



# COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter  
October 2019

**Previous meeting**  
**Sunday 15 September**  
**Lincoln Place**

A pleasantly sunny afternoon greeted 9 of the Group for the monthly weeding: Malcolm, Alan, Rohan, Linda, Doug, Rob, Chris, Jenny and Gosta. Before we set off Malcolm raised his concerns about getting rid of the litter of bark and twigs under trees at Kathner St. Linda later sent these concerns on to the fire management team through Marty. Then Doug went left along the trail to deal with a Prickly Pear infestation he had previously located. He later returned with a large, heavy yellow bag full of it. Rob started up the track to Mt Arawang but soon noticed a whole lot of *Verbascum* off to his left. So that is where he spent the afternoon and will do so again to finish the job when next we meet at Lincoln Place. He also dealt with a spreading blackberry and a few *Briar Roses*. The rest of the team manually removed *Verbascum* and *Mustard-weed* rosettes and Rohan sprayed various weeds with roundup. Linda and Chris tackled some blackberries on the south facing slope which were relatively easily cut-n-dabbed with metasulphuron because the grass was still short after Winter.

*Rob Lundie and Linda Spinaze*

## **Seen on the Ridge: echidnas, kestrels and cyclists**

After the September working party I met up with a friend to walk around the base of Mt Arawang. We hadn't gone far before we spotted a group of people up ahead staring

**Next Meeting**  
**Sunday 20 October**  
**Mt Arawang**

**Time:** 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm

**Meet:** Opposite horse paddocks, Namatjira Dr

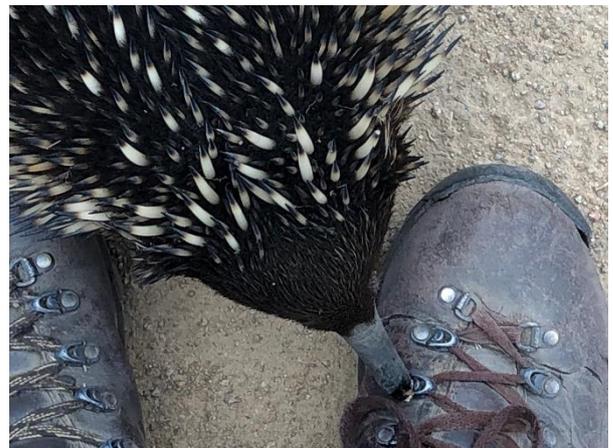
**Bring:** hat, gloves, secateurs, dabber-doover, hacker, drink, raincoat if it is wet

**Task:** plant identification, weeding

**Contact:** Linda Spinaze 6288 6916

Nov. meeting & AGM: Sun 17, Kathner St

down at their feet and into the cut-drain. On joining them, we were delighted to see two echidnas snuffling around in the grass. As we stood still, one of the little creatures waddled up the bank and over to our boots which it inspected with its little snout.



*Echidna searches Rob's boot*

*Photo: Rob Lundie*

At the suggestion of Arminel Ryan whom he met as he walked along the Ridge, John Hurrell sent in these superb photos of kestrels

hunting on the north side of the Ridge in mid-September.



*Kestrels hunting*

*Photos: John Hurrell*

These cyclists were taking part in the Shimano Challenge from Stromlo along Coleman Ridge to Kambah Pool and back. They had just had a brief stop at the Ceremonial Seat before continuing on their way.



*Shimano Challenge cyclists*

*Photo: Rob Lundie*

*Rob Lundie*

## **A weed to be wary of: *Ranunculus sceleratus* or Celery Buttercup**

This weed was recently spotted by Pat Ryan in the Old Dam. Description – annual or biennial upright herb, <80 cm. First impression - tall buttercup with tiny yellowish-green flowers. Stems in their lower parts are branching, hollow and easily broken. Each leaf is divided into three or five parts, with blunt teeth or lobes around the margins. Flowers grow singly on short stalks at the ends of branches and have five shiny petals about 3 mm long. Roots – fibrous. Habitat – muddy locations. Reproduction – by seed only. Spread – by water, water birds, stock, and machinery. All *Ranunculus* species are said to be poisonous when eaten fresh by livestock, but it appears their acrid taste and the blistering of the mouth mean they are usually left uneaten. They can cause contact dermatitis and blistering of the skin in humans. So, take care when handling them.



*Ranunculus sceleratus*

*Photo: Pat Ryan*

*This is an edited version of an item by Arminel Ryan that first appeared in the [August 2013](#) issue of the Newsletter.*

### **Weed Swap**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> November you can take your garden weeds to the Mugga Lane Tip and swap them for native plants such as *Acacia* species (wattles), *Callistemon* species (bottlebrushes), *Correa* ‘Dusky Bells’, *Grevillea* species and *Myoporum* (boobiolla). Other ground covers, climbing plants, small, medium and large shrubs and trees may also be available. This is a free service provided by the Australian Native Plants Society and the ACT Parks and Conservation Service. Ring 13 22 81 or visit this [website](#) for further information.