



## Newsletter July 2012

### COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

#### **Previous Sunday meeting 17<sup>th</sup> June (Group Area South - Arawang)**

Eight people made the short climb up Mt Arawang to the group site on a chilly Sunday afternoon. Not many walkers were out that afternoon as although the sun was out it didn't provide much warmth nor protection from the cold breeze that sprung up. Still, we got to work clipping down the blackberry and attacking a patch of St John's Wort. Others got to work on the Verbascum and Fleabane. A few of us had to leave early due to lingering colds but not before making a great effort in keeping this patch in good condition.

*Anna*

#### **New Kid on the block!**

*We have a new Southside Ranger, Lee Pointon! Here is an introductory note from Lee.*

Hello ParkCarers!

Just introducing myself as the new Ranger for Canberra Nature Park (South). I've been fortunate enough to meet some of you already but for those I haven't met I just wanted to say hello and let you know my contact details as below. A little bit about myself; I've been a ranger for around 7 years across a variety of reserves, nature parks, national parks and

#### **Future programme**

*In the cooler months, we hold afternoon sessions.*

#### **Next meeting – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July Group Area North – Meet at Kathner Street**

- 1.30 – 4 pm
- Plant ID; remove exotic growth.
- Wear long sleeves and trousers, enclosed shoes, hat and gloves. Bring raincoat if it is wet.
- BYO drink & snack.

*Contact Anna 0407 217 651 if you need any gear or more info.*

catchment areas around NSW and the ACT. Most recently I've been living up at Corin Dam for the last few years as the Corin Ranger at Namadgi National Park.

You'll have to excuse my ignorance and lack of knowledge about Canberra's urban parks and reserves for a little while until I have my bearings, but rest assured I'll do my best to bring myself up to speed!

I've heard a great deal of high praise for your dedication and hard work over the years and I look forward to working with you to help conserve some of the beautiful pockets of remnant bushland in this region.

Kind Regards  
Lee Pointon  
*Ranger ACT Parks and Conservation  
Service*

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What's around on my patch!

## ***Patch-work in the sun***

*Gösta Lyngå*



What a lovely idea to have areas of special responsibility in the Nature Park. Already in the early 1990s the members of the Cooleman Ridge Park Care Group had patches assigned to them, areas for weeding, studying and enjoying.

The Friday work on the patch became a thing for me to look

forward to. In the shade of the red box and the yellow box

I found a lot of native Geranium and also the little resurrection fern, the symbol flower of our group. Somehow, a native Pelargonium had also found its way into my patch.



After removing a lot of Bromus, Verbascum, Paterson's Curse and other weeds, I found to my great pleasure that the Themeda (Kangaroo grass) grew back over a large part of my patch.



Up at the top of the patch, among the Austrostipa there are patches of

Lomandra, happily grazed by the local mob of kangaroos. This is where I like to relax on the rocks between my bursts of weeding, sit down and enjoy the Australian plants in their natural environment.

