



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
November 2019

**Previous meeting
Sunday 20 October
Mt Arawang**

Another 'just right' weeding afternoon for 13 of the Group including several newcomers who were very welcome. Paul Sheils, Alan Ford, Clare Sullivan, Jacob Hogan, Sam Caddick, Caleb Hogan, Chris Oates, Natasha Cole, Charlotte Caddick, Linda Spinaze, Rob Lundie, Rohan Thomas and Gosta Lynga fanned out across and up Mt Arawang. The main weeds tackled were *Verbascum*, thistle, blackberry and Sweet Briar rose. Linda used Collector to map some St Johns Wort and blackberry. It is satisfying to see that our lower slopes patch is under control although *Verbascum* and blackberry need ongoing attention. A lovely patch of *Stackhousia* was seen near Rohan's patch. However, the eastern slope revealed a large infestation of *Verbascum* which will need to be revisited next time.



Newcomer Paul Sheils and Chris Oates
Photo: Linda Spinaze

Rob Lundie and Linda Spinaze

**Next Meeting and AGM
Sunday 17 November
Kathner St**

Time: 8.30 am – 11.00 am.

AGM at 10.30 am including morning tea

NOTE NEW STARTING TIME

Meet: End of Kathner St

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

Task: plant identification, weeding

Contact: Linda Spinaze 6288 6916

Dec. meeting: Sun 15, above Chauvel Circle

On the Ridge: Cunningham's Skink

The Cunningham's Skink (*Egernia cunninghami*) is a sun-loving variety of spiny-tailed skink. It is named in honour of Alan Cunningham; explorer and botanist, who collected the first specimen.



Cunningham Skink

Photo: John Hurrell

Its snout to vent length is 250mm. It has a long tail with keeled scales along its dorsal surface from the back of the neck down to the tip of the pointed tail. The legs are quite short, requiring it to slide on its belly when moving around. Its colour can vary from dark brown and reddish to jet black with scattered patches of paler scales. It feeds on a variety of invertebrates such as insects, snails and slugs as well as vegetation such as fruit and leaves.



Cunningham's Skinks

Photo: Jenny Horsfield

They live in large social groups making it easier to spot danger. When threatened they take cover in hollow logs, under bark or between rocks. If harassed further they will inhale air, swelling their bodies - this increased size, combined with the spiky keeled scales, makes it difficult for predators to dislodge them.

Source: [Australian Museum](#)

Commemorative Cairn

Coolleman Ridge is such a beautiful part of the world. So, it is not surprising that people would wish to commemorate a loved one in some way upon it. Several years ago a man built a cairn just below the commemorative seat. He told me that it was in honour of his wife who had died not long before. Sadly, in mid-October, a friend and I discovered that the cairn had been dismantled and its contents desecrated: an urn containing ashes had been smashed. I retrieved the shards and a personal postcard which I am happy to return to the owner should they wish to contact me at lundier@iinet.net.au.

We don't encourage the building of cairns because moving rocks displaces the Pink-tailed worm lizard. However, once the rocks

have been moved the lizards have already lost their "homes", so we have honoured this cairn for that reason."

Rob Lundie

Curious Cooleman

This cannister is located on the trail above Guinness Place. Does anyone know what it contains and what is its purpose?



Photo: Andrew Chin

Rob Lundie

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Coolleman Ridge Park Care Group will be held at 10.30 am on Sunday 17 November under trees at the end of Kathner St, Chapman. Nominations for committee positions and apologies to Rob Lundie, Secretary. If you want to find out just what the Group does, why not come along. Promise not to pressure you onto the committee! And morning tea will be provided too.

Rob Lundie