



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
June 2025

Previous Meeting

Sunday 18 May 2025

Mt Arawang

A strong, cold wind turned Autumn into Winter as seven of us (Paul Sheils, Tash Newman, Jenny Shapcott, Tom Babington, Rob Lundie, Pampa Ray and Preet) climbed up Mt Arawang from Lincoln Place. On the way we took out remnant *Verbascum*. At the trig we then fanned out north down the slope where we continued to grub out *Verbascum*. We also dealt with some thistles and Preet took great pleasure in hacking out a rarely seen prickly pear.



Preet tackles the prickly pear

Photo: Rob Lundie

Next Meeting

Sunday 15 June 2025

Lincoln Saddle

Time: 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm.

Meet: Lincoln Place

Bring: hat, gloves, water to drink.

Task: Weeding

Contact: Rob Lundie 0418291735

We headed back up to the trig where Paul rewarded (encouraged?) us with Tim Tams. Then some mopping up of *Verbascum* in an area where he had applied himself in previous weeks. It was interesting to note that nearly all the *Verbascum* plants were heavily wilted, no doubt due to the very dry period we have been experiencing. A smattering of rain as we finished up just emphasised the long dry spell. As an aside, it was encouraging to come across very little rubbish with just some tissues, a beer can, the burnt remains of an old wooden sign, and some heavily rusted corrugated iron (maybe left over from the 2003 fires?) to be found.

Rob Lundie

Thanks to all ACT Environmental Volunteers

Dear Volunteer

We are pleased to jointly write to you during National Volunteer Week to recognise and celebrate the work that you all do for the

ACT's environment, nature, and biodiversity. National Volunteer Week (19-25 May 2025) is Australia's largest celebration of volunteering. This week is a time to recognise and acknowledge the vital role you play to support and strengthen our community and natural environment. This year's theme 'Connecting Communities' beautifully captures the spirit of your contributions. Every hour you give, every hand you lend, and every smile you share helps to strengthen a shared passion for environmental outcomes. Your passion unites Canberrans across backgrounds, generations, and experiences. Across ParkCare, Urban Parks and Places, Waterwatch programs, Frogwatch, and platypus surveys, and all the countless other ways people give their time every day, volunteers are the centre of connection. Volunteers bring people together through shared purpose and passion. We also recognise and thank all other volunteer environmental community groups that provide service to the ACT's environment and nature. In a world that often feels fast paced and fragmented, your commitment to volunteering reminds us of the power of human connection. You show us that community isn't just a place—it's something we build together. Together, we celebrate the thousands of environmental volunteers across the ACT. Your collective achievements are truly remarkable. In the face of growing environmental challenges, you stand as champions of our cherished bush capital. Thank you for your tireless efforts and your commitment to making Canberra a better place. Together, we will continue to connect, inspire change, and protect the natural beauty that defines the ACT.

Tara Cheyne MLA and Suzanne Orr MLA

A good time for birdwatching

The altitudinal migratory birds have arrived for the winter from up in the mountains. So far I've seen at least four pairs of Scarlet Robins, a huge group of Flame Robins and a Rose Robin has been heard calling a number of times. A great time of year for birders on the Ridge.

Bethany Dunne



A solitary Pacific Heron basking in sunlight at the Old Dam in mid-May. Photo: Jenny Shapcott



Galah inspects a hollow in the Red Box above the Anniversary Seat Photo: Peter Lindenmayer

No Cairns nor Kangaroo Culling

It is good to note that the creatures that live under and among the rocks can rest easy because no new cairns have been spotted.

Coolleman Ridge is NOT one of the 16 nature reserves where kangaroo culling will take place from 10 June to 31 July.

Rob Lundie