



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
June 2021

Previous Meeting

**Sun 16 May 2021 Kathner St
CRPCG 30th Birthday Celebration**

A sunny afternoon chilled by an icy wind failed to deter 25 people from attending the Group's 30th birthday celebration on the grass at the end of Kathner St. A display of photos showed the work of the Group over the years and how Cooleman Ridge has changed. The crowd enjoyed refreshments as Linda, our current President, acknowledged the Aboriginal custodianship of the Ridge, wryly noting that they had looked after it for 30,000 years compared to the Group's 30. She then honoured the Group's founders and early leaders.

Linda observed that in the early days, the Group was very busy with the many projects that Bess Sledge had organised – not only weeding, but slashing, planting, watering, bird identification, tree surveys, removing grazing cattle from the Ridge, running stalls to raise money and writing grant requests to obtain funds for various projects.

She acknowledged the contribution of subsequent Group leaders (Pauline and Gösta Lygna, Anna See, Doug Tinney, Arminel Ryan and Alan Ford) before providing a summary of the Group's last 10 years.

She said: 'We have not needed to be quite so active in so many different spheres as the Group had to contend with in the 1990's. This is in part due to being funded by Parks and Conservation Service for our tools, gloves and chemicals, so that fund raising is no longer necessary. And a lot of successful planting had already been done by the Group and also by the government, which provides

Next Meeting

Sunday 20 June 2021

Mt Arawang (not Chauvel Circle)

Time: 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm

Meet: Horse paddocks, Namatjira Dr

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

Task: weeding.

Contact: Linda Spinaze 6288 6916

Jul meeting: Sun 18, Chauvel Circle

our Ridge with an excellent cover of trees and native grasses.

We can now concentrate our efforts on weed control. The recent exception being the new plantings around the Old Dam, with seedlings funded by PCS, and lots of amazing work by our then ranger, Chris, and our wonderful volunteers. We have been lucky that recent rain has assisted the plantings.

I believe that the most productive and effective way to manage our volunteer workforce is to encourage the native plants to self-seed where they are best suited to grow, and then the fittest will survive with minimal care from us.

The Group is now in a position to look after the Ridge at least as well as it has ever been looked after. Our numbers have increased, and we have some young, vigorous, educated and enthusiastic members to carry us forward for the next 30 years.

As Tony Brownlie mentioned recently: "The power of Park Care is evident every day. Canberra City is greatly complemented by the Park Care ethic. Park Carers care about our

environment, our community and our country!!”

So, we thank the volunteers who have gone before us and who have enabled us to stand on their shoulders to achieve even greater things, and we look forward to continuing their work.’

Everyone then raised a glass of champagne to mark the occasion and to signal ongoing work for the Ridge over the next 30 years.

As members caught up with old friends and made new ones, Jenny took six of us up to One Tree Hill to show the work of the Friday Group. Very impressive.

Those who attended the celebration were: Linda Spinaze, Roger Clarke, Rob Lundie, Deirdre McKeown, Gösta Lynga, Tony Brownlie, Malcolm Gill, Mike Morriss, Nick Crean, Lyndal Lewis, Chris Oates, Jenny Horsfield, Rob Horsfield, Doug Tinney, Arminel Ryan, Pat Ryan, Martin Bajt, Alan Ford, Natasha Cole and Charlie, Ingrid Rehle-Williams, Jim Clarke, Rohan Thomas, and PCS rangers Nina and Hazel.

Thanks to everyone who organised the event, who brought along refreshments and who helped us celebrate our birthday.



Linda addresses the gathering Photo: Rob Lundie

Linda Spinaze and Rob Lundie

Facebook

The Group now has a Facebook page and as such you are encouraged to join and contribute photos and comments and keep abreast of the Group’s activities.

Rob Lundie

Farewell to Brigitte Brickwood

Brigitte joined the CRPCG a few years ago, and also agreed to join the Committee at the AGM two years ago. She has regularly contributed to our working parties, and has

been responsible for replacing the Nature Trail pamphlets at the Cooleman trig bridge, and putting up the corflute signs for the monthly work parties. Brigitte is moving down to sunny Victoria to be near her daughter and her two grandchildren. We wish her all the best, and hope that she will join us for a work party when she visits her mother who is still in the ACT.

Linda Spinaze

More Plantings at the Old Dam

On Sunday 30 May seven of us gathered at the Old Dam to continue the regenerative work begun at the end of March. We planted grasses - mostly *Poa labillardieri* (Poa lab), but a few *Poa sieberiana* (Poa sieb) and a couple of *Poa ensiformis*. These last two may be planted in the wrong spot because it was discovered after buying them that they need a shady spot. Such is the trial and error nature of regenerative activities!



Jenny Horsfield Alex Newman Chris Oates Linda Spinaze Brigitte Brickwood Lyndall Lewis Photo: Rob Lundie

Linda Spinaze

Wildlife on the Ridge

Kangaroos, pigs, wombats and foxes on the Ridge: all camera-captured at night by Trevor Hickman. ([Canberra Times, 22 May 2021](#), [Curtin dad captures fascinating wildlife footage in Canberra’s reserves by Megan Doherty](#)) Worth a look.

Rob Lundie