



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
September 2020

Previous Meeting **Sunday 16 August 2020** **Mt Arawang**

It was a heavily overcast afternoon for weeding but not unpleasant unless you were doing so on an exposed part of Mt Arawang. There were 14 of us: Linda, Rohan, Doug, Jenny, Paul, Chris, Natasha, Ingrid, Lyndal, Brigitte, Mike, Alan, Rob and newcomer, Helen, who we were very pleased to welcome. We broke into about three groups and set off to various parts of the mountain which Linda had previously identified as in need of attention. *Verbascum* and thistles were the main targets this time with other weeds such as mustard weed and briar roses attacked as opportunity provided. Mike and Jenny worked on a big patch of 'flat weed' just near the walking track above the bridge. Helen, Ingrid, Natasha and Chris managed to make progress on some very thick patches of thistle and mustard weed just south of the top of Mt Arawang. The patches also contained St Johns Wort, wild sage, Paterson's curse and blackberries. The area still seems to need a lot of work. It was noticed that a tree had been partly stripped of bark from its base to about a metre up the trunk. What would have done this? There was a large wombat hole nearby. Just saying. Brigitte, Lyndall and Doug worked along the lower slopes above the drain heading for the big patch of *verbascum* further along, although they didn't actually get there. There were hundreds of mini rosettes in large patches fairly close to the flat rock gathering point. There is evidence that *verbascum* is ready to boom along there.

Next Meeting and AGM **Sunday 20 September 2020** **Chauvel Circle**

Time: 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm

Meet: Kathner St

AGM at 3.30 pm at Kathner St

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

Task: Weeding of invasive, exotic plants. Native plant identification.

Contact: Linda Spinaze 6288 6916

Alan continued weeding at Darrell Pl. Chris Holder, our new ranger, also came along and introduced himself to any of the volunteers he could find. It was good to meet him. Interestingly, he used to be a guide at Lanyon homestead.

Rob Lundie

Chemcert Training

Doug, Paul and Chris attended the ChemCert course run by Parkcare on Tues, 1 September. The day-long course was interesting and well-presented. It was broad and intensive, with its focus on the industrial and agricultural use of chemicals as well as in land care. Topics included:
Legislative framework covering the use of chemicals;
Classification system for chemicals and what it means;

Advantages and disadvantages of various types of commonly used chemicals and the restrictions on their use;

Techniques for applying chemicals;

Occupational health and safety obligations when using chemicals, including record-keeping;

Safe storage, transport and disposal of chemicals;

Weather conditions – wind, temperature, humidity – that can impact on the effective use of chemicals;

There was also a practical exercise using weather information and nozzle spray rates to calculate the appropriate conditions and amount of chemical needed to spray, by backpack, a certain area. Doug showed himself adept at cleaning and reassembling a nozzle with the aid of a toothbrush. Some of the issues canvassed are unlikely to be encountered by the average landcare volunteer. However, the core message - the importance of knowing the advantages and risks of the chemical you use and how to understand and use the resources that can help you find out – was extremely valuable. So was the opportunity for some of us newbies to pick up on the practical knowledge of a presenter with decades of experience in the use of agricultural chemicals.

Chris Oates

What a difference rain makes

This year has witnessed the dams on Cooleman Ridge go from completely empty in January to half full in July and completely full and overflowing by 10 August. 122 mms throughout August did the trick.



Kathner St Dam 14 January 2020 Photo: Malcolm Gill



Kathner St Dam 10 August 2020 Photo: Malcolm Gill

Malcolm Gill

Cattle grazing on the Ridge

You may soon be seeing a herd of 27 cattle grazing along the back track of the Ridge, a section of the Bicentennial National Trail. Don't be alarmed. They are being used for fire management: keeping the grass down. A tank will be brought in for their water now that the Old Dam has been fenced off.

Rob Lundie

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Cooleman Ridge Park Care Group will be held at 3.30 pm on Sunday 20 September under the trees at the end of Kathner St, Chapman. Nominations for committee positions and apologies to Rob Lundie, Secretary. If you want to find out just what the Group does, why not come along. We promise not to pressure you onto the committee! And afternoon tea will be provided too.

Rob Lundie

Correction and apology

In last month's Newsletter, it was reported that 'Michael Mulvaney found a patch of *Wahlenbergia multicaulis* just beside a main path.' It was actually Mike Sim who found the patch. Our apologies to both Michael and Mike.

Rob Lundie