

NEWSLETTER NO 32

JULY 1995



Hi Everyone,

I just had to begin this newsletter the day after the planting while I'm still on a high! As all those of you who were there will know it was a resounding success with 95 people signing on and a total of 615 plantings (and we only planned to do 500). Even the weather was perfect. My heartfelt thanks to all those members who came along particularly to the "hole diggers" of the previous days, it was that preparation which enabled the day to go so well. WELL DONE EVERYONE!  
(I don't know if it was someone at the planting having a joke but the next day I had a phone call inviting me to join a fitness club - at a discount!).

Another lovely piece of news is that CNP staff are looking at fire control measures which DO NOT INVOLVE COWS. If this eventuates it will mean that we can do real restoration work all over the Ridge instead of an annual clean up of the cow camps. How life changes, a couple of months ago I felt like throwing in the towel when we surveyed the damage the cows had caused during the drought. Now we need to concentrate on getting rid of free-roaming horses and dogs and making it a real NATURE PARK.

We would like to begin considering a management plan for the Ridge to include plantings of trees, mid and under-storey as well as weed eradication and erosion control. If anyone would like to join a planning sub-committee I would like to hear from you please.

The Walking Trail is now firmly back on the agenda and there should be major developments soon.

We have exciting events for the next few meetings. On 6th August Ian Fraser and Margaret McJannet, co-authors of "Wildflowers of the Bush Capital" and "Over the Hills and Tharwa Way" amongst other nature books are going to lead a walk on the Ridge, starting and ending at 21 Ordell St. We will have indoor refreshments that day on our return and we will meet whatever the weather.

In September, for our Arbor Week activity, I hope we can plant more trees. This meeting will be on the SECOND SUNDAY 10th September, as the first Sunday is Fathers Day and I will be away until the 8th. More details later.

In October Malcolm Gill has arranged a walk with an expert on lichens and mosses.

The new financial year has now arrived and so our accounts etc have to be presented to the members. We will hold our AGM on Wednesday 30th August so I hope a lot of you will be able to come, we will tempt you with supper afterwards. All committee positions, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, are open for election, but don't be put off coming because of that, I'm sure we will have volunteers. With the new financial year I'll have to get you to re-sign your application for membership to conform with the requirements of incorporation and because we have no subscription.

Those of us who went to the Inaugural Park Care Conference came away with lots to think about; the theme was "Links" trying to become less isolationist in our groups and communicating and sharing to help others.