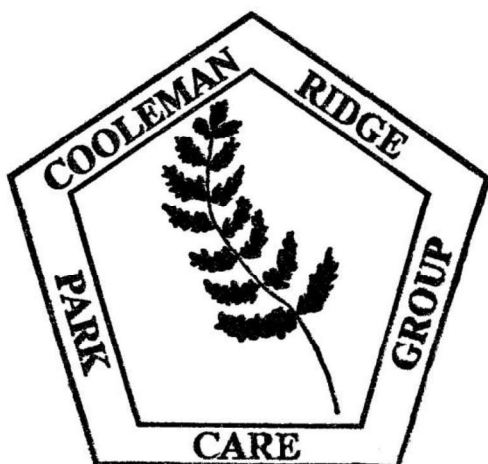




COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
October 2025

Previous Meeting

Sunday 21 September 2025

Guinness Place

A cloudy but occasionally sunny afternoon but with rising wind. Seven volunteers (Linda Spinaze, Catarina Llorens, Hamish McGlynn, Chris Oates, Jenny Shapcott, Paul Sheils and Leanne Shepherd) met at the Guinness Place entrance to the Ridge to deal with infestations of African Love Grass (*eragrostis curvula*) along the Guinness Foot Track and the Chapman Primary School nature path. The plant is an aggressive and invasive weed that colonises native plant areas and increases fire hazard. Linda briefed us on how to identify the weed - a particular feature is its long, wavy Christmas tree-like flower stems - and she had also marked infestations with dye, a great help, particularly in identifying new growth.



Catarina Paul Linda Leanne Hamish Chris
Photo: Jenny Shapcott

We dug out the clumps around the Guinness Place entrance and then tackled growths on

Next Meeting

Sunday 19 October 2025

Near One Tree Hill

Time: 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm.

Meet: Chauvel Circle

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

Task: weeding

Contact: Linda Spinaze 0417276497

either side of the tracks. It was hard work, using mattocks and diggers, with many of the weeds growing among rocks and the team having to avoid disturbing any native plants. To prevent the spread of seed, we bagged what we dug out, filling the eleven bags we had. What we couldn't bag, we piled up under a tree, as the weed doesn't like shade. Volunteers also took the opportunity to mop up any verbascom they encountered.

Chris Oates

Chapman Primary School

Every Thursday afternoon for the last eight weeks, the 75 or so kindy students from Chapman Primary School have trekked up the hill to the bush kids site on Cooleman Ridge. This long running program is still going strong with this next generation of kindy kids enjoying free play in the best playground around - nature! Every session began with a boundary walk around the site, then a talk from the teachers about the session ahead, with lots of lessons about how to

respect and care for the land during play time. Often this chat included an introduction of a special activity; one week a parent volunteer went to the effort of setting up a simple orienteering course for the kids to try. The children also learned a beautiful acknowledgement of country by heart which they sang before each session. I myself was fortunate enough to grow up in the bush and it was a delight to watch the children playing the same games I played as a child, like building stick houses and playing “wild kids” collecting “food for the winter” (ie leaves and grass). Over the eight weeks I watched the kids gain a lot of physical confidence by engaging in supervised risky play - climbing trees, fallen logs, boulders, you name it. Even though the program has come to a close for this year, it was wonderful to see the children so eager to continue to visit the site with their grownups. Special thanks to Linda for providing me with a pile of past land care pamphlets written about the bush kids site. The children were excited to get a pamphlet and map so that they could show their parents how to find this special spot. We had a lovely sunny afternoon for our final bush kids session, and I took the liberty of asking a few students about what they enjoyed most about their time up at The Ridge:

Miss S “I loved playing with charcoal we found and painting our faces with it!”

Mr A, “I liked playing in muddy puddles!”

Miss L “I loved playing magic forests and wild girls with my friends. It’s the best”.

Miss A “I loved playing fairies with my friends in the bush”.

Here’s to encouraging a love of being in nature from an early age. Because “unless we are willing to encourage our children to reconnect with and appreciate the natural world, we can’t expect them to help protect and care for it”. - David Suzuki.



Photo: Amber Harnisch



Photo: Amber Harnisch

Amber Harnisch

Western Edge Campaign

On 27 September several members of the Group stationed themselves outside Cooleman Court to inform the public about the Western Edge campaign. Pamphlets were distributed and about 115 signatures were gathered for our petition. Many people expressed surprise and dismay at what development could happen on the Western Edge of their city.

Rob Lundie

CRPCG AGM

On the afternoon of Monday 6 October, the Group’s AGM was held at Linda’s home attended by 10 members. Linda presented her report and Treasurer Rohan revealed that there is \$2659.38 in the Group’s account.

The CRPCG Committee was elected unopposed as follows:

President: Linda Spinaze

Vice-President: Chris Oates

Secretary: Rob Lundie

Treasurer: Rohan Thomas

Public Officer: Natasha Newman

Committee: Jenny Shapcott, Paul Sheils, Helen Govey and Tom Babington.

It was decided that the areas for the monthly weeding parties will be decided by Linda based on what she feels needs attention. Many other matters were discussed and are summarised in the Minutes which will be posted on the Group’s website or can be obtained from lundier@iinet.net.au

Rob Lundie