



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
November 2021

Previous Meeting **Sun 17 Oct 2021 Mt Arawang**

After two months of cancelled weeding parties, Covid lockdown restrictions were eased enough to allow us to formally hold one. A great turn-out, but no surprise really after being locked away for so long. It was a beautifully, sunny afternoon for 13 of us including a very welcome Tamsin and Angus McLure. The others were Lyndal Lewis, Mike Pearson, Rosalie Pearson, Natasha Oates, Chris Oates, Alex Newman, Natasha Newman, Jenny Horsfield, Doug Tinney, Linda Spinaze and Rob Lundie. We broke up into groups, tackling the verbascum, but also other weeds as they presented. There were a lot of thistles on the upper eastern slope of Mt Arawang. The kangaroos watched us calmly and kept nibbling the grass.



Newcomers Tamsin and Angus take a break from weeding with their children Ezra and Asher Photo: Chris Oates

Next Meeting and AGM **Sunday 21 November 2021** **Kathner St**

Time: 8.30 am – 11.00 am.

AGM at 8.30 am

NOTE NEW TIME

Meet: End Kathner St.

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

Task: AGM and weeding

The other group which skirted Arawang's eastern slopes, received appreciative comments from walkers on the track below. It was lovely to be able to weed and chat with other like-minded volunteers. Thanks to everyone who came.

Linda Spinaze

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Cooleman Ridge Park Care Group will be held at 8.30 am on Sunday 21 November under the trees at the end of Kathner St, Chapman. Nominations for committee positions and apologies to Rob Lundie, Secretary. If you want to find out just what the Group does, why not come along. The meeting won't last long and we promise not to pressure you to join the committee. After the meeting, normal weeding activities will resume.

Rob Lundie

Pondweed in the Old Dam

Have you noticed how beautiful the Old Dam looks after all this amazing rain? Not only is it full of plants, but the frogs are also enjoying the water. One particular unknown aquatic plant caught my eye, and so I posted a photo on Canberra Nature Map. Within 30 minutes, the answer came back – Pondweed.

(*Potamogeton*, probably *ochreatus*). This plant has not been recorded on our plant-list, despite it being widespread. The name is related to the Greek “potamus” meaning river or lake (hiipopotamus-horse-river). The plant is a native and is valuable to waterfowl and fish. There are a few species, some with oval leave, but this species has long submerged, translucent leaves.

Potamogeton commences growing vigorously in September, reaching maturity in early summer, when it rapidly disintegrates, or is destroyed by aquatic insects. A second burst of growth can occur in autumn. It occurs erratically and is not a long-lasting perennial plant.



Pondweed (Potamogeton ochreatus)
Photo: Linda Spinaze

Linda Spinaze

How Green is the Ridge

I can't remember when I last saw the Ridge looking so green! The recently introduced 29 cows and one bull look magnificent as they munch their way along the Bicentenary National Trail. The grass is growing taller which is not great for hay fever sufferers. However, it does cover up the *Verbascum* (out of sight, out of mind?).

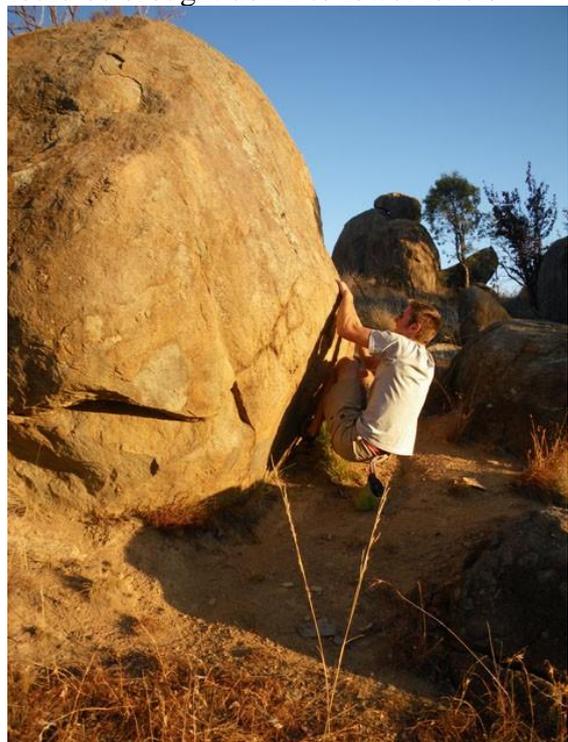
Rob Lundie



Walkers at the Map Board Photo: Heather Chapman

Bouldering

One day on the Ridge I passed some young people wearing large mattresses on their backs. Later I discovered that these are used in the activity of climbing boulders and that there is a website, theCrag, devoted to the sport. The site notes that bouldering has occurred on the Ridge since the early 1980s and that it ‘has a lot more than one might expect at first glance’. The granite boulders are set over six semi-distinct areas (see the website for a map), and cater for all levels of skill. If you would like to try your hand (and feet) bouldering, go to the website. I was pleased to see that the bouldering community have concern for the integrity of the Ridge as expressed: ‘While some of the harder climbs on the ridge were created by chipping, where previously no climb was possible, please leave your chisels at home. There are not so many climbs at the higher grades that they should be brought down to lower levels!’



Chris at Horse Paddock Boulders Photo: theCrag

Rob Lundie