga

Bush Regeneration Project

As part of my course in Bush Regeneration, I am undertaking a project in an area near Darrell Place. I have chosen a patch of one hectare (10000 square metres) and will rid it of its exotic weeds eg *St John's Wort*, *African Love Grass*, *Briar Rose*, *Prunus*, *Verbascum*, as much as time allows. The upcoming

weeding party on Sunday 17 March may venture into this area. I will then plant local native species such as *Acacia melanoxylon* (Blackwood), *A. genistifolia* (Early Wattle), *A. rubida* (Red-stemmed Wattle), *A. ulicifolia* (Prickly Moses), *Pultenaea subspicata* (Low Bush-pea) and *Joycea pallida* (Red-anthered Wallaby Grass) in their place, and water and maintain a watchful eye for damage by kangaroos over the ensuing months. I am most grateful to the Group for their help and advice.



Natasha Oates removes a *Pyracanthus* from her patch
Photo by Linda Spinaze

Natasha Oates

Blue Crowsfoot or *Erodium crinitum*

This native, Blue Crowsfoot or *Erodium crinitum*, was located above Monkman St during the February work party. It seems to pop up unexpectedly during some summers. Uncommon but widespread in our area, its leaves, roots and seeds were eaten by the Aborigines. It is easily distinguished from the exotic version as it is the only one with blue flowers. The exotic ones have pink flowers.



Blue Crowsfoot Photo by Linda Spinaze

Linda Spinaze

Crumbweed or *Dysphania pumilio*

Over the past few weeks I have noticed a small herb growing in many places on the Ridge. I first saw it years ago on the Ridge, and have not seen it since. I knew it as *Chenopodium pumilio*, but now it is known as *Dysphania pumilio*. This native aromatic plant has mealy-textured leaves, and grows about 10cm high. It grows in disturbed and bare soils, and can be found in gardens and roadsides. It is now considered an exotic weed in Europe and was probably introduced via Australian wool imports.



Crumbweed (*Chenopodium pumilio*) now known as *Dysphania pumilio* Photo by Linda Spinaze

Linda Spinaze

Old Dam empty

At the end of February, the Old Dam joined its counterpart, the Kathner St Dam: both empty. When did this last occur? Rivett resident of 40 years, Faye Grant, said she had never seen the Old Dam empty but others think it may have dried up in the mid 2000s.



Old Dam 28 February 2019 Photo by Rob Lundie

Rob Lundie