



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
April 2022

Previous Meeting
Sunday 20 March 2022
Chauvel Circle

A summery autumn afternoon for just four of us as we carried our bags up to One Tree Hill to tackle *Verbascum*, some *Fleabane* and a briar rose. One of the satisfactions of working on a hillside dotted with tall weeds is that as they are cleared (by cutting off the seed head, bagging it and dabbing the remaining stalk), the sky and horizon above the hill top open up. After a number of hours we hauled nine bags down to the track to be collected during the week. While Linda Spinaze, Doug Tinney, Paul Shiels and Rob Lundie worked and admired the views from the hill, Alan Ford continued at his patch near Darrell Place.

Rob Lundie

Butterflies or Butterflowers?

This 'flower arrangement' was spotted by Vincent Conrad on a track on Mt Arawang. Not a flower but a clump of Cabbage white butterflies. But what were they doing? Feeding? Fighting? Mating? According to Lisa Bond in a recent Canberra Times (CT, 19 March 2022, p.9) they were 'mud-puddling: a practice whereby butterflies congregate on a wet surface to drink the nutrients and salts made accessible by the moisture.' She explained: 'They usually do this on mud or wet soil but some butterflies love feeding on more disgusting items like rotting plants and animals, urine and faeces.'

Rob Lundie

Next Meeting
Sunday 10 April 2022
Old Dam

Time: 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm.

Meet: Freebody Place.

Bring: hedging shears to cut grass around our plantings, hat, gloves, water to drink.

Task: weeding.

Contact: Linda Spinaze 6288 6916

May meeting: Sun 15, Anniversary Seat.



Cabbage white butterflies

Photo: Vincent Conrad

BNT 1 Wombat 1

In the February Newsletter it was reported that the track just north of the Old Dam had been repaired and in the process the wombat burrow had been filled in. Well, clearly the wombat was having none of this. It has since resumed its residence as the picture below shows. Hopefully the burrow is deep enough under the track so that the Bicentenary National Trail (BNT) and the wombat can coexist peacefully and safely.



Wombat burrow under track Photo: Rob Lundie

Rob Lundie

Government Inquiry into Environmental Volunteerism

The ACT Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity is holding an inquiry into environmental volunteerism in the ACT. The Committee Chair is Dr Marise Paterson MLA, Member for Murrumbidgee. Issues that the Inquiry is looking into include: the nature of volunteering in the ACT's environmental sector, its current and potential benefits and challenges; opportunities for improving participation in volunteering - including encouraging young people and Indigenous Australians; relations between volunteer organisations, the public and the ACT government. The CRPCG made a submission to the inquiry, detailing its particular experiences since its foundation in 1991 and setting out some firm recommendations for the future. The issues the Group raised and the recommendations it made include: options for enhancing communication and co-operation between volunteer groups and the Parks and

Conservation Service (PCS), strategies for involving young people and other diverse groups in joint activities with volunteer groups, more hands-on training for environmental volunteers, clearer and more frequently updated PCS Volunteer Policies, and better data on what motivates environmental volunteers.

The Group's submission is on the Inquiry's website:

https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/1975790/Submission-017-Coolman-Ridge-Park-Care-Group.pdf

Chris Oates

Track Grading

Weather permitting a burn-off is planned for the area of the Ridge north of Lincoln Place. To this end, the track running up from Guinness Place has recently been graded.

Rob Lundie

Position Vacant: Citizen Scientist (aka Waterwatch Volunteer)

Tasks: Monthly sampling of the water in the two dams on Coolman Ridge; Analysis of the water sampled (properties tested are turbidity, pH, electrical conductivity, dissolved oxygen, phosphates and nitrates); Entering of the data online.

Rewards: A pleasant monthly walk on our ever-changing Coolman Ridge. The warm inner glow of keeping an eye on the health of our dams, and thus contributing to the bigger picture of water health in the Murrumbidgee Catchment and Murray-Darling systems. Opportunities for training in many facets of waterways, their vegetation and aquatic life, along with meeting your kindred spirits with similar interests.

I have been the Coolman Ridge Waterwatch Volunteer since 2010, and now want to move on. My last sampling will be on the morning of Thursday 28th April. Anyone with an interest in seeing how it is done would be welcome to come along. Contact me for further information on: 0419 419 723, or ryan@pcug.org.au

Pat Ryan