



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
December 2024

Previous Meeting

Sunday 17 November 2024

The Anniversary Seat

A warmish start to the morning as we walked up from Darrell Pl towards the Anniversary Seat. But it wasn't long before the clouds and a light wind came over to make for pleasant, and largely fly-free, weeding. Eight of us (Linda Spinaze, Paul Sheils, Tom Babington, Nick Nicholls, Doug Tinney, Rob Lundie, and very welcome newcomers, Georgia Kelly and Alison Tandy) cut and dabbed numerous briar roses as we worked our way up the eastern side of the hill. A plum tree and the odd *verbascum* were also dealt with before we came down the other side near the Anniversary Seat. We continued our previous work in this area, cutting off the heads of St John's Wort. This weed is vastly prolific across the Ridge but, pleasingly, now appears to be less dominant in the section near the Anniversary Seat. This has allowed the beautiful everlasting daisies to shine through.



Paul Linda Alison Doug Georgia Tom Nick
Photo: Rob Lundie

Next Meeting

Sunday 15 December 2024

Mid-Ridge

Time: 8.30 am – 11.00 am. **NEW TIME**

Meet: Darrell Place

Bring: hat, gloves, water to drink.

Task: weeding

Contact: Rob Lundie 0418291735

During the morning we were visited by Pampa Ray and her young son, Prit, who came to introduce themselves to the Group. We look forward to seeing them at a future weeding Sunday.

Rob Lundie

Our Grassy Landscapes Launch

You are warmly invited to the launch of long-standing CRPCG member Jenny Horsfield's new book *Our grassy landscapes. A celebration of the people who care for them.* Dr Charles Massy will launch the book, which features a large part of chapter 5 on Coleman Ridge, at the National Library bookshop at 6 pm on Tuesday 10 December. Dr Massy is a regenerative farmer, scientist and author of *Call of the Reed Warbler*. The event is free and you can book [here](#) or just turn up.

Jenny Horsfield

Wallaby Grass

Most folk have heard of Kangaroo Grass, but what about Wallaby Grass? These "cousins" are similar to our large tufts of Kangaroo Grass, but they are definitely much smaller. Currently (early December) there are some patches along the western road, underneath the Square Reservoir and along the paths in other parts of the Ridge. There are many varieties of Wallaby Grass. Some have plump seed heads, and others are long and slender. Most varieties are shorter than 15 cm, but the ones in my front garden grow to 60 cm. They are difficult to find unless they are displaying their "inflorescence" or "flower".



Wallaby Grass Photo: Linda Spinaze

Linda Spinaze

E-bikes around the Ridge

The weight of e-bikes and the location of a step-through gate and a locked gate near the water troughs at the southern end of the Ridge mean that riders are in effect impeded from doing a complete circuit of the Ridge. They can either go along the front or the back of the Ridge but cannot go all the way around it. An adjustment to the two gates to allow e-bikes to be wheeled around them would solve this problem.

Rob Lundie

Reducing Fire Risk: Cattle

The annual introduction of cattle along the Bicentennial Nature Trail has come and gone. Although evidence of their presence is still evident, about 30 of them ate and flattened the grass on either side of the track for around a month thus reducing the fire risk to the Ridge.
Rob Lundie

Logs in Kathner St Dam

A plop into the water signaled that at least one turtle appreciated the new logs that have been placed in the Kathner St Dam at the opposite end from the seat so as to provide a habitat for wildlife. With the water level very low, despite recent rain, it will be a while before the major parts of the logs are submerged. Meanwhile, Linda will soon be meeting with rangers next to discuss specific plantings in the Dam in order to create a habitat for insects and frogs. The plantings should be completed in autumn.



New logs in the Kathner St Dam Photo: Rob Lundie

Rob Lundie

Christmas Morning Tea

After the weeding on Sunday 15 December, everyone is invited to gather near the end of Darrell Pl, Chapman around 10.30 am for a Christmas gathering. Just bring something for morning tea and whatever you would like to drink. Tea and coffee will be provided. You are all welcome, whatever your involvement with the Group.

Linda Spinaze

Vale Bess Sledge

We are sad to announce that the Group's founder, Bess Sledge, passed away on 29 November aged 96. Our thoughts are with her family and a tribute to Bess will appear in a later Newsletter.