



# COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

## Newsletter January 2026

### **Previous Meeting**

**Sunday 21 December 2025**

#### **Darrell Place**

A heavily overcast morning for 12 volunteers (Hamish McGlyn, Natasha Newman, Chris Oates, Ian Priddle, Paul Sheils, Rob Lundie, Linda Spinaze, Rohan Thomas, Tom Babington, Alan Ford, Jenny Shapcott and welcome newcomer Peter McIntyre) who met at Darrell Pl and walked up towards Kangaroo Valley which had recently been burnt off. Paul drove his vehicle with the power tools (whipper snipper, brush cutter, hedge trimmer) to be used by himself, Hamish and Rohan to slash the St Johns Wort. The rest of us cut and dabbed woody weeds and also clipped and dug out Verbascum and the wort especially around clumps of beautiful yellow paper daisies (*Xerochrysum viscosum*). Linda was very pleased with the turnout but lamented: 'I wish there were more weeds for them.'!! She meant woody weeds nearby!



Paul Linda Ian Tash Hamish Rohan Peter Jenn Tom  
Chris at Christmas morning tea      Photo: Rob Lundie

### **Next Meeting**

**Sunday 18 January 2026**

#### **Near One Tree Hill**

**Time:** 8.30 am – 11.00 am.

**Task:** Weeding

**Meet:** Chauvel Circle

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

**Contact:** Linda Spinaze 0417276497

At various times there was light rain which became heavier as we had our Christmas morning tea back at Darrell Place. But no one minded at all.

*Rob Lundie*

### **Western Edge Walk**

As part of the Save the Western Edge (WE) Campaign, the Conservation Council ACT (CCACT) is sponsoring, among other events, walks along and within the WE. [More WE events](#) The idea is to increase awareness of this area which is right on our doorstep! We want people to see how close The Ridge is to the Murrumbidgee River and to become more knowledgeable about the area, and its vulnerability. The WE is home to many native animals and plants which are already threatened and would be further impacted, if urban development was allowed to expand. On a sunny Saturday morning in October, Linda Spinaze and I guided a Save the WE walk along the Ridge - not as members of the

CRPCG but as concerned citizens. There were five very keen participants (we had been expecting 10), one of whom did not know the Ridge at all. We set off at a leisurely pace, past the 'scout' plantings and on to the Bicentennial National Trail (BNT), heading to the Old Dam and returning past the Anniversary Seat with its informative sign pointing out the various ranges in the distance. Our fellow walkers were extremely interested in the many trees, grasses and flowers, continuously stopping to study the sights and discuss many aspects of this beautiful area. We pointed out native flora eg different eucalypts, common everlasting daisies, tick indigo, kangaroo and spear grasses, and of course the invasive grasses like African Love Grass and the swathes of St John's Wort! A stop at the Old Dam was a chance to listen to the sounds of the birds and the frogs. Linda and I felt very satisfied especially as we looked back after saying farewell, to see several of the group still chatting together. I am certain it was about what they had just seen!

*Helen Govey*

## **Burn-off**

In early December PCS conducted a prescribed burn on the Darrell Place Fire Trail. The burn was designed to reduce surface and near surface fuels. It also aimed to establish a protection zone around significant water tank infrastructure. By all accounts the burn off went well.



Part of the burnt off area

Photo: Rob Lundie

*Rob Lundie*

## **Wombat Burrows**

The wombat which did battle with the Bicentennial Nature Trail over several years, now appears to be taking on the Western Edge proposal, if the new burrow is anything to go by. Or maybe it is a case of Grand Design Cooleman Ridge.



The additional wombat burrow

Photo: Rob Lundie

*Rob Lundie*

## **Wombat Treatment**

Not far from Darrell Place are two cannisters of liquid wedged into a flap suspended from the bottom strand of the fence. When a wombat passes under the fence, it lifts the flap and the liquid runs down its back. It is a treatment for mange which is a horrible, itching condition that can eventually lead to the death of the wombat.



Treatment process for mange in wombats

Photo: Tash Newman

*Rob Lundie*

## **Ridge Rainfall**

2025 - 645 mms; 2024 - 652 mms

**Happy New Year**