



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

**Newsletter
September 2019**

***Previous meeting
Sunday 18 August
Darrell Place***

Overcast skies and a mild temperature made for good weeding conditions for 10 of the Group: Natasha, Sam, Linda, Natasha, Chris, Rohan, Doug, Mick (a Friday group weeder), Gosta and Rob. Up above Darrell Place, Linda pointed out a number of flowering plants namely *Cryptandra* sp. *Floriferous*, *Plantago varia* and *Melichrus urceolatus*.

Then we fanned out to tackle our usual suspects: *Verbascum*, *African Love Grass*, *Phalaris*, *Cootamundra Wattles* and the odd *Briar Rose*. Chris and Linda dismissed some *Cootamundra* wattles which were hiding in the trees, pulling out or cutting and dabbing about twenty. Mick cut and dabbed some deciduous shrubs which had regrown to about 1.5 metres from the previous attack.



BR Doug Sam Rob Natasha Natasha Rohan Gosta
Seated Chris Mick Photo: Linda Spinaze

***Next Meeting
Sunday 15 September
Lincoln Place***

Time: 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm

Meet: End of Lincoln Place

Bring: hat, gloves, secateurs, dabber-dooover, hacker, drink, raincoat if it is wet

Task: plant identification, weeding

Contact: Linda Spinaze 6288 6916

October meeting: Sun 20, Mt Arawang

A small blackberry was also dispatched but there is a huge blackberry which hopefully will be addressed by a contractor at some stage. Natasha and Sam, Chris and Linda made good progress digging out the *African Love Grass* near the rocky promontory, but there are still some left for next time.

Doug and Gosta dug out wild sage, and Gosta attacked some *verbascum*. Natasha tended to her bush regeneration project area. Rob scoured the area for *verbascum* and some small *briar roses*.

The Ridge is looking relatively weed-free at the moment but it will be interesting to see what Spring brings. What we do know is that we will need to remain vigilant.

Linda Spinaze and Rob Lundie

No ifs or butts: litter on the Ridge

One of the joys of walking on Cooleman Ridge is that there is very little litter spoiling it. In a 90 minute walk you are likely collect not much more than a handful of rubbish. The two main items are tissues and cigarette butts. I suspect tissues are not deliberately thrown away but fall out of people's pockets accidentally.

Cigarette butts on the other hand seem to be deliberately discarded as if they are not really litter at all. But they are. On one walk recently I picked up eight butts in a small area along the trail near the steps up to the trig. It would be good if people put their butts in a small box and took them off the Ridge when they leave. A litter-free Ridge is easily attainable if we all take responsibility. Oh, and if you see an 'if' please pick it up.

Rob Lundie

Best place to view the snow

People often comment as to where the best places in Canberra are to see the snow on the surrounding hills. But few vantage points beat Cooleman Ridge as evidenced by this photo taken by Anthea Tinney of snow on the Tidbinbilla Hills on 10 August.



Snow on the Tidbinbilla Hills Photo: Anthea Tinney

Rob Lundie

Does this wombat know something we don't?

It has been several months since the Old Dam has had any water in it and it seems that it will be a long time before it is full again. Recently a wombat has dug a burrow into the side of

the dam under the huge log on the bank. Does it know that the dam will never be full again? Or is it just a rainfall denier?



Wombat hole in the Old Dam Photos: Rob Lundie



Rob Lundie

Best place to view the city

Cooleman Ridge will soon have another seat to complement the Ceremonial Seat and those at the Kathner Street Dam and the Old Dam. The new seat will likely be situated next to Cooleman Trig affording wide views over Canberra.

Rob Lundie

Notes from the August Park Care Group Convenors Meeting

We look forward to meeting, Anthony Hart, our new ranger. Annual planning meetings will resume this year with Marty keen to meet with the Group's convenor, one other member and our ranger to discuss plans and objectives.

Linda Spinaze