



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter November 2014

*Previous Meeting – Sunday 19th
October – Kathner Street*

Following the AGM, members scattered on missions various. Rohan went up to the drainage line at Group Area North (Chauvel), to work on *Phalaris aquatica*. Pat followed up previous work at the dam, removing epicormic growth from the sole surviving *Eucalyptus* stump. Alan undertook a survey of official projects - woody debris and the autumn plantings. Four of us got stuck into flourishing weeds, mown but seeding, at the entry to the Reserve. (Capeweed *Arctotheca calendula* has had a bumper season, so this work may keep it at bay.)

At the dam, we found a poor little bundle of fluff – a dead Frogmouth nestling!

Afternoon tea completed the proceedings.

Future programme

NB – Remember! We meet in the mornings during the warmer months!

Sunday 16th November

Group Area Central (Darrell Place)

Time:- 8.30 am – 12 noon.

Bring:- hat, gloves, hacker, drink, snack, raincoat if it is wet.

Tasks:- Vegwatch Survey with Linda Beveridge showing us the ropes again. Plant ID and weed removal. Inspection of Graham's present patch (near the lower Reservoir), now cleared of Cootamundra Wattle *Acacia baileyana*.

Plus Monthly Meeting and Morning Tea.

New Committee for CRPCG

Our Annual General Meeting took place on 19th October, with six members present (a quorum). Committee members for the next year are as follows:-

President	Alan Ford
Vice President	Arminel Ryan
Secretary	Rob Lundie
Treasurer	Rohan Thomas
Committee Members	Jenny Horsfield Doug Tinney Linda Spinaze Gösta Lyngå

Rohan continues to be our Webmaster, and Arminel remains editor of the newsletter. Doug has offered to continue as Public Officer. Thanks to Pat Ryan, our Returning Officer, for conducting the elections.

President's Log

I attended the September meeting of the Southern ACT Catchment Group and the Parks and Conservation Service Seminar on Parkcare. Did you know that there are over 130 species of ants on Mt Ainslie, Black Mountain and Mt Majura combined? They showed a short film at the Seminar. It featured, among others, Arminel Ryan talking about the Ridge.

Alan

Doug on Deck

The Wednesday Weeders are back in strength, with Doug joining Arminel and George on the woody weed front. Welcome back, Doug!

What's around

Western (European) Honeybees – *Apis mellifera*

Nests of Feral Honeybees occur in some hollow trees on Cooleman Ridge. These stinging insect colonies are dangerous if disturbed, so we leave them alone. They forage for pollen and nectar amongst the blossoms on the Ridge, nearby farmland, and in suburban streets, backyards and parkland.

Feral Honeybees displace some native hollow-dwelling birds and small mammals. They may also harbour bee diseases and pests that could affect apiarist-controlled colonies. However, they are important pollinators of many native as well as exotic flowers.

Are Honeybees now under threat from commonly used insecticides? Plenty of bee swarms have been reported to the ACT Government Insect Hotline this Spring (pers. com. from Dr Philip Spradbery). There may still be time to avoid Colony Collapse Disorder! Not to mention time to look after the many other lesser-known native insects in the neighbourhood!

Scientific classification –
Kingdom – Animalia
Phylum – Arthropoda
Class – Insecta
Order – Hymenoptera
Family – Apidae
Genus – *Apis* (Lat. = bee)
Species – *mellifera* (Lat. = honey-bearing)

Image from VicHoney.com.au



Neonics are synthetic pesticides – neonicotinoids and fipronil. They target nerves. Their effects are instant and lethal, but may also be chronic. They are absorbed by plants, and leach into earth and water, where they continue to expose non-target creatures to harm.

ASK ABOUT NEONICOTINOIDS! CHECK THE WEB FOR PRODUCT LISTS!

DON'T BUY SEED TREATED WITH NEONICS!

DON'T BUY SEEDLINGS UNLESS RAISED WITHOUT PESTICIDES TOXIC TO BEES!

DON'T USE INSECTICIDES TOXIC TO BEES!

CHECK THE COMPONENTS OF PET FLEA POWDER & LIVESTOCK TREATMENTS!

VERIFY THE COMPOSITION OF COCKROACH BAITS!

As well as Honeybees, Neonics (such as Confidor) imperil other “pollinators, habitat engineers and natural pest-controllers at the heart of a functioning ecosystem”. Food supply is thus at risk. “Exposure can impair smell and memory in some species, curb procreation, reduce foraging, cause flight difficulties and increase disease susceptibility.” Europe has imposed a two-year ban on the use of Neonics, following publication in June of evidence showing harm to bees, butterflies, worms, fish and birds. We hear the ACT government has been asked to consider a ban here too.

FOR MORE INFORMATION – ACT for Bees actforbees@gmail.com

Ngunnawal Plant Use Book

now available from:

<http://www.environment.act.gov.au/environment/ngunnawal-plant-use-book>
\$22 including postage.

Top Team

Congratulations to the ACT's Yurung Dhaura Aboriginal Land Management Team which won the Indigenous Landcare Management Award at the recent National Landcare Awards gala dinner in Melbourne. It is the first time the ACT has won an award at the National Landcare Awards – ever!

(Source: ACT Landcare News)

Arminel Ryan ryan@pcug.org.au

Ta-ta & ta, Davo!



L-R Arminel, David, Alan. Photo P. Ryan

David Hughes has moved to Melbourne with his family. We will miss him – he's been a regular on the Ridge. We presented him with a copy of “*A Labour of Love*” as a keepsake.

Web site URL: www.coolemanridge.org.au