



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
July 2022

Previous Meeting
Sunday 19 June 2022
Darrell Place

On a mild, sunny winter's afternoon with snow on Mt Gingera, nine of us gathered at the end of Darrell Place where we discussed the tasks ahead and other issues such as insurance for volunteers and what they need to know. Linda also informed us that she will be away for about a month over July and August and that Chris will be acting president. Then it was up the track and off to its left to deal with fleabane and Verbascum using a variety of methods: bagging viable seed heads, cut-n-dabbing; and digging them out. Positive feedback from passers-by was well appreciated and we were pleased to be able to cart 14 bags off the Ridge. Those who attended were: Linda Spinaze, Chris Oates, Natasha Oates, Natasha Newman, Alan Ford, Doug Tinney, Jenny Horsfield, Paul Sheils and Rob Lundie.



*Rob Lundie Natasha Oates Paul Sheils Doug Tinney
Chris Oates Linda Spinaze Jenny Horsfield
Photo by Natasha Newman*

Rob Lundie

Next Meeting
Sunday 17 July 2022
Lincoln Place

Time: 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm.

Meet: Lincoln Place.

Bring: hat, gloves, water to drink.

Task: weeding.

Contact: Rob Lundie 0418291735

Aug meeting: Sun 21, Chauvel Circle.

Insurance for volunteers

On 17 June Lauren McQueen the PCS Volunteer Programs Manager circulated an email to Park Care Volunteers. This email advised that they were in the process of putting together a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document in relation to volunteer insurance. The email included a link to a survey form and submissions closed at 5pm, Friday 1 July.

Your committee has compiled the following list of questions:

- Is there an upper and lower age limit including children accompanying volunteers?
- What activities does it cover?
- What activities are not covered?
- What is defined as personal injury?
- What level of evidence is required to support a claim?
- Within what timeframe should a claim be lodged?
- Does it cover loss of income due to injury?

- Are you covered if working alone?
- If working alone, would you need to pre-register that activity to be covered?
- Are there any volunteer working hour limits including time of day?
- What locations does this cover?
- What sort of volunteer activity register is required?
- Does it cover out of pocket medical expenses due to injury?
- Does it cover volunteers injured travelling to and from activities?
- Would any pre-existing volunteer health conditions exclude them from cover?

These questions were inputted to the survey by the committee. Some of these questions are addressed under various headings of the PCS Volunteer Policy, which is available on the Parks and Conservation Service website: https://www.parks.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/1180382/act-parks-and-conservation-volunteer-policy-and-code-of-conduct.pdf

Note that this document is dated 2018 and was to have been reviewed in 2021 but still appears to be the current version.

Paul Sheils

Sticky Everlasting Daisy (*Xerochysum viscosum*)

You may have noticed that during the last two wet years there has been a huge revival of *Xerochysum viscosum* on Cooleman Ridge. This beautiful yellow daisy is more commonly known as the Sticky Everlasting daisy because its leaves and stems are sticky to the touch. The flowers are “paper-daisy” type. These daisies often grow on ridges and hilltops, and the leaves emerging from the base of the plant in spring are larger than those on the stems. Currently you can notice the plants because the narrow leaves are quite a dark green, with the plant appearing as black patches along our paths. Some of the plants already have occasional yellow buds, getting ready for spring. Keep an eye out for these patches and watch them transform into a yellow carpet in spring, as in the attached photo which was taken in November 2021.



Sticky Everlasting Daisies (Xerochysum viscosum)
Photo by Linda Spinaze

Linda Spinaze

Ants

In mid-June when I was delivering hard copies of the Newsletter to the Kathner St distribution box, I was immediately covered in small black ants which had infested the box. While the ants may have been able to read the Newsletter, they would deter many others from doing so. What to do? Our ranger would have too many more important issue to deal with and even if he didn't, how long would it take for him to get around to it? Fortunately, Malcolm came to the rescue and within a short time the invaders were no longer extant.

Rob Lundie

Newsletter on Trove

The Group began producing a Newsletter in 1991 and now all issues are available on the National Library's Trove site. This is a wonderful site containing Australian newspapers, government gazettes, newsletters, magazines and much more.

Rob Lundie

Bicentennial National Trail versus Wombat

It looks like the wombat is digging a deeper burrow under the Bicentennial National Trail so hopefully further collapses of its home will be avoided. Watch this space.

Rob Lundie