

JANUARY 1998

Hi Everyone,



Welcome back to a new year of Parkcaring. I hope you have all got your strength back during the holiday season and are now eager to flex your muscles again.

Individuals and groups have continued working throughout January despite the hot and humid weather and several areas are now looking good.

Because of the very dry conditions we have been asked not to use the whipper snippers and I will not drive on the Ridge. We must not do anything that may risk causing a spark and the consequent fire.

David and I were at a special meeting called in the wake of the Mt Taylor fire and it was impressed upon us that if there is a fire Park Carers must not go near the area until allowed to do so, not even to save trees, shrubs etc. There could be a continuing danger from, among other things, falling branches well after the fire. It was also suggested that, when on the Ridge, you wear suitable clothing (no synthetics) and have a clear idea of your quickest way to a safe point. So far, touch wood, Coolman Ridge has escaped, but the hottest weather has yet to come.

We welcomed Jenny as a new member before Christmas, she has adopted an area above Chauvel Circle gate expanding on Sheena's area. Since Christmas we have had several enquiries and have recruited John who is doing a marvellous job on some very degraded land next to Mt Arawang; he too has become a "caretaker".

We did sell \$1000 worth of goods in Nov/Dec which made a useful addition to help with running costs for the coming year. I now have lots of jams, marmalades and chutneys waiting for a good home at \$2 a jar (including strawberry and fig).

For the February meeting we are asked not to go too far into the Ridge so we will meet at Guinness Place and walk only 20 metres. Here Gösta will explain what we are doing in the tree survey and Pauline will suggest ways to clear an area of exotic weeds and free up the native plants. It will be in the shade of a grove of trees so come whatever the temperature. If you have Park Care tools please bring them to use.

We would welcome ideas for coming meetings, working or walking with experts. We all found the November walks very informative.

I now own a microscope if anyone needs to use it to identify anything.

I have been asked if I will take part in Clean Up Canberra again on Sunday 1st March. I have agreed to have the same spot as last year, Narrabundah Hill on Eucumbine Drive, the grassy area along the road littered with junk again. More about this in the next newsletter.

Could caretakers please let me have their hours and a summary of what they have done, at the end of the month, thank you.

You may be interested in our statistics for 1997:-

Hours	3912
Woody weeds cut & sprayed	3437
Herbaceous weeds pulled or sprayed, at least	194000
Planted Trees & shrubs	1540
Herbaceous plants	276
Grasses planted	409

Whipper snipped large areas of the Ridge as we had said we would. CNP staff also slashed for an extra week but unfortunately were not able to burn the area we had prepared for them.

Well done everyone.

Dates to Remember:

Sunday 8th February Guinness Place 1.30pm

Sunday 1st March Eucumbine Dr all morning

Remember we also meet at the Mt Arawang end on Monday mornings and at the Kathner St end on Friday mornings.

Cheers
Bess (62887536)