



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
August 2024

Previous Meeting

Sunday 21 July 2024

Mt Arawang

We were all thankful that Saturday's blustery cold and wet weather had passed through and that we were presented with a beautiful sunny afternoon for our walk up from Lincoln Place. Eight of us (Chris Oates, Natasha Newman, Paul Sheils, Richard and Matilda Kathage, Rob Lundie, Hamish McGlynn and Doug Tinney) fanned out along the track around the eastern side of Mt Arawang. Recent rain made mopping up *Verbascum* quite easy within the cut drain. However, it was a different matter on the other side of the fence on Arawang's slopes. Many of the weeds had established themselves amongst the rocks, and with quite thick stalks, they proved rather resistant to removal. Nevertheless, we made significant inroads into the infestation.



Prickly pear (*Opuntia*) Tash Newman

Next Meeting

Sunday 18 August 2024
Above Chauvel Circle

Time: 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm.

Meet: Chauvel Circle.

Bring: hat, gloves, water to drink.

Task: weeding

Contact: Linda Spinaze 62886916

September meeting: Sun 15 Mt Arawang

Meanwhile, Hamish removed and dabbed a *pyracanthus*. Natasha also removed a patch of prickly pear (*Opuntia*) which is rarely seen on the Ridge and was last featured in the August 2015 Newsletter.

Rob Lundie

Mt Arawang Track Upgrades

Recently I enjoyed the 265 new steps up to the summit of Mt Arawang from the northern end without having to push past blackberries or hack at other weeds. The even height of the steps made it an easy eight minute walk to the top. Now, if we could just have two seats at the top. One looking down on the suburbs, and the other across to the mountains. Meanwhile, work has begun on the track leading up from the southern (Kambah) end. Soon the track that what was once a heart stopping fitness challenge will be modified so that Arawang is accessible to everyone. An excellent job done by the track constructors.



Work begins on the southern track Photo: Rob Lundie

Rob Lundie

Birds of Prey Sightings over the Ridge

Despite such a large area on Cooleman Ridge, this Collared Sparrowhawk (pictured) decided to land on a post directly in front of us, no more than 10 feet away ... we were stunned. It was an intense morning finding six different birds of prey in a short space of time and location. Those sighted were: Collared Sparrowhawk; Wedge Tailed Eagle; Nankeen Kestrel; Black Shouldered Kite; Brown Falcon; Peregrine Falcon.



Collared Sparrowhawk Photo: Steve Allen

Steve Allen

Orienteering

As I walked around Mt Arawang, having earlier watched the Olympics, I thought of the sports that take place on the Ridge: running, cycling, walking, bouldering. Coming down from the summit, I heard thumping sounds in the bush and assumed they were kangaroos. However, it turned out the thumps were from young people running in search of their next check point. Orienteering is another sport to add to my list of activities on the Ridge.



Orienteers Photo: Rob Lundie

Rob Lundie

Wombat and the BNT: a truce

It looks like the wombat and Parks have resolved their dispute over the Bicentennial Nature Trail (BNT) which was repaired at the end of January. The wombat appears to have accepted that the BNT needs to be maintained for the safety of all users and that by burrowing underneath it, the trail's integrity is threatened. For its part, Parks understands the wombat's right to a home. So, the wombat has not tried to reinstate its burrow under the trail. Rather it has burrowed up the hill from the side of, but away from, the trail. Parks has understood that the dirt from the burrow needs to go somewhere and so has allowed the wombat to deposit it on the side of the trail. If only all the world's territorial disputes could be resolved so maturely.

Rob Lundie