

COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
November 2017

Previous meeting
Sunday 15 October
Kathner St

Annual General Meeting

Twelve members sat on the grass under a shady tree at the end of Kathner St to elect the office holders for the next year as follows:

President: Linda Spinaze

Vice President: Alan Ford

Treasurer: Rohan Thomas

Secretary: Rob Lundie

Committee: Brigitte Brickwood, Alan Ford, Jenny Horsfield, Doug Tinney

Linda noted highlights of a successful year and Rohan reported that for a second year the Group's account stood at \$3352.88. Both reports can be found on the Group's website.

The meeting agreed to investigate the construction of sturdy boxes located at various entry points to the Ridge as a means of better distributing the Newsletter. It was also agreed to hold a ceremony to mark the installation of the Group's anniversary seat (see end of Newsletter). The meeting agreed with a suggestion to establish an email address on the Group's website to accept inquiries about the Ridge and the Group.

Working Party

After the AGM, the Group continued its weeding activities. Graham and Rob attacked a large area of *Verbascum* above the Sentry Box. Linda cut and dabbled a blackberry bush along the fence on Fencepost Hill, and then filed her activity under the 'Weeds treated' program on the Collector app downloaded to her phone. She then targeted about 20 small woody weeds and some *Verbascum* rosettes

Next Meeting
Sunday 19 November

Darrell Place

Time: 8.30 am – 11.00 am

NOTE EARLIER TIME

Meet: End of Darrell Place

Bring: hat, gloves, secateurs, dabbler, weeder, hacker, drink, raincoat if it is wet

Task: plant identification, weeding

Contact: Linda Spinaze 6288 6916

on the upper part of the hill. Arminel worked near the dam and Rohan sprayed *Calluna*.

Graham attacked *Verbascum* above Sentry Box

Eastern Rosella

Photo by Linda Spinaze

Practical Weed Control Course

Recently Phil Selmes from P&C ran a course on Invasive Plant Control, specifically targeted for parkcare groups. Steve Taylor, Jenny Canolly and Stu Morrison provided some great advice as to how to identify some weeds, what weeds are becoming more common, and the most effective way to deal with weeds (such as using a hockey stick shaped dabber; using a commercial dabber containing Vigilant gel; applying grains to Serrated Tussock). He also showed us how to effectively wash vehicles to remove seeds. Most of us don't take vehicles onto our reserves, but I found it interesting to know how to do it, so that I now understand what we are asking of our contractors when we request a 'clean vehicle'. Stu presented an entertaining and informative demonstration on personal protective clothing. Phil hopes to run these courses regularly, and I encourage everyone to attend since it filled in some of the gaps that the Chemcert course does not cover.

Linda Spinaze

Acacia viscidula/Sticky Wattle

I recently noticed that a small acacia is flowering near the lower gate near the Big Reservoir. Last year I had this identified by Dave Albrecht at ANBG, but did not have photographs of it. So, I took my camera, and took some photos of this very fine leaved species Acacia viscidula/Sticky Wattle. This acacia is local to Northern NSW, mostly on the tablelands. It is supposed to be sticky, but I could feel no stickiness on the leaves. This joins the other acacias on our list that are 'exotic' but whose presence is tolerated on the ridge to provide some protection for small woodland birds.

Acacia viscidula/Sticky Wattle Photo by Linda Spinaze

Linda Spinaze

Spraying operations

I came across two young men spraying African Lovegrass. They had been requested by our ranger to focus on the Bicentennial Trail. They were finding some small plants, and catching them before seeding. I suspect plants will become more obvious as summer progresses. St John's Wort will be targeted in November and blackberries in March 2018.

Contract sprayer

Photo by Linda Spinaze

Linda Spinaze

Commemorative Seat ceremony

All users of the Ridge are invited to a small ceremony to mark the installation of the seat on the Ridge in recognition of the work done by the CRPCG over the past 25 years.

When: Sunday 19 November at 8.30 am

Where: Meet at the end of Darrell Pl or at the seat under the large tree at the top of the

Centenary Trail opposite the panorama map.

Meet: Rangers Richard Barnsley and Phil Selmes.

Light refreshments provided.

CRPCG commemorative seat Photo by Rob Lundie

Rob Lundie