



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
February 2022

Previous Meeting

Sun 16 Dec 2022 Darrell PI

A good day's work under a sunny, but not hot sky, and despite the number of weeds!! There were 10 of us: Linda Spinaze, Rob Lundie, Ingrid Rehle-Williams, Paul Sheils, Chris Oates, Jenny Horsfield, Helen Govey, Rohan Thomas, Natasha Newman and Alex Newman. We attempted to clear the area between the Big Reservoir and the southern gate of *verbascum* and to a lesser extent St John's Wort (SJW) and fleabane. SJW was pulled out from around the new plantings near the southern gate as well as from the patches of *xerochrysum* near the GAC rock. It was satisfying to attack the *Verbascum* by removing the seed heads and cut-n dabbing the stalk between the Ridge Path and the Cut-drain Path. Well done all!!

Linda Spinaze

A little is a lot

Apart from the formal monthly working party and people doing their own weeding thing from time to time, throughout January Linda organized a couple of informal weeding groups at short notice. On Sunday 9 January a small group gathered at the Mt Arawang trig and mapped out a wedge of high-stalked *Verbascum* to clear. Working in pairs (Alex and Natasha Newman; Rob Lundie and Linda Spinaze; Helen Govey and Brigitte Brickwood) one cut off the seed head and bagged it while the other dabbed the stalk. This efficient system soon saw the wedge cleared and about 10 bags were hauled off the

Next Meeting

Sunday 20 February 2022

Lincoln Place

Time: 8.30 am – 11.00 am.

Meet: Lincoln Place for Mt Arawang.

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

Task: weeding.

Contact: Linda Spinaze 6288 6916

March meeting: Sun 20, Chauvel Circle.

Ridge. How heavy is a bag full of *Verbascum* seed heads!.



*Alex Newman weeds Verbascum on Mt Arawang
Photo: Natasha Newman*

Thanks to Brigitte for coming all the way from Victoria to join us!

Later that week Linda and Paul Shiels spent a couple of hours at the Old Dam checking the northern plantings and weeding and clipping two of those areas. They were dismayed by the weed growth in the large southern area but Linda and Chris Oates returned a couple of weeks later determined to continue that part of the project. Then in the last weekend of January, Linda gathered Rob Lundie, Helen Govey and Paul to clear out the huge sow thistles (*Sonchus species*) and *Cyperus eragrostis*. They also cleared around each planting and took out the odd fleabane and St John's Wort before rumbling thunder suggested that, with a job well done, it was time to head for home.



Linda, Helen and Paul stand proudly behind their weeding work
Photo: Rob Lundie

Rob Lundie

Spraying program

Parks has been able to re-start its spraying program, which had been interrupted by the persistent rain in December. They hope to tackle St John's Wort, African Love Grass and blackberry during February. Sadly, *verbascum* is not considered a weed worthy of their time, so it's up to our volunteers to attempt to control it!

Linda Spinaze

BNT 1 Wombat 0

In the latest match between the Bicentenary National Trail (BNT) and the wombat, the track above the Old Dam has been repaired making it safer for cyclists. In the process the

wombat burrow has been filled in. In the past this has not deterred the wombat, so we wait to see if it will return to reconstruct its home. PS We have been assured by the road repairers that they make sure the wombat is not at home before starting their work. Talking of wombats. Do you see them out and about on your wanderings? A new web portal has been launched for [reporting wombat sightings](#) in the ACT to map their abundance, distribution and health. You can learn more about the ACT Government's work on [combating wombat mange](#) on the ACT Environment website.

Rob Lundie

Review of the Group's Activities

On Saturday 5 February, eight Group Committee members gathered at the end of Kathner St to review the Group's activities. It was decided that we needed to change the weeding schedule. From now on our monthly weeding meeting points will be Chauvel Circle, the Old Dam, the Anniversary Seat, Darrell Place and Lincoln Place (for Mt Arawang). Extra ad hoc weeding parties can be called by any committee member. Other matters discussed were: tree survey; newsletter distribution; work party notices; use of glyphosate; Group's archives and website; whipper-snipping; Coleman Farm Neighbourhood Park. Minutes of the meeting can be obtained from the Secretary.

Rob Lundie

The Value of Volunteering

A website [report](#) by the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment has estimated that the equivalent wage cost for environmental volunteering work in the ACT would be over \$21.5 million per year. The report website explores how volunteer contributions to a healthy environment in the ACT are measured, recognised, and valued. The website profiles some of the stories of environmental volunteers, together with information about the different types of volunteer opportunities and programs running in the ACT.

Rob Lundie