



# COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter  
April 2025

## ***Previous Meeting***

**Sunday 16 March 2025**

### ***Old Dam***

After initially deciding to cancel the work party because it appeared that it would be quite hot, I was pleasantly surprised when it turned out to be not quite so warm. Fortunately some people had not read my email ad so six willing workers turned up: Linda Spinaze, Doug Tinney, Hamish McGlynn, Paul Sheils, Tom Babington and very welcome newcomer, Thida Sheriff. So, with enough people, we walked to the Old Dam, prepared a site and scattered native grass seed (*Microlaena*). Then we covered this with some sugarcane mulch, and followed by some branches to keep the kangaroos off the area. Although it was hot, it wasn't as bad expected and it was great to get this job done.



Tom Babington Hamish McGlynn Paul Sheils Doug Tinney Thida Sheriff Photo: Linda Spinaze

*Linda Spinaze*

## ***Next Meeting***

**Sunday 27 April 2025**

***The Anniversary Seat***

**Time:** 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm.

**NOTE NEW DATE**

**Meet:** Darrell Place

**Bring:** hat, gloves, water to drink.

**Task:** Weeding

**Contact:** Linda Spinaze 0417276497

## **Tweedia Revisited**

As some of you are aware, my weeding focus on Cooleman Ridge has been on preventing the establishment of a weed with the deceptively friendly name of *Tweedia*, aka *Oxypetalum coeruleum* – see [this link](#). So far (unless I've missed some) *Tweedia* appears to be restricted to a small section of the Ridge – the eastern side of the slope on the Cooleman Trig hill, and mainly south of the path up to the trig. At the moment it's not a serious weed, but I think it has potential to spread widely, as it's a hardy perennial and the seed pods contain hundreds of dandelion-like seeds that easily catch the wind when released.

I had thought that I was getting on top of the *Tweedia* in this patch, but returning to Canberra after a few weeks away I was disappointed to see many plants had come up since my last visit in early January, some showing their pretty blue flowers, others

already with mature seed pods. A lot were flourishing in the drainage ditch.

Please keep your eyes open for more plants, particularly if you are walking along the main track below Coleman Trig. Any Tweedia without seed pods can be removed by hand and left in place, but note their tough roots and milky sap, so a digger and gloves are best. However, if any plants have seed pods these pods should be taken and binned. And if anyone sees specimens of Tweedia on the Ridge in places other than this area below the trig, please let me know, as I'm keen to contain their spread.



Tweedia

Photo: Natasha Newman

*Peter Lindenmayer*

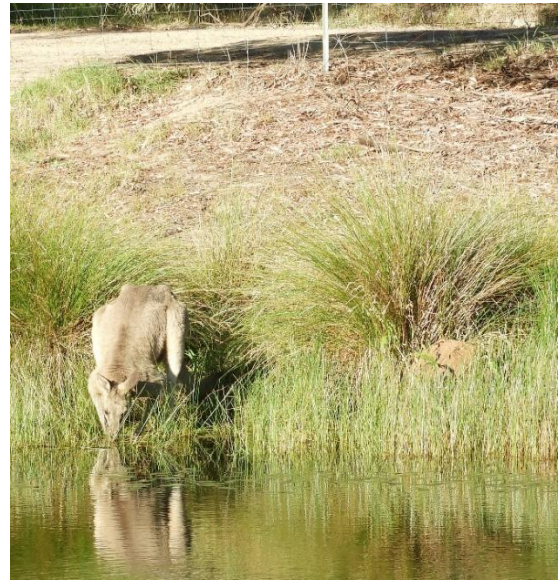
## Dogs on Leash

Late last month one of our Group had a 'discussion' with a chap whose dog was running along the fire trail and then bounded into the Old Dam. She explained to the man that dogs are meant to be on lead and advised him of the reasons why they should not enter the dam. He pointed out that 'there are no signs' and refused to remove his dog from the water. Although there are signs at some entries to the Ridge, they are small and many are faded. There are none at the entry to the dam. At least there weren't any until a few days later. Parks responded very promptly to the Group's request for signs which are now posted at each step through gate entry to the Old Dam. Thanks Parks. Dogs should not be allowed into any dam on the Ridge because they disturb the turtles and ducks which live there and the wildlife that come down to drink.



Dogs on Leash sign near the Old Dam

Photo: Rob Lundie



Kangaroo drinking at the Old Dam

Photo: Carrie Foggitt

*Rob Lundie*

## *Ottelia ovalifolia* on the Old Dam

*Ottelia ovalifolia*, or Swamp lily, is a native aquatic perennial plant with oval, floating leaves and attractive white flowers with red centres. They are visible between November and March. The Old Dam on Coleman Ridge has had intermittent blooming over the years, but it has been missing for the past few years so it is wonderful to see it re-emerging in 2025. It is widespread in NSW.



*Ottelia ovalifolia*

*Linda Spinaze*