



# COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

**Newsletter  
January 2022**

## ***Previous Meeting***

**Sun 19 Dec 2021 Kathner St**

The final weeding party of 2021 met under threatening storm clouds. Eight of the nine volunteers - Lyndal Lewis, Peter Lindenmayer (new member), Chris Oates, Rosalie Pearson, Michael Pearson, Paul Shiels, Rohan Thomas and Linda Spinaze - focused on the area above Chauvel Circle where there were significant clumps of St John's wort and *verbascum*, both now coming into flower.

The recent heavy rains proved both an advantage and a disadvantage. The longer grass growth made it difficult to detect smaller *verbascum* rosettes and wort growth, but the softer soil made it easier to pull the weeds out, particularly the larger and more mature *verbascum* with their long flower spikes. These spikes were lopped off, bagged and removed from the Ridge to prevent any seeds from escaping.



*Xerochrysums*

*Photo: Linda Spinaze*

As well as eliminating several individual clumps of wort, the weeders carefully freed patches of native flowering *Xerochrysum*

## ***Next Meeting***

**Sunday 16 January 2022**

***Darrell Place***

**Time:** 8.30 am – 11.00 am.

**Meet:** Darrell Place.

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

**Task:** weeding

**Contact:** Linda Spinaze 6288 6916

Feb meeting: Sun 20, Lincoln Place

*viscosum* - also known as 'sticky everlasting' - from infestations of the weed. The proximity of the natives to the wort made any spraying out of the question.



*Working on the Ridge*

*Photo: Rosalie Pearson*

Meanwhile, the ninth weeder, Alex Newman, who had planned to walk from Fisher to join the working party, was distracted by, and tackled, one of the spreading patches of *verbascum* on the slopes of Mt Arawang, another result this year's heavy rainfall.

The weeders worked hard and productively until heavy rain set in a bit after 10.30. Many thanks to Lyndal Lewis for providing a dry venue at her house for our follow up Christmas/New Year morning tea.

*Chris Oates*

## **“Rawhide on the Ridge”**

At about 7:30 am on Wednesday, December 8, some movement off the Centenary Trail at the end of Kathner Street caught my eye. Some dozen head of cattle mosied unattended down past the dam, over the coppers logs and were heading north-east along the fence line of the Equestrian park. They were doing a decent click, and I thought it wouldn't be long until they reached the point where Hindmarsh Dr turns into Eucumbene Dr causing a bit of traffic chaos for the morning commute. So, rangers notified, and with the help of neighbour (Dennis) and his kids (Jim and Barney), we kept those doggies movin' back to the relative safety of the Ridge. They were a docile and cooperative mob but they had been on the Ridge since the end of October. So, it probably was not too surprising when Dennis informed me that they had repeated their antics half an hour later. Eventually, we think the owners or rangers appeared and escorted the bovines to Narrabundah Hill, where they graze at present.



*Cattle enjoy momentary freedom* Photo: Nick Crean

*Nick Crean*

## **Wombat not to be deterred**

In last month's Newsletter it was reported that the wombat hole north of the Old Dam had flooded and collapsed yet again. But just before Christmas I saw that the wombat had commenced renovations. Nothing if not determined are the Ridge wombats!

*Rob Lundie*

## **Can you help clear *Verbascum*?**

The Ridge is suffering a proliferation of *Verbascum*. You can help us slow its progress during your walks. All you need is a pair of secateurs and, if possible, a bag and a glyphosate dabber. Just cut off the seed heads, place them in your bag and dab the stem. If you don't have a bag just leave the seed heads together in a clump. Contact the Group if you need a dabber. Many thanks. Every bit helps.



*Verbascum infestation before*



*Verbascum infestation after*

*Photos: Rob Lundie*

*Coolleman Ridge Park Care Group*

## **Parks thanks to volunteers**

“Whilst it hasn't always been easy, with lockdowns causing work to cease, and La Nina creating a haven for weed growth, your individual and team contributions have made a significant impact on Canberra Nature Parks and those who interact with them.”

*Lauren McQueen, Volunteer Programs Manager, Parks and Conservation Service*

**Happy New Year to you all**