



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
September 2021

Previous Meeting (cancelled) Sun 15 August 2021 Darrell Place

Despite good weeding weather, this meeting had to be postponed for a week because Canberra went into Covid 19 lockdown. However, the lockdown was extended and so we had to cancel any weeding party for the month. A pity as we had hoped to have a farewell afternoon tea for Gösta. And there is no shortage of weeds! By the way, if you can take your little digger on your daily walks and chop out 50 verbascums, that would be great.

Farewell to Gösta

As you read this newsletter, one of the Group's founding members, Gösta Lynga, will be returning to his birthplace, Sweden. Due to Covid 19 restrictions, we were not able to farewell him as a Group. However, one Friday morning Linda met him at the end of Kathner St where he handed over from his bike paniers, books and folders of material for the Group's archives. They then shared memories as they walked up to his area and on to his wife's patch ("Pauline's Patch"). That both patches were largely weed free is a testament to Gösta and the Friday group's consistent efforts over many years. On behalf of the Group she presented him with a mug, a Parks shirt and, appropriately, a 'cockatoo' mask. Then with much gratitude, fondness and a tinge of sadness, she watched him hop on his bike and ride off. A more genial and hard working person it would be hard to find. We thank him and wish him well but hope he will keep in touch.

Next Meeting (Covid permitting)

Sunday 19 September 2021

Lincoln Place

Time: 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm.

Meet: Lincoln Place.

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

Task: weeding.

Contact: Linda Spinaze 6288 6916

Oct meeting: Sun 17, Mt Arawang



Linda and Gösta

Photos: Rob Lundie



Linda and Gösta walk up to Pauline's Patch



In earlier times: Bess Sledge Gösta Lynga Pauline
Lynga Jenny Horsfield September 2007

Rob Lundie

Bess's Diaries: part 2

[Ed: Part 1 was published [last month](#).]

Plantings over those years were consistently the same species but in different areas all over the Ridge. Some areas had to be replanted because of a low survival rate of less than 50%. Some areas now appear difficult to access, eg the south-western side of Mt Arawang. How did they get all the plants and digging equipment to that spot? Was there a road? Did they have access or did they have to walk and carry everything, including water for the plants?

Eucalyptus which were planted were *E.nortonii*, *E.rossii*, *E dives*, *E.mannifera*, *E. macrorhyncha*, *E.melliodora*, *E.pauciflora*, *E. polyanthemos*, *E.viminalis*. Acacia species were mostly *A.dealbata*, but *A.genistifolia* is mentioned as is *A.implexa* and *A.buxifolia*. Kurrajongs were also planted, and also the very special *Allocasuarina verticillata*, which is the favourite tree of the Glossy Black-Cockatoo, which is endangered. Other plantings were *Bursaria*, *Dodonea*, *Xerochrysum* (quite a lot), *Indigofera* (no mention of species), *Lomandra*, *Cassinia* and *Chysocephalum apiculatum* and *C. semipapposum*.

Grasses are mentioned, but often without species names. *Poa* and *Stipa* are planted, and also red-leg grass, *Themeda*, *Chloris*, *Danthonia* and barbed-wire grass. No mention of a few grasses that are now well established on the Ridge, and I wonder whether they were introduced by the Group after 2001, or if they have self-seeded from elsewhere. These include *Nine-awn grass*,

Queensland Blue-grass and *Cotton Panic-grass*.

Sometimes diaries pose more questions than answers!!

Linda Spinaze

Vale Tony Fearnside

Earlier this year, Tony Fearnside, a long-standing Group member, died. Tony had a long career in forestry and bushfire control and an ongoing interest in Cooleman Ridge. He once led a nature walk on the Ridge.

Rob Lundie

Climate Wise Gardens

The Suburban Land Agency (SLA) recently worked with local landscape architect Edwina Robinson to develop a [Climate Wise Garden Designs booklet](#), which recommends different garden layouts around three themes: edible garden, low maintenance garden and climate wise garden. The booklet includes beautiful hand-drawn designs for typical blocks that you might see in an SLA suburb, as well as recommended plant species, photos of different garden features, and tips on how to establish a healthy garden.

Karen Williams, A/Volunteer Programs Manager; ACT Parks and Conservation Service

The Ridge during Lockdown

Lockdown or not, Spring advances, and with it mating magpies. I recently saw a pair swooping a flock of choughs just below the anniversary seat. There is a notion that because people are wearing masks and are less able to be recognized then there may be more swooping incidents. Has anyone been swooped on the Ridge yet?

Nice to see a family using the Old Dam as a home-schooling site. And people, including a man with his grandson, using the Nature Trail pamphlet to explore the Ridge.

August rainfall near the Old Dam: 44 mms.

Rob Lundie