



# COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter  
December 2023

## **Previous Meeting** **Sunday 19 November 2023** **Freebody Place**

12 of us (Chris Oates, Paul Sheils, Natasha Oates, Jenny Shapcott, Natasha Newman, Tenzin, Peter Lindenmeyer, Bethany Dunne, Linda Spinaze, welcome returnees Jen Walton and Monica Murfett, plus a very welcome new member Elena) walked down the hill towards the Old Dam. We then split up into twos and threes to work our way through the "forest" above the Dam. We found lots of wild roses, privet seedlings, a couple of large patches of sticky-weed and some Pattersons Curse. A few of us went onto the southern slopes of One-Tree Hill to curb the growth of the wild roses and *pyracanthus*. Ranger Tenzin did a sterling job of whipper-snipping some of the *phalaris* around the Dam, chopping down a very large pine-wilding, and clearing up many large saplings which had sprouted under a nearby eucalyptus and in the forest. We placed some of the larger branches into the creek-line to help prevent erosion.

*Linda Spinaze*

## **New species on the Ridge**

I found *Lotus australis* (common name Austral Trefoil) along the Bicentennial Nature Trail (BNT). It is a small, spreading native Australian herb from the family Fabaceae. Leaves are a trifoliate shape with flowers white to pink. A less common species, found throughout the ACT from Namadgi to the

## **Next Meeting** **Sunday 17 December 2023** **Lincoln Saddle**

**Time:** 8.30 am – 11.00 am. **NOTE TIME**

**Meet:** Lincoln Place.

Christmas morning tea at 11 at Lincoln Pl.  
Bring your own drink and something to share.

**Bring:** hat, gloves, water to drink.

**Task:** weeding – attacking woody weeds

**Contact:** Linda Spinaze 62886916

**Jan. meeting:** Sun 21 Mt Arawang

urban reserves, and the closest sighting to this one, is at Kambah Pool and on Urambi Hills.



*Lotus australis*

Photo: Bethany Dunne

*Bethany Dunne*

## Wombat 'captured'

Thanks to our ranger, Ben, the wombat which has persistently burrowed under the BNT has been captured. At least on the camera that was placed at the entrance to its hole. Ben is photographing the wombat's activities so that he can best work out how to prevent him/her from digging under the trail. With the upcoming fire season being particularly busy, Parks wants to make sure that there is easy access along the back of the Ridge for fire-trucks. They also want to make sure they look after the wombat!



Wombat emerging from its burrow Photo: Ranger Ben



Wombat burrow under BNT Photo: Natasha Newman

Rob Lundie

## Weevils to fight Azolla?

On a recent visit to England I came across information about the use of weevils to get rid of *Azolla finiculoides* that was clogging up one of the canals in the West Midlands. Individually, the weevil (*Stenopelmus rufinasus*) consumes a relatively small amount of Azolla, however they breed to produce very large populations which feed extensively, until sections of Azolla start to die and sink, where it is further broken down by other feeders. Given time to reproduce and spread, the weevil is capable of clearing entire lakes within weeks. Something to try on the Old Dam?

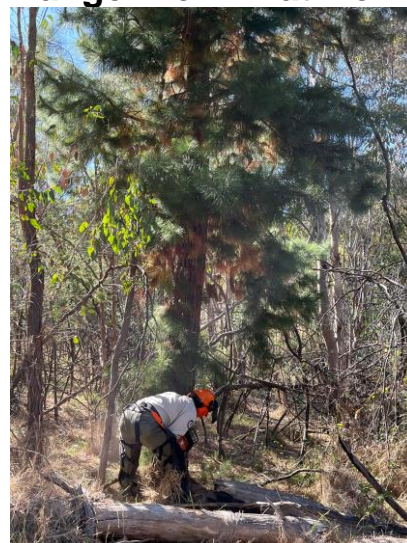
Rob Lundie

## Meanwhile on Kathner Dam



Turtles on Kathner St Dam on 15 November  
Photo: Malcolm Gill

## Ranger Tenzin at work



Ranger Tenzin cuts down a large  
*radiata* pine wilding  
Photo: Linda Spinaze