



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
December 2017

Previous meeting
Sunday 19 November
Darrell Place

Bench installation ceremony and Working Party

The monthly working party meeting began with a "bench-warming" occasion, when we invited the rangers and our members to celebrate the placement of a bench to mark the 25th Anniversary of Park Care in the ACT. This smart bench has been sited beneath a beautiful red-box tree, about half-way along the ridge, and enjoys stunning views west over the Murrumbidgee Valley and to the Brindabellas. Our ceremony was conducted as we enjoyed tea/coffee and snacks and watched the changing light of the rising sun. It was too early for champagne, and we didn't think we'd be popular if we smashed the bottle against the bench! Not to mention the effect on weeding skills following the ceremony.



View from the seat *Photo by Roger Clarke*

After the bench warming ceremony most members fanned out across the Ridge to deal with the usual suspects: verbascum, phalaris, African love grass, fleabane etc. The dispersion of workers was such that Doug wondered where everyone else had got to!

Next Meeting

Sunday 17 December

Lincoln Place

Time: 8.30 am – 11.00 am

NOTE EARLIER TIME

Meet: End of Lincoln Place

Bring: hat, gloves, secateurs, doover-dabber, hacker, drink, raincoat if it is wet

Task: plant identification, weeding

Contact: Linda Spinaze 6288 6916



Ranger Phil Selmes, CRPCG: Rohan Thomas, Graham Paul, Gosta Lynga, Linda Spinaze, Pat Ryan, Doug Tinney, Arminel Ryan, Ranger Richard Barnsley *Photo by Roger Clarke*

Linda Spinaze

Stock on the Ridge

As you walk along the Ridge this month, you may come across cattle wandering along the Bicentenary Nature Trail chewing the grass. They are part of weed control and fire risk management on the Ridge.

Linda Spinaze



Cattle on Ridge Feb 2015 Photo by Rob Lundie

Vegwatch

In late November Arminel and Linda spent a few hours monitoring the vegetation at the two Vegwatch sites. This is done yearly in November, with the aim to keep a scientific eye on our vegetation to assess changes over the years. One site is near Darrell Place, and the other site is on the eastern slope of Mt Arawang. This year they noticed a definite decrease in the amount of wild oats, and less phalaris. Has this been due to Rohan's weeding diligence? During the same morning, Pat checked his monthly Water-watch measurements at the two dams, Kathner St and the Old Dam.

Arminel Ryan and Linda Spinaze

Identifying Acacias

In a recent newsletter I mentioned that there had been confusion between *Acacia floribunda* and *Acacia doratoxylon*, since the differences between these two species seem to depend on which book is referenced. I took three samples to Dave Albrecht, who performs the identification service for the ANBG. He identified all three samples as *Acacia floribunda*. Roger and I then walked along the Ridge, collecting samples from various flowering acacias. The ones that could have been *Acacia doratoxylon* were all similar to Dave's *Acacia floribunda*, including the one that I had picked originally three years ago and had identified by ANBG as *Acacia doratoxylon*. So I am now wondering if *Acacia doratoxylon* has been mis-identified.

Linda Spinaze

Happy Christmas and New Year

Newsletter distribution boxes

The plastic sleeve containers for distributing the Newsletter on the Ridge will soon be a thing of the past. Although making the Newsletter more available to people who use the Ridge but who may not be on the Group's mailing list, the sleeves just aren't sturdy or weather-proof enough to withstand the sun, wind and rain. However, thanks to Rob Horsfield and Parks, six strong boxes will soon be installed at various entry points to the Ridge. The Newsletter is published just before the second Sunday of the month so look out for them and please feel free to take a copy.



Rohan and Doug admire the new Newsletter box Photo by Roger Clarke

Rob Lundie



Lissanthe strigosa Photo by Roger Clarke