



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
July 2021

Previous Meeting

Sun 20 June 2021 Mt Arawang

Just seven of us (Rosalie and Mike Pearson, Natasha and Alex Newman, Rob Lundie, Rohan Thomas, and ranger Jim) turned up for the weeding party on Mt Arawang. There was quite a strong wind but we largely avoided this by weeding on the eastern side of Mt Arawang. Piles of *verbascum* were a testament to our efforts. It was nice to have questions, 'well dones' and 'thank yous' from the passing walkers.

Rob Lundie

Wombat hole collapse



Wombat sink hole

Photo: Rob Lundie

After 30 mms of rain on the Ridge in mid-June, a sink hole opened up on the track north of the Old Dam. This exposed the resident wombat's burrow that passed underneath the track. Could it be that recent grading of the track reduced the thickness of the roof and

Next Meeting

Sunday 18 July 2021
Above Chauvel Circle

Time: 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm

Meet: On Chauvel Circle.

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

Task: weeding.

Contact: Linda Spinaze 6288 6916

Aug meeting: Sun 15, Darrell Place

along with the rain and passing traffic thus weakened it?

Thanks to our Ranger, Jim, for organising the erection of the tape, to alert hurtling cyclists. He assures us that the hole will be filled in as soon as possible. Another smaller sink hole has opened up on the Bicentennial National Trail, west of Mt Arawang. Take care everyone.

Rob Lundie

Kangaroo cull on the Ridge?

On my regular walk on the Ridge one day, a young kangaroo approached me. She had heard that kangaroos were being culled in Canberra and was naturally quite worried. Fortunately I was able to reassure her that culling is very unlikely to ever be conducted on the Ridge because the authorities focus on areas that are not connected physically to other kangaroo populations. So, culling occurs in areas that are surrounded by

housing, to prevent out-of-area kangaroos moving into the culled area. She seemed reassured. I did explain that monitoring of kangaroos does occur but this is just to assess their numbers.

Rob Lundie

Monitoring the Wildlife

The Group was recently offered (on-loan) some motion-sensitive cameras from SACTCG. These have been installed in bushy areas on the Ridge. The cameras have infra-red capabilities, so they can record nocturnal activities. They have been placed away from the main tracks to avoid being triggered by human activity, and will soon be collected and the photos examined. We are hoping for something unusual and native, and not the large pig which was recorded by a citizen and the photograph published in the Canberra Times recently! Thanks to Alex and Natasha Newman for assisting Correa Driscoll in mounting the cameras and checking them during the time they were installed. Hopefully we will have some photographs in the next newsletter.



Correa and Alex attach a camera Photo: Linda Spinaze

Linda Spinaze

Emergency+ App

Parks and Conservation encourages everyone to install the free emergency app EMERGENCY PLUS on their phone. This app is a clever way of being able to locate an accident (or lost person). When the app is activated, it will allow you to choose which emergency service (000, Police, SES) you need. An operator will then ask for your location, which can either be an address, or (and this is the important difference for this

app) the three words that are at the bottom of the screen. Help will then be sent to that exact location. Our world is now divided into 3 metre square blocks, and those three words indicate which block the incident has occurred.

Linda Spinaze

How Park Care groups came into existence

I was the manager of Canberra Nature Park during the period (1989 to 1996) when the ACT shifted from Commonwealth to Local Government. One of the many processes the new Government undertook was to "classify" land as either urban, industrial, defence, rural and conservation/recreation areas etc. Within the city limits only part of Black Mountain and a very small area of Mt Ainslie had conservation legislation. All the other areas we now know as Canberra Nature Park were described as "Vacant Territory Land" and open to discussion for use and development by all Government Departments including private exercise. All interested parties had about 12 months to respond. Canberra Nature Park at that time managed in sympathy with conservation ethics about 22 other areas, all having high to moderate conservation and heritage values. In order to promote the attributes of these areas, after gaining approval from my Director, I commenced setting up Park Care groups especially in those areas which were of interest to developers. Any land below 850m was attractive to them as water could be gravity fed to the development. Anything above that, water would have to be pumped. It sounds like a simple criterion but that's the way it was. Giving the community ownership is a powerful management tool. The community (Park Carers) could publicly defend these conservation areas in a way we as Land Managers could not. Community could go public. We could not. The power of Park Care is evident every day.

Tony Brownlie

AGM advance notice: Sunday 21 November at the end of Kathner Street