



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

**Newsletter
October 2017**

***Previous meeting
Sunday 17 September
Lincoln Place***

A perfect, clear, sunny afternoon without the Spring wind made for excellent weeding conditions for seven Group members: Pat, Arminel, Chris, Alan, Malcolm, Rohan, Rob and Doug. Pat headed over to Mt Arawang to check on the thistles and removed hundreds of small rosettes. Rohan continued his *Phalaris* eradication campaign. Arminel spent most of her time on *Verbascum* but she also removed a number of seedlings and small bushes of our evergreen heritage woody weed, Firethorn (*Pyracantha angustifolia*). Higher up the slope is a thriving clump of larger ones. Sawing and poisoning will be required to ensure their demise, so a return visit is planned. There will also be some surviving Sweetbriars to attend to another time. Other members continued to deal with *Verbascum*. Although it has spread further north along the Ridge, it was particularly pleasing to see that after just two working parties at Lincoln Place, this weed has largely been eliminated. This vindicates the Group's philosophy of keeping on top of weeds on a regular basis.

Rob Lundie

Walking on the Ridge

On the 27th September, the ANPS Wednesday Walkers spent the morning and early afternoon perambulating around the Kathner Street Nature Trail, with an extension along the Centenary Trail to admire and have lunch by the new anniversary seat. The day was warm and sunny, and we had clear views of the Brindabellas, and a chough

Next Meeting

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 15 October

Kathner Street

Time: 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm

Meet: End of Kathner St

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

Task: plant identification, weeding

sitting on a nest. Due to the very hot day the previous Saturday, many plants had suddenly burst into flower. Most amazing was the *Eucalyptus polyanthemos*/Red-box trees.



Eucalyptus nortonii

Photo by Linda Spinaze

Some of these had almost disappeared behind a haze of cream flowers. And the *Lissanthe strigosa* were thick with white blooms, with one specimen displaying beautiful pink flowers. Also noticeable were the *Eucalyptus nortonii* that had vibrant enamel-red branchlets. Some plants were obviously distressed by the long, dry winter conditions, especially the *Cheilanthes* ferns, the *Dodonaea viscosa ssp angustissima* and the

Indigofera adesmiifolia. On the other hand, the *Indigofera australis* looked green and healthy, as did the patch of *Pomaderris angustifolia*. A bearded dragon totally ignored our efforts to photograph him warming himself up on a rock after the winter cold. There was prolonged discussion amongst some of us regarding the identity of an *Acacia doratoxylon* - or was it *A. floribunda* or *A. longifolia*? Our different sources seemed to be in conflict. Hopefully the ANBG will be able to make some sense of our samples.



Bearded dragon

Photo by Linda Spinaze

Linda Spinaze

Old Yellow Box tree above Lincoln Place

This *Eucalyptus melliodora*, just to the right of the track going from the bridge above Lincoln Place to Lincoln saddle, was entered in Pauline Lyngå's list on 13th December 1997: height - 21 metres, girth - 3.75 metres. Just over five years later it was caught by the 18 January 2003 firestorm. Its crown was incinerated and most of the trunk fell as burning logs. The stump, four metres high, remained but only as a hollow burnt out shell. Dead? You might have thought so. But there was sufficient residual life within the burnt cambium (and roots) that one epicormic shoot emerged on its southern side (the windward side in this fire, always slightly less hot than the lee side.) That epicormic shoot grew to be a four metre tree in 2010, and over seven metres this year.

However, is it a tree? When is a tree, a tree? This one has not developed its own trunk. It is still clinging to the side of the hollow stump, from which it must be accessing the root system of the pre-2003 tree. The criterion for inclusion in the tree survey is a diameter greater than 15 cm, so this would not have been counted in 2010, but would qualify now! The broken fallen pieces of the burnt upper

trunk now provide a haven for the regeneration of local native plants.



31 January 2010

Photo by Pat Ryan



29 September 2017

Photo by Pat Ryan

Pat Ryan

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 15 October, 1.30 pm, Kathner St

All Cooleman Ridge Park Care Group members and friends are welcome to the AGM which should take about 30 minutes. Apart from committee elections, the meeting will discuss the physical and electronic means of distributing the Newsletter; and the proposed ceremony to mark the installation of the anniversary seat.