

COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
February 2017

Previous meeting
Sunday 15th January
Group Area South: Mt Arawang

Eight enthusiastic members turned up on a hot January morning. Alan checked out the new cut-drain road, Gosta tried to reduce the number of St Johns wort, while Arminel and Pat dug out verbasicum spreading along the east side of Mt Arawang. Rohan and Rob painted the blackberry leaves in the northern part of Group Area South (GAS) with a strong glyphosate solution, marking each sprayed plant with a red tag. Linda and Lena cut-and-dabbed the blackberry in the southern GAS area. It will be interesting to see which method is more effective. We've been tackling the blackberries in this area for a long time now, and although it is now a minor infestation, there are still many remnant active plants.

We noted that there are a lot of areas further up the hill where blackberry and native raspberry are growing together. Today it was quite easy to deal with them, due to the reduction in the size of the plants after the hazard-reduction burn in April 2016. But next time these plants will be much larger and more inter-twined. We may ask PCS to spray them, but it will be difficult to reduce the collateral damage on the native raspberry.

Linda Spinaze

Seen on the Ridge? **Hopefully not**

The dreaded ox-eye daisy - an attractive plant but an invasive weed, has recently been

Next Meeting
Sunday 19th February
Group Area North

Time: 8.30 am – 11 am

Meet: Kathner St or Cut drain path near GAN

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

Task: plant identification, weeding

Contact: Linda Spinaze 6288 6916

sighted within the ACT. Some of the identifiers are: rosette of toothed leaves, stalked. Plant about 30-60 cm tall, flower heads are 2-6cm across, white petals, yellow centre, with overlapping green bracts with brown edges below the petals. If you see this invasive species on Cooleman Ridge, take a close-up photo on your phone (or camera if it has GPS) and phone 13 22 81 or report to: <http://canberra.naturemapr.org/>



Ox-eye daisy (leucanthemum vulgare) Wikimedia

Linda Spinaze

Grevilleas revisited

Late last year Arminel and Pat found a healthy and very pretty grevillea growing near our Darrel Pl weeding area. [See CRPCG Newsletter Nov 2016] Arminel took it to Dave Albrecht at the ANBG, who identified it as *Grevillea juniperina ssp sulphurea*. He said a similar plant had been found on Mount Painter. Liam then photographed another similar grevillea cascading down the cut-drain above Monkman St. I took some samples into Dave, and he has reported that they are similar, but not identical, to the Darrel Pl plant. He suspects they are all hybrid cultivars of *G. juniperina*, but too difficult to identify them further than that.

What to do about them? Kill or cultivate? Currently we can keep an eye on them and assess their weediness. I haven't been able to find any information about them. If members are concerned we could remove the mature plant and its babies near Darrel Pl since they are close to areas of high native value.



Grevillea juniperina

Photo by Liam Banyer



Grevillea juniperina ssp sulphurea

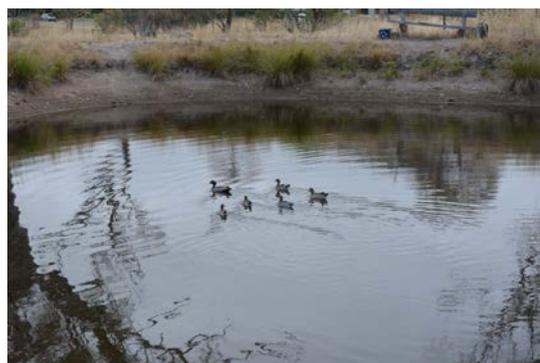
Photo by Linda Spinaze

Linda Spinaze

Indigenous Green Army Team

An Indigenous Green Army team is starting up in the ACT on 13 March. Working with Landcare ACT and the local catchment groups the team will be undertaking land management on significant indigenous sites in the ACT. The team is looking to recruit a suitably qualified Indigenous Supervisor and indigenous participants who are interested in learning about land management and indigenous cultural issues. An information session will be held on Monday 13 Feb at 4 pm at the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre, Yarramundi Reach. Further information can be obtained from Brian Butler, Regional Manager, ACT/SNSW Conservation Volunteers Australia on 62477770 (w) or 0427533005 (m).

Seen on the Ridge



Wood ducks, Kathner St Dam Photo by Pat Ryan