



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
December 2019

Previous meeting
Sunday 17 November
Kathner St and AGM

St John's Wort (SJW) and the AGM were the focus of the meeting this month. Anne l'Ons, founder and still active member of the Mt Taylor Park Care Group, came along to talk to us about dealing with SJW. She explained and demonstrated that at this time of the year, cutting off the flower and seed head with shears was the most effective and efficient method. Then we all set off to put in practice what we had learnt as well as mopping up *Verbascum*, *briar roses* and other weeds. Bales of the sticks and leaf litter, that had been cleared from under the trees as a fire hazard reduction strategy by the Friday group, were hauled over the fence. These were later taken away by Chris.

After a couple of hours Linda, Anne, Rob, Doug, Natasha, Chris, Alan, Rohan Jenny, Malcolm, Paul and Mike were joined by Roger and Anthea for the AGM over morning tea under the trees. All executive committee members were 'elected' to continue in their roles along with Natasha Cole and Chris Oates who joined the committee.

The CRPCG Committee for 2020 is:

President: Linda Spinaze

Vice-President: Alan Ford

Secretary: Rob Lundie

Treasurer: Rohan Thomas

Public Officer: Doug Tinney

Committee: Brigitte Brickwood, Natasha Cole, Jenny Horsfield, Chris Oates, Doug Tinney

Minutes of the AGM can be obtained from the Secretary.

Next Meeting

Sunday 15 December
Above Chauvel Circle

Time: 8.30 am – 11.00 am

NOTE NEW STARTING TIME

Meet: Above Chauvel Circle

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

Task: plant identification, weeding

Contact: Linda Spinaze 6288 6916

Jan. meeting: Sun 19, Darrell Pl



Anne l'Ons demonstrates dealing with St John's Wort
Photo: Rob Lundie

Rob Lundie

Snakes are Not Aggressive

Snakes are not aggressive, they just want to get away to a safe place. If you encounter a snake, stand still and let it pass or move away slowly. These are the main messages I took from a recent Snake Awareness course. After being told about the various species of snakes, being shown first aid in case of a bite, the messages were reinforced when a red-bellied black snake and a tiger snake were released just a metre away from us. I had never been this close to a snake but felt completely safe as they slithered across and under my boots. I would strongly recommend this two hour course to everyone who walks on the Ridge.



*Red-bellied black snake slides across my boots
Photo: Rob Lundie*

Rob Lundie

Curious Cooleman

The picture of a cannister located above Guinness Place was featured in last month's Newsletter. One suggestion as to its purpose was that it contained an instrument which firefighters use to test the water pressure in their hoses. Another was that it contained a drinking fountain for firefighters. Brian Black wrote: 'there is a tap under the can which 'they' used to come and take water samples from every month, to make sure we are getting the best drinking water in Australia. I think that it has been replaced by a new test

point which you walk past every day as you take the link path from Craydon Place to Beaumont Circuit.' Thanks, Brian.



Water quality testing

Photo: Rob Lundie

Weeding by Steam

SACTCG is currently trialling a new Satusteam Weeder! on ALG on local properties. It works by heating water in a boiler to 118°C and creating saturated steam. The is delivered via a lance causing a thermal shock which explodes the plant cell walls. Steam weeding can be done all year round with no need for the use of chemicals. It is effective on soft wooded and perennial weeds.



Satusteam Weeder! demonstration Photo: Rob Lundie

Hannah Edwards and Rob Lundie