



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

**Newsletter
May 2019**

***Previous meeting
Sunday 14 April
Lincoln Place***

Those who met at the end of Lincoln Place before going up onto the Ridge were treated to a bower bird and his nest in the bushes just off to the side of the roadway complete with several blue objects including a glove. Up on the Ridge it was good to welcome Carolyn and Lincoln and their three children Eva, Jasper and Finnane who turned up for the first time on an overcast but pleasantly warm afternoon to join Natasha, Charly, Linda, Natasha, Chris, Arminel, Pat, Rohan and Rob. A pleasing feature of our work in this area is that we seem to be keeping on top of the *Verbascum*. This means that we can just mop up recidivist plants and spread ourselves further along the Ridge to target further outbreaks and other weeds such as *Phalaris*, *thistles* and *Briar Roses*.

Rob Lundie and Linda Spinaze

Fence around the Old Dam

On Wednesday 10 April the Old Dam was finally enclosed by a fence. For many years cattle have been introduced onto the Ridge at various times to graze along the nature trail. They effectively reduce the fire risk along the way. However, when they go down to the dam to drink, they churn up the edges which not only affects the quality of the water but makes it difficult for other animals to get to it. The fence has been designed to keep the cattle away from the dam but still enable other animals access to it. It is expected that a water

Next Meeting

Sunday 19 May

Mt Arawang

Time: 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm

Meet: Horse paddocks on Namatjira Drive

Bring: hat, gloves, secateurs, dabber-doober, hacker, drink, raincoat if it is wet

Task: plant identification, weeding

Contact: Doug Tinney 6288 8589

June meeting: Sun 16, Kathner St

trough will be placed outside the fenced off area to provide water for the cattle. Thank you to members of the Group and rangers who have lobbied for the fence and to Parks for bringing it to fruition.



*New fence around the Old Dam
Photo: John Macdonald*

Rob Lundie

War on the Roses

Following an article in last month's Newsletter ("You don't have to be a member to care for the Ridge"), local resident, Brian Black, has taken up the challenge to rid a part of the Ridge of *Briar Roses*. Each time he goes for a walk, he removes the red rose hips from a number of bushes and takes them off the Ridge so their seeds can't spread. Already you can see a difference. Thanks, Brian. As I was hacking out a bush recently, a passing woman asked what I was doing. When told I was trying to get rid of the *Briar Roses*, she noted that there certainly were a lot of them on the Ridge, and that I would go to heaven for my efforts!

Rob Lundie

Mystery object identified

The object below featured in last month's newsletter ("Mystery object: any ideas?") appears to have been identified. Dave McKenzie wrote: 'Looks to me like a worn (or lost) tine from some kind of earthmoving equipment. Was it found near a track?' Tony Brownlie commented: 'Well I reckon it's a "BOOT" off a tractor or bulldozer ripper or bucket. These are fitted in order to protect the actual ripper or "teeth" of a backhoe bucket. It's less expensive to replace these as opposed to the complete ripper or bucket.' Thanks, Dave and Tony.



Photo: Pat Ryan

If you have found anything or seen anything on the Ridge that you cannot identify, let me know and we'll see if we can find an answer.

Rob Lundie

Puncture free

Bike riders on the Ridge can now feel confident that their tyres will not be punctured by *Tribulus terrestris* which was featured in last month's newsletter ("On the Ridge: *Tribulus terrestris* (Puncture plant or Cats Head)"). Thanks to diligence by Linda and mopping up by Deirdre and Rob, it appears that this weed has been eradicated. I certainly did not see any at all when I inspected the area a few days ago. However, it has now stopped flowering so it is less obvious, and we will need to inspect again next summer.

Linda Spinaze

First aid course

On Thursday 4 April Linda Spinaze, Chris Oates and I spent the day brushing up on our first aid skills and updating our knowledge of the latest practices. It was good to be reminded that the CPR procedure involves 30 chest compressions to two breaths over two minutes, and how to use a defibrillator. It is highly advisable that volunteers working on the Ridge keep their first aid skills up to date as we never know when they may be called upon.



Chris practises CPR

Photo: Rob Lundie

Rob Lundie