



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
August 2021

Previous Meeting

Sun 18 July 2021 Chauvel Circle

A sunny/cloudy and quite pleasant afternoon for ten of us (Jenny Horsfield, Lyndal Lewis, Alan Ford, Chris Oates, Sharae Hurley, Paul Shiels, Alex Newman, Rob Lundie, Rohan Thomas, and ranger Jim) who did a great job of attacking the *Verbascum* infestation and some sage on the north western slope of One Tree Hill. The photo below shows just one of our *Verbascum* piles.

Alan also dealt with African Love Grass just above Chauvel Circle along the cut drain. And Rohan sprayed.

It was good to welcome newcomer, Sharae, and to see Paul back again.



Weeding on One Tree hill

Photo: Rob Lundie



Verbascum pile after weeding

Photo: Rob Lundie

Rob Lundie

Next Meeting and Farewell to Gösta Lynga

Sunday 15 August 2021

Darrell Place

Time: 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm. NOTE NEW START TIME and Gösta's farewell at 3 pm

Meet: Darrell Place.

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

Task: weeding.

Contact: Linda Spinaze 6288 6916

Sep meeting: Sun 19, Lincoln Place

Bess's Diaries: part 1

Just after our 30th anniversary celebrations, we were delighted to have an email from our founder, Bess Sledge. Although no longer living in Canberra, she wished us well and still takes an interest through the Newsletter. Coincidentally, I have been reading her diaries of Cooleman Ridge activities from 1994 to 2001. They are really interesting and I've made some discoveries. I have been most interested in what was weeded, and how it was weeded, so that we can implement the methods that obviously were successful. Additionally, I have been curious to know what species were among the remarkable amount planted by the Group during those years, and where those plantings occurred. These diaries are quite specific, with 4-5 entries per week detailing the number of weeds destroyed and other activities on the Ridge. These included collecting seed for

propagation, whipper-snipping, planting, running stalls, mapping trees etc. Hours of work were carefully counted, as were the number of weeds removed or treated. At the end of the year these numbers were tallied, and the following statistics from 1997 are an example: 3,921 hours of work. Number of weeds removed/treated - Woody 3,437, Herbacious 193,000. Plantings: 1,540 trees/shrubs, 276 herbacious plants, 409 grasses. An amazing effort, averaging 77 hours per week, much of which was done by Bess and a couple of friends.

The weeds mentioned most frequently are verbascum and thistles (of various types), followed by St Johns Wort, prunus, briar roses, pyracanthus, cootamundra wattle, salvia (a "sea of blue" is reported), horehound, solanum, Pattersons curse and prickly lettuce. Interestingly claret ash is mentioned as one of the weeds, which we don't see today. They obviously did a good job of removing it! African Lovegrass is only mentioned once, in 1997. Methods of weeding are not clearly documented, but I think it was mostly manual removal and cutting off seed-heads, with some spraying of chemicals. MCPA is mentioned in one report, but no other chemical is detailed, but I presume it was glyphosate.

Next month: what was planted on the Ridge.

Linda Spinaze

Results of Monitoring the Wildlife

Last month's Newsletter noted that three cameras had been set up on the side of Mt Arawang to monitor which animals are wandering around the Ridge. The following animals were 'captured': echidna, wombat, rabbit, fox, kangaroo, wallaby and dog.



Ltl Acorn ● 039F 004C 07/07/2021 18:48:49

Echidna 'capture'

Rob Lundie lundier@iinet.net.au



Ltl Acorn 1000 ● 051F 011C 07/14/2021 11:28:41

Kangaroo 'capture'

Alex Newman

Maintenance on the Ridge

The wombat sink-hole on the track north of the Old Dam has now been repaired. Thanks to ranger Jim for organising its repair. Work has also been carried out to clear out the cut drain between Chauvel Circle and Kathner St.



Cut drain maintenance Photo: Alan Ford

Rob Lundie

Farewell to Gösta

In September the Group's longest standing founding member, Gösta Lynga will be returning to his native land, Sweden, this time for good. We will miss him. To farewell him, everyone is invited to an afternoon tea at 3 pm on Sunday 15 August at Darrell Place. This is our monthly weeding day so we will weed from 1.30 to 3 and then have afternoon tea. Everyone is welcome, whether you will be weeding or not. For an idea of numbers could you RSVP Rob Lundie lundier@iinet.net.au

Linda Spinaze

www.coolemanridge.org.au