

JANUARY 1997



Hi Everyone,

Welcome back in 1997; attached you will find a list of those people who have joined or re-joined to date. We have lost some of our former stalwarts but have enthusiastic new members filling the gaps. There is also a library list of the books the Group own.

This year promises to be quite exciting, we are gradually getting on top of the woody weeds all over the Ridge, several areas have had their herbacious weeds severely reduced and we have been allowed the use whipper snippers to tackle the oats, phalaris grass etc. At the moment we have borrowed a machine from Canberra Nature Park staff but we are investigating ways and means of buying our own so that we can really attack things in the Spring.

To comply with Health & Safety Regulations you are not allowed to use a whipper snipper on the Ridge until you have been instructed in their use by a Ranger. The Friday group and some of the Monday group have already been trained. Anyone who thinks they would be interested in using a machine please let me know and I will arrange a training session for you (about ½ hr). At the moment we are not allowed to use a metal blade so thistles still have to be tackled by hand.

With no cows chewing everything up the amount of regeneration on the Ridge has been most pleasing, there is now a wonderful area through the gate above Chauvel Circle and it is getting appreciably larger.

I have managed to get some cloth badges for members to sew onto an article of clothing; also I still have some hats and T-shirts. All are for active members only.

We are obviously needing to raise some money so:-

1. I have a good stock of jams, chutneys, marmalades and lemon butter for sale(\$1.50 each).
2. We are hoping to arrange an evening's entertainment in April for which tickets will be \$12, but if enough are sold \$10 from each ticket will be returned to the Group. More later.
3. I will be going to Tuggeranong Market and Woden Valley Hospital Market to sell things, if you have anything I could sell for you we only take 10% commission.
4. I always have a stock of gifts and cards here if you ever need a small present.

Although officially closed for January we have continued our small groups and I have been out tackling the woody weeds. We re-open on Sunday 2nd February with an interesting afternoon with Judith Curnow and Heino Lepp looking at mosses and lichens. Bring a magnifying glass if you have one and see the wonderful world of cryptogams growing on our rocks. Meet at

Kathner St.at 1.30pm, only a very short walk if hot, refreshments provided.

If you are working on the Ridge you MUST sign on and off to be covered by insurance, I have spare forms for anyone who needs one.

In 1996 there were over 4000 working hours put in on the Ridge, not including all office work, propagation etc done elsewhere. This includes all the time spent by other organisations as well as the Group, but what a total! Well done everyone.

Statistics for 1996:

Hours	Total	4117.45
Woody weeds		3444
Herbacious weeds		283,900
Trees & shrubs planted		4413
Herbacious plants planted		348
Grasses planted		1161

Dates to Remember:

Sunday 2nd February

Kathner St 1.30pm(with magnifying glass)

Cheers

Bess (2887536)