



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

**Newsletter
March 2020**

***Previous meeting
Sunday 16 February
Lincoln Place***

Five of us climbed the hill above Lincoln Close on Sunday 16th February - Rohan, Chris, Natasha, Doug and Linda. Alan decided that the hill was too steep to attempt, and headed off to Darrell Place to cut heads off the St Johns Wort. We also worked on the SJW, mostly digging it out of the soil which was softened by the recent, very-welcome, rain. Nearby Rohan sprayed phalaris and other weeds which had already responded to the rain and were beginning to sprout. Thanks to all for a very satisfactory morning.

Linda Spinaze

Water Infrastructure on the Ridge

Icon Water operates and maintains 48 reservoir sites in the four water distribution zones around Canberra. Two of these reservoirs are on the Ridge. One is the octagonal structure close to Darrell Place and the other is the round one up the hill from Guinness Place. Within the latter site is an Optus mobile telephone tower. The octagonal structure supplies mainly Rivett and the round one covers Chapman and upper areas of Fisher. They use a gravity feed system of distribution.

Both reservoirs are supplied from the water treatment plant on Mt Stromlo. Some 25 pump stations distribute water around Canberra with most of it going through the Mt Stromlo facility which does a little 'polishing'

Next Meeting

Sunday 15 March

Lincoln Place (over the hill)

Time: 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm

NOTE CHANGE IN TIME AND PLACE

Meet: Lincoln Place

Bring: hat, gardening gloves, small digger, water to drink.

Task: Weeding of invasive, exotic plants. Native plant identification.

Contact: Linda Spinaze 6288 6916

Apr. meeting: Sun 19, Mt Arawang

or removal of microbiological organisms that may be present. Also there is some chlorination of water to remove contaminants that may be taken up in the journey from water treatment plant to householders' taps.

People may recall the water supply issues resulting from the de-roofing of the round reservoir and subsequent contamination of its contents during the January 2003 fire.

Chapman and Fisher residents were advised not to drink the water. ACTEW supplied bottled water in the interim. Also, water supply from the octagonal reservoir was affected because power was down. A generator was brought in to maintain supply.

Doug Tinney

Review of CRPCG activities

On Saturday 22 February eight Group members gathered at Linda's place to review some of the activities and practices of the Group. The following proposals were agreed:

Use of Herbicides

- Linda to find out if the glyphosate used by the Group is amphibian friendly.
- Linda to draft a policy on weed spraying protocol by the Group. This has since been completed.
- The new weed spraying protocol to be incorporated in a "Welcome to New Members Pack" which will be sent to new members.

Archives

- Rob to find out where the Group's materials should be archived.
- Linda to call a meeting of interested members to sort through the Group's archive.

Cairns

- Natasha to develop a poster to place under emerging cairns which would point out that they damage the habitat of native creatures who live under the rocks.

Weeding Parties

- Jenny to consult with the Friday Group, and report back, as to the feasibility of them expanding their Kathner St care to the Nature Trail track which is outside their usual fenced area. Subject to the proposal above, the schedule of Sunday weeding parties will be as follows:
March – Lincoln Place (over the hill)
April – Mt Arawang
May – Chauvel Circle

Newsletter Distribution

- Jenny to ask Rob if it is possible to attach a Newsletter distribution box to the metal pole at the Chapman Primary School site. This has now been done.

Weed Eradication Campaigns

- Linda to ask Parks for more corflutes. These have since been supplied. If anyone wants one, ask Linda.

If you would like a copy of the minutes of this meeting contact me.

Rob Lundie

Cleaning out the Old Dam and the Wonder and Joy of Rain

In late February Chris, Linda and Rob spent over 12 hours clearing *fleabane* out of the Old Dam. After first cutting off the seed heads and taking them off the Ridge, the *fleabane* was pulled out, leaving native *Persicaria* behind in a few centimetres of water. Early March rain saw the *Persicaria* almost covered.



The Old Dam before weeding fleabane
Photo: Rob Lundie



The Old Dam after weeding fleabane
Photo: Rob Lundie



The Old Dam 5 Mar 2020 after about 70 mms of rain
Photo: Chris Oates



Farm Dam 6 Feb 2020

Photo: Rob Lundie



Farm Dam 19 Feb 2020 after 88mms of rain

Photo: Rob Lundie