



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
September 2024

Previous Meeting

Sunday 18 August 2024

Above Chauvel Circle

A partly cloudy day on the Ridge with a few drops of rain: volunteers Natasha Newman, Chris Oates, Jenny Shapcott, Paul Sheils and Linda Spinaze met at Chauvel Circle. We welcomed new volunteer Nick Nicholls and Canberra artist Kirsten Wehner. Kirsten is working on a project focusing on the Weston Creek waterway and the groups who care for places on and around it. She was keen to get some drawings of volunteers at work. We trekked across the Ridge to One Tree Hill on the southwest side, where we noted that our previous campaigns against *verbascum* seemed to have had some success. There were, however, still some scatterings of new florets among the long grass, which Nick dug out. The rest of us focussed on a proliferation of woody weeds, mostly briar rose and blackberry, that were beginning to sprout again in late winter: the blackberry in particular was difficult to detect in the long grass. We cut and dabbed them with glyphosate and made a mental note to return in late spring to address the inevitable blackberry regrowth. We also demolished a large prunus tree at the foot of the hill using the same technique. Kirsten produced some beautiful, quick drawings in pastel and charcoal of the busy team.

Chris Oates

Next Meeting

Sunday 15 September 2024
CRPCG with Roving Group

Time: 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm.

Meet: Lincoln Place

Bring: hat, gloves, water to drink.

Task: weeding

Contact: Linda Spinaze 62886916

October meeting: Sun 20 The Old Dam

Next Meeting: CRPCG partners with a Roving Group

At our next weeding party on Sunday 15 September (1.30 - 4.00 pm from Lincoln Place), the Group will be partnering Landcare ACT in hosting a Roving Group of between 10 to 15 volunteers. Roving Groups are comprised of young people between the ages of 15 and 30 years, who are interested in developing links with land care and park care volunteer groups and in getting some hands-on experience of the work they do. Landcare SACT is recruiting the group we are hosting. The volunteers are likely to include some current and recent ANU students. The Rovers will join the CRPCG to tackle patches of woody weeds and other invasive plants on the lower southeast slopes of Mt Arawang, along and around the Cut-Drain Path.

Chris Oates

Conservation Council (CFACT) ACT Election 2024 Policy

The CFACT, of which the CRPCG is a member, has recently released its [ACT Election 2024 Policy Platform](#). Of particular note are the statements on 'Protecting priority Conservation Areas' - the CFACT has taken a stand against any industrial or urban development of the Western Edge Investigation Area. The Platform does mention requesting Bluetts Block be deemed a Nature Reserve. It seems that the ACT Gov is working towards this (Canberra Times 24 Aug). The Platform also discusses: seeking more sustainable funding for our parks through employing more rangers thus giving more support to volunteer groups; better management of exotic weeds and feral animals. You can join an online forum on 18 Sept when candidates for the 2024 election will be given an opportunity to explain their position on nature and climate issues (register via the link to the Policy Platform above).

Helen Govey

CRPCG Historical Records

Recently Rob and I received a slender box crammed with rolled-up maps from a previous CRPCG member. Janice Paull has been a member for many years, but is no longer able to be active. I gather she is moving house and wanted these treasures to be valued by the Group. Luckily my large table had recently been extended, so I was able to unroll the maps and investigate. The following interesting maps were "discovered":

- 14 small aerial photos of the Ridge, dated 1944, 1959, 1968, 1985, 1991, 1995, 1997.
- 7 large (100x70cm) laminated maps, all dated 1994. Information on these maps records the tree cover (eucalypts mostly), history of fires and plantings 1978 to 1994, geographical aspects of all parts of the Ridge, soils, and water catchments.

These maps contain a great deal of detail which would have been extremely time-consuming, and therefore expensive, to produce. They have two logos on them: Parks and Conservation Service, and Treeline

Designs. I presume that Treeline Designs was funded by Parks to do the survey of the Ridge and produce the maps. Does anyone have more information about these maps and how they were funded?

Please contact me on 6288 6916 if you want to view these maps. We are currently undecided how best to store them to enable access and safety.

Linda Spinaze

Arawang Tracks Construction

In about a month both new tracks on Mt Arawang should be completed. Already the track leading up from the southern (Kambah) end is just about finished. I counted 446 steps of even height making it an easy and enjoyable walk to the summit with views over to Mt Taylor. I can't wait to do both tracks on a late daylight saving afternoon.



Work continues on the southern track
Photo: Rob Lundie

Rob Lundie

CRPCG AGM Notice

This year's annual general meeting of the Group will take place on Monday 7 October from 3 pm at 78 Sidaway St, Chapman. The agenda will include the President's and Treasurer's reports and the election of office bearers and the committee. RSVP to: lundier@iinet.net.au If you would like to join the committee let me know. All welcome.

Rob Lundie, Secretary, CRPCG