



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
June 2023

Previous Meeting
Sunday 21 May 2023
Lincoln Place

Sunny with a biting wind for five of us (Chris Oates, Jenny Shapcott, Paul Sheils, Peter Lindenmeyer, Rob Lundie) as we walked up from Lincoln Place. However, as we branched off to the right and below the track, we were sheltered from the wind and it was a pleasant afternoon. We mopped up and bagged some fleabane along the fence then spread out to deal with *Verbascum*, a briar rose and whatever else we came across. Paul mapped the odd patch of blackberry for later spraying. One can and a sock were removed as the former was worth 10 cents and we didn't want the latter to gain a foothold. There were occasional flashes of brilliant scarlett/orange among the bushes which a passing bird-watcher identified as flame robins (*Petroica phoenecia*). They are moderately common in the cooler areas of south-eastern Australia.



Weeded *Verbascum*

Photo: Rob Lundie

Rob Lundie

Rob Lundie lundier@inet.net.au

Next Meeting
Sunday 18 June 2023
Kathner St

Time: 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm.

Meet: Kathner St.

Bring: hat, gloves, water to drink.

Task: weeding.

Contact: Rob Lundie 0418291735

July meeting: Sun 16, Chauvel Circle

Curious Cooleman: What is this structure?



Water reticulation structure

Photo: Rob Lundie

[This structure is located along the spine of the Ridge north of Lincoln Place and due east of the round reservoir. There are others south west of the octagonal reservoir, one close to the steps going up to Cooleman Trig and another about 100 metres further north on the right hand side of the fire/maintenance trail.

www.coolemanridge.org.au

In the March 2020 Newsletter, Doug Tinney wrote an article about the two [reservoirs](#), so I asked him what he knew about these structures. Here are his musings. Editor]

I don't know what they're called nor precisely what they are but I think it's something to do with water reticulation from the reservoirs to lower sites. I think they house a stop valve. The one above Darrell Place for a few years had a stream of water like a gentle spout which implied it was a valve through which ran water. It was on a line between the round reservoir and the octagonal reservoir. One day when jogging I mentioned the squirt to a couple of the then ACTEW guys working near the octagonal reservoir. They said the valve controlled water flow from the higher reservoir to the lower reservoir. That didn't explain to me how the water got up the hill in the first place. Anyhow, next time I went past the site the squirt was no more. Obviously a leak. As to the valve in the photograph, it is downhill from the round reservoir (I think) hence probably controls the flow to parts of upper Chapman. It used not be there and there was a permanent waterhole at the site. Clearly another malfunction of the reticulation system. About 8-10 years ago an ACTEW work gang set about fixing the leak. It's been dry ever since. I don't know how much water would have been lost over the years but it had to be considerable. So, I'm only guessing what the real purpose of the roundhouses might be but it seems reasonable.

Doug Tinney

[If you know anything further about these structures, please let me know. Ed]

Western Edge update

At a recent meeting of the Biodiversity Working Group of the Cons Council ACT (CFACT) there was a report given on a meeting that CFACT had with the ACT Government. While this meeting did not give much more information than we already have, by having the meeting it does show the Government that the community is aware of the investigation and do have serious concerns in relation to the future development of the western edge of the ACT. As advised last year there have been many studies already undertaken and completed by the ACT

Government <https://www.planning.act.gov.au/planning-our-city/planning-studies/western-edge-investigation> We now know there are ongoing investigations, five are underway and two will commence shortly. In short, the investigation into the future development of the western edge of the ACT continues!

Helen Govey

End of the hammock

For several years a hammock hung underneath the Coleman Trig structure. In recent months it disappeared. How it came and went I know not, but it would be good to have a seat up there somewhere in its place.

Rob Lundie

BNT 1 Wombat 1 (cont.)

It looks like the wombat has given up on establishing its burrow underneath the Bicentennial Nature Trail. It has now begun its entrance hole off to the side of the track. However, as if to show its annoyance, it has brought in the heavy machinery and now there is a very large pile of dirt on the track which resembles the makings of a jump for mountain bikes.



Wombat burrow diggings

Photo: Rob Lundie

Rob Lundie

Old Dam still in the pink

Azolla is still giving the Old Dam its pink hue, but is it still 'in the pink'? We await the next Waterwatch report and see if the approaching cold weather causes the demise of this native plant.

Rob Lundie