



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
January 2023

Previous Meeting and AGM Sunday 18 December 2022 Lincoln Place

Seven weeders (Jenny Horsfield, Natasha Newman, Chris Oates, Ingrid Rehle-Williams, Jenny Shapcott, Linda Spinaze and Doug Tinney) met at Lincoln Pl on a windy but bright morning. Helen Govey joined us later to help organise morning tea. We decided to revisit a patch on the north west side of Mt Arawang, just down from the trig, where we had dealt with a particularly nasty outbreak of *verbascum* around that time last year. We were pleased to see the track up the mountain had been cleared and the steps had been refurbished: thanks, PCS. On the way up, we cut down and dabbed a large cotoneaster bush, a weed still used for hedges in inner Canberra.



Linda Spinaze Natasha Newman Chris Oates Jenny Shapcott Ingrid Rehle-Williams Jenny Horsfield Doug Tinney Photo by Helen Govey

At the patch, we were pleasantly surprised to see that the *verbascum* we had tackled last year had made only a moderate return. However, we had to deal with new, thick

Next Meeting Sunday 15 January 2023 The Old Dam

Time: 8.30 am – 11.00 am.

NOTE NEW TIME

Meet: Freebody Place.

Bring: hat, gloves, water to drink.

Task: weeding.

Contact: Linda Spinaze 6288 6916

Feb meeting: Sun 19, Chauvel Circle.

infestations of fleabane as well as the ever spreading St John's wort. This weed seems to be particularly vigorous everywhere around the ACT this summer. This was done mainly by clipping the flower heads, arguably more effective than trying to dig out the roots. We cut and dabbed the *verbascum* and dug out the fleabane. We finished back at Lincoln Pl. where Helen joined us with refreshments for morning tea and Ingrid surprised us with her herbal tea made from St John's wort!! Delicious and refreshing, is there a market??.

Chris Oates

Wallaby Grass

Recently, as we weeded, I spied quite a small, fine grass amongst the weeds on Mt Arawang. I took a sample and looked at it under the microscope. It is Slender Wallaby grass/*Austrodanthonia penicillata*.

It has been found before on the Ridge since it is on our plant list on the web-site.

<http://www.coolemanridge.org.au/plant-list.php>

Linda Spinaze

Western Edge Update

To follow up on the Western Area Investigation Area - We have connected with the Weston Creek Community Council and are in the process of joining the ACT Conservation Council. This will be a great way for us to keep abreast of the current situation as both organisations are very much involved in monitoring and advocating for the best outcomes in the area.

Helen Govey

Notice boards refurbished; fallen tree removed; Old Dam area whipper-snipped

Thanks to our wonderful ranger Tenzin Phuntsho who just in the past month or so has repaired the notice boards at Kathner St and Namatjira Dr; removed a large fallen branch across the Bicentennial Trail; and whipper-snipped around the new plantings at the Old Dam. Very much appreciated, Tenzin.

Rob Lundie

Thermos Gift

In December, I attended the Southern ACT Catchment Group's (SACTCG) 20th anniversary party at Mawson. Jenny Horsfield was there (since she was for a few years Chairperson of the group) and also Rohan Thomas (since he is involved in a southern Canberra patch group). As part of the celebration, the SACTCG donated a lovely large thermos to each group. I shall keep it safe until our next get-together.

Linda Spinaze

Curious Cooleman

A number of people made suggestions as to who or what caused the scattering of bark

from the tree in the picture below. Some suggested possums, and others wombats. Chris Appleton wrote: "I believe this is done by deer removing the felt from antlers. I've not personally seen deer on the ridge but know people who have." Thanks Chris. It would be good to see a deer in action so if anyone has a photo, please let me know.



Photo: Rob Lundie

Rob Lundie

An encouraging start to 2023

Rob, I am writing this email to say a huge thank you to you and the members of the Cooleman Ridge Park Care Group for your excellent work in caring for Cooleman Ridge. I and my husband rented a home in Percy Crescent for twelve months until the bushfires burnt the property. During the time we lived there, we experienced the calmness and beauty of the Ridge enjoying the many local walks and the serenity of the location. We have had a number of moves since then and now live in Tuggeranong but have acquired a beautiful Border Collie called Nike. Early on a Sunday morning we walk Nike on lead around the Ridge to again enjoy its beauty. He loves it! So, thank you for your hard work in maintaining this wonderful environment. I do appreciate you placing the identification signs at the base of the trees on the Ridge and always pick up the monthly Newsletter from the collection box. Keep up the good work!
Regards, Gillian

Happy New Year