# A black and white logo  Description automatically generated

# **Cooleman Ridge Park Care Group**

# **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**Held at 78 Sidaway St, Chapman, Chapman**

**10 September 2023**

**Opening**

The meeting commenced at 2.10 pm. Linda Spinaze, President, was the Chair.

**Present**

Chris Oates, Linda Spinaze, Rob Lundie, Paul Sheils, Natasha Newman, Peter Lindenmayer.

**Apologies**

Jenny Horsfield, Arminel Ryan, Pat Ryan, Fran Johnson, Mike Johnson, Malcolm Gill, Alan Ford, Doug Tinney, Helen Govey, Jenny Shapcott, Rohan Thomas, Bethany Dunne, Robyn Gow

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting were approved unanimously.

**Matters Arising from the Minutes**

No matters arose from the previous year’s minutes of the Annual General Meeting.

**President’s Report (attached at end of minutes)**

The president’s report was duly noted by the meeting. Linda commented on another successful year and thanked everyone for their contribution.

**Treasurer’s Report**

The treasurer was unable to attend the meeting and as his report had not been received in time for the meeting, it was agreed that the secretary would contact him. However, the report was received after the completion of the meeting and then sent to those who attended the meeting seeking their endorsement. This was duly done and both the treasurer’s report and the audit report were subsequently endorsed by everyone who attended the AGM. As at 30 June 2023the Group had $2966.38 in its Commonwealth Bank account (Account Number: 10029007, BSB: 062912).

**Election of Committee**

All positions were declared vacant and most office holders and committee members were prepared to continue in their positions. Jenny Horsfield stepped down from the Committee. Peter Lindenmayer agreed to join the Committee. Natasha Cole did not renominate for the Committee.

Results were as follows:

President – Linda Spinaze

Vice-President – Chris Oates

Secretary – Rob Lundie

Treasurer – Rohan Thomas

Public Officer – Natasha Newman

Committee members: Helen Govey, Paul Sheils, Jenny Shapcott, Peter Lindenmayer

**Other Business**

**Signatories to the Cooleman Ridge Park Care Group bank account**

The AGM agreed ‘That the following signatories to the CRPCG Commonwealth Bank account (Number: 10029007, BSB: 062912) Alan Ford, Arminel Ryan and Doug Tinney, be replaced by Linda Spinaze, Chris Oates and Rob Lundie.’ It was agreed that Rob will instigate the process with the Commonwealth Bank.

**Work parties for the coming year**

The monthly weeding parties will be conducted at the following places:

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)

**Field Map**

Paul explained the use of the field map to indicate areas of weeds on the Ridge and agreed to circulate an instruction sheet and to provide individual tuition to those interested. Linda agreed to discover why designated areas of weeds are not carried over from one year to the next.

**Google My Map of the Ridge**

Paul explained that this map of the Ridge could be used to plot features and where incidents have occurred. The map could be sent to Parks to alert them to areas requiring attention. Paul is happy to help those interested in using the map.

**Community Stewardship Weed Control Program**

Under this program groups can apply for grants to manage parts of their areas that require weeding and ongoing management. Chris will investigate this program when it is launched later in September. He will then determine if it is suitable for the Group to apply for a grant.

**Other Issues and Matters to be raised at the Parks planning meeting on Wed 13 Sep**

There was a general discussion about weeds that could be sprayed such as African Love Grass beside the trails. Generally contractors have been employed to spray along the tracks, leaving isolated spots to be cared for by CRPCG. Linda has recently sprayed the euphorbia near the Cooleman Trig. Peter brought along a sample of Tweedia which he is attempting to control on Cooleman Trig.

It was suggested that large logs could be placed in the two dams as sources of refuge for ducks and turtles. Apparently PCS may be able to do this, so it will be requested in the Yearly Planning meeting this week.

Some severe pig damage has occurred near Mt Arawang, damaging areas of bursaria. This needs to be communicated with PCS, although little can be done about their behaviour.

The maps in the display boxes will be monitored and renewed when appropriate and possibly when Parks develop new maps.

Natasha expressed concern that the track on the south side of Mt Arawang was being eroded by runners and that the plastic mesh is quite dangerous. This has been discussed with PCS at the last meeting but so far nothing has been done. This will be discussed again in the PCS yearly meeting this week.

Natasha indicated that pink tags on trees to show runners their route should be removed as it appears the organisers of the running events have declined to do so.

It was decided to produce a new publicity pamphlet for the Ridge when time permits. Peter produced samples of pamphlets used by other groups and published via SACTCG. Linda will contact SACTCG to start the ball rolling.

The Mt Arawang label on the display board near the anniversary seat is wrong but there was no definite suggestions as to how to correct it.

It was agreed that signs be placed at the Old Dam explaining the coverage of Azolla on the dam.

It was agreed that signs be placed at the step through gates to the Old Dam warning people of the danger to dogs from snakes, in an attempt to encourage visitors to keep their dogs from swimming after ducks on the dam. It was left to Rob to come up with a suitable sign.

The meeting closed at 3.40 pm.

Minutes signed by:

Linda Spinaze (CRPCG President)

Chris Oates (CRPCG Vice-President)

Rob Lundie (CRPCG Secretary)

AGM President’s Report for Cooleman Ridge Park Care Group July 2022 - June 2023.

The last 12 months from July 2022 to July 2023 were characterised by vigorous growth due to the regular and at times, heavy rainfall. Of course, the weeds seemed to love the rain more than our native species, so at times, our persistent work seemed to be insignificant. However, at least, many of our native trees are now looking much healthier with generous and full canopies.

Our Group’s main activity continued to be the monthly weeding, with some additional weeding done by individuals on their patch. We have welcomed a small number of new members who have assisted us in managing the weeds.

Our change of rotation of weeding sites is working well, particularly with the addition of the Old Dam. An additional weeding party was spent reducing the briar-roses that have grown on the Western Ledge. It was satisfying to see that very few bushes had re-grown after our attack three years ago.

At times during the summer the exotic grass was so long that few other weeds could be seen. The delay in approving volunteer-usage of whipper-snippers has impacted on the control of this high grass in certain areas.

The main concern of the Group over this past year has been the run-away proliferation of St Johns Wort and fleabane. Both these weeds, with verbascum, now cover extensive areas of the Ridge, and are a depressing sight. We have attempted to focus on controlling small areas, with combined manual and chemical means. The good news is that Patterson’s Curse decided to have a rest for at least a year.

We engaged the local scout group to join us in a successful planting in November 2022. They provided funds for some plants, and this donation was enhanced by Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) donating extra shrubs and trees. A keen group of scouts and parents planted about 60 tress/shrubs south of the Square Reservoir. Fortunately PCS rangers offered to dig the holes with a mechanical digger, which made the planting task a lot quicker and easier. And the rain over summer has helped many of these plants thrive.

Last year’s plantings beside the Old Dam are generally doing well, although many of the smaller plants have been consumed by the vigorous grassy growth over summer. The leptospermum are springing out of their protectors, as are some of the larger tussocky grasses. And the Blue Devils have flowered, and we are hoping that not only will the existing plants re-sprout, but their seeds will disperse and grow. Interestingly, the Old Dam has been covered by Ferny Azolla since January. It is supposed to disappear in cold weather, but it was still there in August. Despite enquiries to resident botanists, there appears to be no apparent reason for its presence, nor its long-lasting cover on the dam.

Our display cases at each end of the Ridge have now been refurbished, thanks to ranger Tenzin. Two of our members have worked together to provide and install in each display-case an excellent map of the Ridge, including a QR code for access to our website, and some photographs which show the Ridge’s natural diversity and views.

During the year the Group submitted ideas to the Environment Volunteer review, and we have formed a close working relationship with the Conservation Council, of which the Group, represented by Helen Govey, is now a member. Helen has also taken over the Water-watch monthly testing, with the assistance of Peter Lindenmeyer and Robyn Gow. They spend about 3 hours every month testing the water of our 2 dams. This year they plan to extend this activity by identifying the insects that use the dams.

Lead by Chris Oates, we also worked with the Southern ACT Catchment Group to write up and submit an application for a grant to pay for some educational signage, however, unfortunately we were unsuccessful in securing the grant.

Additionally, thanks to Helen Govey, we have developed a working relationship with Conservation Council of the ACT, and we have also become concerned regarding possible development of the Western Edge as we seek to protect our local environment.

To cap off the 2022/2023 year some of us enjoyed a special piece of music commissioned by one of our visitors who was inspired by her regular visits to Cooleman Ridge and the views that she was able to enjoy. The Canberra Symphony Orchestra played this piece in late March.

My thanks to the Committee, Rob Lundie, Chris Oates, Rohan Thomas, Helen Govey, Jenny Horsfield, Jenny Shapcott, Paul Sheils, Natasha Newman, and to all the enthusiastic volunteers who have worked on the Ridge during the past year. Special thanks to Chris Oates who stepped in for me when I was away, and to Rob Lundie, who, apart from editing our monthly newsletter, has made an extra contribution by installing some discreet tree-identification-signs, which have been placed beside significant trees. We believe many visitors have enjoyed the extra information. Thanks also to Paul Sheils for providing some on-line maps which we can use to locate certain features around the Ridge, and to Jenny Shapcott for taking over the web-master role. Jenny Horsfield is stepping down from the Committee after many years of service. Thank you Jenny for your tireless efforts providing support for the Group over many, many years.

Linda Spinaze,

President, Cooleman Ridge Park Care Group.