



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
July 2023

Previous Meeting
Sunday 18 June 2023
Kathner St

Cloudy with a cool wind greeted nine of us at the end of Kathner St: Linda Spinaze, Chris Oates, Paul Sheils, Natasha Newman, Rob Lundie, Georgina Spinaze, Alan Ford and very welcome newcomers: James Smith and Hamish McGlynn. Chris and Natasha volunteered to dig out a patch of Umbrella Sedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*) near the start of the track but wished they hadn't. There were many more clumps hidden in the grass such that by the end of the afternoon, despite their diligence and efforts, they still hadn't reached the dam. Interestingly, this weed is closely related to papyrus – early writing paper.



Umbrella Sedge

Photo: Natasha Newman

Next Meeting
Sunday 16 July 2023
Chauvel Circle

Time: 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm.

Meet: Chauvel Circle.

Bring: hat, gloves, water to drink.

Task: weeding.

Contact: Linda Spinaze 62886916

August meeting: Sun 20, The Old Dam

Meanwhile, Paul, Rob and James cleared both sides of the main track of *Fleabane* and *Verbascum* right up to the house on the bend. Linda, Georgina and Hamish worked in the fenced Friday morning weeders area, near to Pauline's Patch. They targeted the *fleabane*, with a few *verbascum*, and helped in Jenny's patch by digging out some of the *St Johns Wort*. Alan went over to Darrell Place to continue his work there.

Rob Lundie

Cooleman Ridge Water Supply installations

The two Icon Water service reservoirs are part of the 47 currently serving the ACT. The lower altitude (c.700m) NW one was once designated "Rivett" presumably as that suburb is fed from there. It is usually gravity fed from the Stromlo Water Treatment Plant. A booster pump station takes water from there to the higher altitude (c.730m) "Chapman" service reservoir to the SE.

The major water main connecting them partly runs buried below the Cutoff Drain Fire Trail on the NE edge of the Coleman Ridge, hence the location of most of these structures near this trail. Most would be valves controlling the flow along this main or to suburbs below. Some may also be for mains flushing or dissolved air release. The service reservoirs supply suburban reticulation some 20 metres to 75 metres below their water surface level giving 200 to 750 kPa pressure in the suburb. To avoid damage to our appliances Australian Standards now limit our home pressure to 500 kPa so some of us in Chapman require pressure limiters at our meter. This also makes irrigation design more predictable.

Mike Johnson
CRPCG member and former Chief Electrical Officer, ACTEW

Curious Coleman insects

Sometimes when I walk up onto the Ridge from Darrell Place I come across a cloud of very tiny midge-like insects. I have to close my mouth for fear of inhaling them. Does anyone know what they are? I also have a similar experience when I enter the Old Dam site from the south.

Rob Lundie

Ridge sighting

This little fellow was recently sighted on the southern end of the Ridge on the western side of the Mt Arawang trig.



Australian Owlet-nightjar (*Aegotheles cristatus*)
 Photo: Helen Cross

Rob Lundie

BNT v Wombat

It looks like the wombat has given up on its hole off to the side of the Bicentennial Nature Trail and has now burrowed back under the BNT. Over to you BNT.

Rob Lundie

Old Dam still Azolla-pink

Thanks to Malcolm Gill who has analysed the roots of the *Azolla* still covering the Old Dam, it can be revealed that the species is [Azolla pinnata](#) and not [Azolla filiculoides](#). The former has roots with 'small, fine side branches' whereas the roots of the latter have 'no hair-like branches'.



Azolla showing fern-like leaves Photo: Malcolm Gill



Azolla pinnata



Azolla filiculoides

Source: [New South Wales Flora Online](#)

Rob Lundie