



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
November 2024

Previous Meeting

Sunday 20 October 2024

The Old Dam

A lovely, sunny afternoon but with a pleasant breeze for eight of us led by Paul Sheils (Rob Lundie, Leanne Thompson, Jenny Shapcott, Hamish McGlynn, Kirsten Wehner and very welcome newcomers Sandra Murray and Tom Babington). Apart from checking and clearing weeds from around our plantings, most of which are doing well, we cleared out a good amount of dormant *Phalaris* at the southern end of the Old Dam. We also dug out Paterson's Curse and St John's Wort (SJW) to begin clearing an area where we hope to spread seed in the Autumn.



Sandra Paul Jenny Hamish Tom Leanne Kirsten Tenzin enjoy afternoon tea Photo: Rob Lundie Half-way through the afternoon we were pleasantly surprised when Ranger Tenzin called us to the seat for afternoon tea. A welcome interlude enabled us to renew our energies and to chat over tea and coffee and biscuits. Not only did he provide afternoon

Next Meeting

Sunday 17 November 2024

The Anniversary Seat

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

Meet: Darrell Place

Bring: hat, gloves, water to drink.

Task: weeding

Contact: Rob Lundie 0418291735

tea, but he stayed around for the whole session, helping, advising and providing bags for the piles of SJW we had accumulated. Kirsten, our 'resident artist', sat on the bank working on another painting for her exhibition, watched by turtles in the water. Meanwhile, the 30-odd cows that were introduced to the Ridge earlier in the month had wandered to the farm side of the fence. Fortunately, they returned to their rightful spot later in the afternoon and largely stayed near the trail for the rest of the month.



Kirsten at work at the Old Dam

Photo: Rob Lundie

Rob Lundie

Ridge Access Points

I once saw a man take his partner in an electric wheelchair up from Darrell Place, squeezing around the locked gate and onto the Ridge. It made me wonder how accessible the Ridge is, not just for those in wheelchairs but for walkers, pram pushers and bike riders too. Here are my assessments of the places from which you can access the Ridge.

Kathner St. Parking is good for this northernmost entry to the Ridge. There are two access points: one to the right across a cavaletti (good for horses) and one around the side of the locked gate to the left. From the squeeze through beside the locked gate there are three options: across the grassy paddock to the right and through the squeeze through beside the gate; straight up the very steep vehicle track; the narrow nature path on the right just before the steep part of the vehicle track. No access for wheelchairs.

Chauvel Circle. Parking is good beside a vacant block but there is a long track (about 330 metres), in parts narrow and rough, up to the Ridge. No wheelchair nor pram access.

Monkman St beside no. 46. Parking is fine before going up a grassy slope and around a locked gate. After about 100 metres there are nine steps up onto the Ridge. No possibility for a wheelchair nor a pram.

Monkman St opposite no. 31. Easy parking along the roadside. The 70-metre path begins with rough concrete which precludes wheelchairs. This entry point provides the most direct access to the Cooleman Trig.

Titheradge Pl. Plenty of parking providing access around a locked gate and 70 metres up a rough dirt track. No wheelchair access.

Freebody Pl. Parking is a bit limited, but this appears to be a frequent access point for service vehicles which have keys to the locked gate. After about 125 metres of a bitumen and then rough dirt road you come onto the Ridge opposite the Dam Fire Trail providing the best access to the Old Dam, but not for wheelchairs nor ideally for prams.

Niblo Pl. Good parking. 80 metres of a smooth, wide concrete path followed by a grassy area would make it one of the best access points to the Ridge except that there are two sets of steps on the way thus preventing wheelchair and pram access.

Darrell Pl. Good parking on the street and right up to the locked gate which is just a few metres from the Ridge track, making it

probably the best point for prams. Although wheelchair access is technically possible, it could be made a whole lot better with some track work and a wider gap beside the gate.

Guinness Pl. This close-to-the-Ridge access point is marred by 50 metres of narrow, badly eroded dirt road that makes parking near the gate very difficult. With road improvements this could possibly become a wheelchair access point to the Ridge, but definitely not in its current state. Pram access is possible but not ideal.

Howarth Pl. Good parking but after a concrete path between houses there is a narrow and very rough track up to the Ridge that covers about 320 metres.

Hertz Pl. While parking is good, 160 metres of a rough and steep dirt track make it not the best access point to the Ridge.

Lincoln Pl. Good parking and after 90 metres around a locked gate and up a narrow path, you are on the Ridge. This is the best access point if you want to walk the new track up Mt Arawang. No wheelchair access and not easy for prams.

Pelham Close beside no. 31. About 70 metres up a rough track and then a metal staircase make it doable for walkers but not wheelchairs nor prams.

Namatjira Dr at end of houses. Very limited parking. About 180 metres up a steady slope to the trail and the information board. No wheelchair access but prams are possible.

Horse Paddocks on Namatjira Dr. Good parking in front of a locked step-through gate. May be difficult for bikes and impossible for e-bikes. About 250 metres up to the southern end of Mt Arawang and the best access to the new track up the mountain. No wheelchair access and not practical for prams.

Rob Lundie

Workshop for the Respectful Management of the Ridge

On Sat 16 Nov 9.30 am to 11.00 am, at the end of Kathner St, Ngunawal leader, Wally Bell, will provide interesting insights to respectfully managing the Ridge, including finding scar trees, recognizing aboriginal tools and what to do if you are lucky enough to find one. Everyone is very welcome, and morning tea will be provided.