



# COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter  
July 2025

## ***Previous Meeting***

***Sunday 15 June 2025***

### ***Lincoln Saddle***

Light rain did not deter four of us (Paul Sheils, Jenny Shapcott, Catarina Llorens and Rob Lundie) from agreeing to go ahead with the weeding party. From Lincoln Place we walked up to the Ridge track that runs along the spine. For about an hour we snipped and hacked at a large patch of blackberry. This was in preparation for Linda to spray any regrowth in spring. We then continued north along the track and on either side, but mainly to the east, chipping out any outbreaks of *Verbascum*. By this time the rain had eased and Paul rewarded our efforts with an offer of Tim Tams. A lovely surprise!



Hardy weeders: Catarina, Paul and Jenny  
Photo: Rob Lundie

As we walked back to Lincoln Place we noted that a mob of kangaroos had moved into the patch of blackberry that we had cleared.

*Rob Lundie*

## ***Next Meeting***

***Sunday 20 July 2025***

***Darrell Place***

**Time:** 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm.

**Meet:** Darrell Place

**Bring:** hat, long pants, strong gloves, secateurs, water to drink.

**Task:** Weeding blackberries

**Contact:** Linda Spinaze 0417276497

## **No Cairns, No Cans**

Just as little rock cairns have been, and continue to be, dismantled, so too have drink cans that have been stuck onto branches at the Old Dam. The Ridge is generally rubbish free, so please take your cans with you. Mind you, the cans I removed did add to my recycling and fund raising efforts.

*Rob Lundie*

## **Why remove weeds?**

We weed to remove or reduce the competition experienced by the plants we want from the plants we don't want. Most of us learn about weeding in our home gardens where weeds can usually all be removed, albeit with constant effort. Weeding the bush is different; we can't hope to remove all the weeds. The best that we can do is reduce their impact by strategising and prioritising where and how

we apply our effort. Leave your gardening hat behind when you go into the bush and put on a land caring one. Weeding in the bush needs to be done with a focus on improving the natural biodiversity of the area rather than eradicating every weed on site. We are not gardening the area; we are giving nature a hand. Improving biodiversity means improving the ecological function of the area. Think about what animals use the site, whether there is habitat for small birds, reptiles, invertebrates? What about the type and range of plants? This may mean certain low priority woody weeds are retained to provide habitat until they can be replaced, it may also mean woody debris is left on the ground to provide important habitat for fungi, reptiles and invertebrates, or to protect an area from grazing.

### [ACT Weeds Manual](#)

## From Step-through to Walk-through

Remember the awkward step-throughs next to some of the gates on the Ridge? Well, now the bars have been removed and all you have to do is duck your head and walk through. Now you can also wheel through your e-bike. Thanks Parks.



The new walk-through Photo: Rob Lundie

*Rob Lundie*

## Curious Cooleman - 1

Whilst doing reconnaissance for the June weeding party along the Lincoln Saddle and down the slope on the western side, I stumbled across two well-hidden half log seats that someone has put in place with a nice view to the mountains. I wonder who constructed them?



Two half-log seats

Photo: Paul Sheils



Rob enjoys the view across the valley

Photo: Jenny Shapcott

*Paul Sheils*

## Curious Cooleman - 2



Unusual container

Photo: Rob Lundie

Walking along the Lincoln Saddle on the eastern side of the track, we came across this 'bucket/tub/container' sitting in the middle of a cleared area. Wondering who placed it there, we speculated about its purpose: a water trough for animals who frequent the Ridge; placed there by a group who have been having get togethers around a fire in the container. Scats found nearby led us to ponder that it was a 'Kangaroo Cauldron'! Anyone know its purpose?

*Paul Sheils and Rob Lundie*