



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
May 2025

Previous Meeting

Sunday 27 April 2025

Old Dam

Despite a late change in venue, seven workers gathered at the Old Dam: Linda Spinaze, Nick Nicholls, Hamish McGlynn, Paul Sheils, Rohan Thomas, Rob Lundie and very welcome newcomer, Catarina Llorens. The forecast rain never eventuated which allowed us plenty of time to clear an area of about 30 square metres at the northern end of the Old Dam. To increase the possibility of sprouting, we then scattered a mixture of wallaby grasses, austrostipa and red-leg grass and covered the area with some branches to deter any visiting kangaroos. Some mulch will be added soon. A couple of briar roses and other weeds were also despatched.



Linda Hamish and Catarina spread the grass seed

Rob Lundie

Rob Lundie lundier@iinet.net.au

Next Meeting

Sunday 18 May 2025

Mt Arawang

Time: 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm.

Meet: Lincoln Place

Bring: hat, gloves, water to drink.

Task: Weeding

Contact: Rob Lundie 0418291735

Curious Cooleman 1

Near the Kambah end of the new track that runs up and over Mt Arawang, there are two trees which have had bark expertly removed from their trunks. Does anyone know who did these and why?



Photo: Tash Newman

Rob Lundie

www.coolemanridge.org.au

Curious Cooleman 2

In late March a proliferation of small rock cairns began appearing off the main track from about the Anniversary Seat and going north. They consisted of two small rocks set upon a larger existing rock. We do not know who set them up or for what purpose but we strongly discourage this practice. Dislodging rocks destroys the habitat of many creatures eg lizards, ants etc which call Cooleman Ridge their home. Any such cairns will be immediately dismantled.



Little cairn

Photo: Rob Lundie

Rob Lundie

Idling in Green Places: a book review

I've just read a book from the Woden Library that might appeal to some readers of this newsletter. It's called *Idling in Green Places: a life of Alec Chisholm*. I'd never heard of Chisholm, a boy who rose from a fairly poor background in Maryborough (Vic) to become by the middle of the 20th century one of Australia's best known ornithologists and nature writers, and a passionate conservationist and campaigner for the protection of wildlife. As well as portraying the interesting life of an impressive (if sometimes difficult) man, the book charts the changes in approaches to conservation in Australia over the century – arguments over the legitimacy of ornithologists shooting birds and collecting eggs, the links between nationalism and natural history, and the desirability of introduced species – as well as personal rivalries. The biography is well written and easy to read, and the author,

Russell McGregor, gives a balanced account of Chisholm's achievements and character.

Peter Lindenmayer

Runners on the Ridge

Walking up Mt Arawang from Lincoln Place on the morning of Anzac Day, it was a pleasure to step aside for many of the 427 people of all ages running in the Sri Chinmoy Cooleman Clip trail run. This was part of an annual winter trail series in the ACT, with the course described 'as a southside adventure, exploring the wonderful tracks and trails along either side of Cooleman Ridge'.



Sri Chinmoy runners head down from Mt Arawang
Photo: Rob Lundie

Rob Lundie

Pyracanthus for small birds

Recently Paul and I borrowed a reciprocal saw from Parks and Con, in order to trial the new hiring system, and to test the saw in managing the large pyracanthus bushes on One Tree Hill. There were four large bushes. We reduced two of them to nothing, but in doing so discovered two tiny bird nests in one of them. Of course, at this time of year the nests were empty, but it made me realise how good pyracanthus bushes are at protecting small birds from currawongs etc. So we left two large, healthy, thick pyracanthus to provide shelter for the tiny birds. In future we will weed around the big bushes to leave them providing habitat. Our rangers have said that we can remove these big bushes if there is alternative habitat, but there is nothing as thick and spiny as the pyracanthus. The native bursaria is said to be a replacement, but it is quite thinly leaved, so nowhere near as good protection as the pyracanthus.

Linda Spinaze