



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
October 2023

Previous Meeting **Sunday 17 September 2023** **The Anniversary Seat**

A mid 20s afternoon was tempered by a strong wind at one of the windiest parts of the Ridge: the Anniversary Seat. Six of us (Paul Sheils, Doug Tinney, Tash Newman, Jenny Shapcott, Rob Lundie, Hamish McGlynn) were joined by very welcome newcomers (Alison Mount and Malcolm Doyle) to deal with Verbascum stalks and rosettes and the occasional briar rose and Patterson's Curse.



Malcolm Doyle, Jenny Shapcott, Hamish McGlynn, Rob Lundie, Doug Tinney and Paul Sheils with their bags of Verbascum at the top of Darrell Place
Photo: Tash Newman

Rob Lundie

CRPCG AGM

On the afternoon of Sunday 10 September, the Group's AGM was held at Linda's house in Chapman. Linda presented a summary of her President's report and praised the work of the Group. Treasurer Rohan revealed that we still have \$3000 in the Group's account.

Next Meeting **Sunday 15 October 2023** **Darrell Place**

Time: 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm.

Meet: Darrell Place.

Bring: hat, gloves, water to drink.

Task: weeding.

Contact: Linda Spinaze 62886916

November meeting: Sun 19, Lincoln Place

The CRPCG Committee was elected unopposed as follows:

President: Linda Spinaze

Vice-President: Chris Oates

Secretary: Rob Lundie

Treasurer: Rohan Thomas

Public Officer: Natasha Newman

Committee: Jenny Shapcott, Paul Sheils, Helen Govey and Peter Lindenmayer (new member).

It was decided that the monthly weeding parties will be as follows:

Above Chauvel Circle (meet at Chauvel Circle).

The Old Dam (meet at Freebody Place).

The Anniversary Seat (meet at Darrell Place).

Mid-Ridge (meet at Darrell Place).

Lincoln Saddle (meet at Lincoln Place).

Mt Arawang (meet at Lincoln Place).

Some other matters discussed were: changing the signatories to the Group's bank account; the mapping of weeds and weed control; logs in the dams; and a new publicity pamphlet.

Rob Lundie

Ridge Moments

Chris Oates is not just the Group's Vice President who can be seen at most weeding parties, and can repair broken pamphlet boxes, he is also quite the artist, having painted a number of trees on the Ridge.



CRPCG Vice President Chris Oates enjoys time on the Ridge painting the trees and views Photo: Rob Lundie

Rob Lundie

Weeding Tweedia

With the recent warm weather and rain we've seen many weeds starting to emerge. A relatively new weed on the Ridge is Tweedia (*Oxypetalum coeruleum*), a native of South America, which has a pretty blue flower in late spring and early summer. These are followed by long boat-shaped pods that release seeds with downy parachute-like tufts that allow them to travel widely. Unfortunately, the plant is still sold commercially. So far I've only seen Tweedia in one spot on the Ridge, on slope on the eastern side of the Coleman Trig. As it seems to be confined to a small area, this is one weed that we have an opportunity to stop becoming entrenched. After rain Tweedia plants are relatively easy to pull out by the roots, and any pods with seeds should be bagged and removed. The flowers (see photo) are quite distinctive, so look out for them from mid Spring.



Tweedia

Peter Lindenmayer

Annual Meeting of ACT Parks & Cons. Service with CRPCG

13 Sept – Brief synopsis: It was agreed that proliferation of invasive weeds is a major issue. A management program for reducing the load of African Love Grass, St John's Wort and Blackberries is planned for the coming months.

Cattle have returned to part of the National Trail (no longer the BNT). The aim is for the cattle to reduce the fuel load and therefore lessen the fire risk.

Beware – Eastern Brown Snakes seen on the Ridge.

Chris Oates

Western Edge Investigation Area (WEIA) and Bluett's Block

On Tuesday 3 Oct the advertised Community Forum facilitated by the Conservation Council of the ACT was held. This turned out to be more of an information sharing meeting rather than providing a plan for ensuring our city planners are made aware of concerns for our environment.

MLA Emma Davidson provided some information on the WEIA. Most of this information was known already. However, good to know some MLA's are concerned about the urban expansion of the ACT.

Helen Govey