

**MEMBERS NEWSLETTER NO 64
JULY 1998**



Hi Everyone,

What a wonderful turn out for the waterwatch meeting despite the early drizzle; 12 members, 2 visitors and a Ranger! We found some interesting little creatures in the two dams and it spurred us on to greater efforts in our monitoring. Thank you to Sandra who arranged the meeting and will be exploring sponsorship possibilities for each of the dams.

Another thank you to David who spent long hours before the Art Show in Cooleman Court planning where everything should hang and how to do it. Thanks also to Doreen who looked after the desk for a while to give David and me a break. The event was an excellent public relations exercise as well as adding \$140 to our coffers. The raffle was drawn on the Saturday afternoon and was won by a lady from Fisher, (it raised half the total profits). We will probably have another show next year so all you artists get busy.

Our finances can also be increased by the sale of our fine stock of jams, marmalades, lemon butter and chutneys, all at \$2 a jar.

Peter and I have continued to whipper snip alongside the horse trail and have a substantial area of really thick phalaris knocked down. I have approached ACTEW to sponsor whipper snipping around their reservoirs; if we are successful I will be looking for helpers at \$10 per working hour. Please think if you know anyone who may be interested, they must be over 18 years old.

With Spring on the horizon planning is now under way for Arbor Week (5 - 12th September); Green Up Day (13th September) and Weedbuster Week (11 - 18th October)

We will be planting in Arbor week but what and where is not yet finalised.

On Green Up Day I would like us to lead two walks on the Ridge, 8.30am (hope to see birds) and 2pm. We would like as many members as possible to join the walks to explain to any visitors what we are doing, why and how they can help even if only pulling weeds while they walk along. Please spread the word about the walks, the walk leaders are not yet finalised.

For Weedbuster week we have decided to stretch it by starting straight away. Last year October was hot and the school children were not able to participate because their parents were afraid of them meeting snakes. This year we are counting how many Paterson's Curse plants we dig up and giving a grand total at the end of Weedbuster Week (so get digging and counting; Sandra did 700 in less than an hour on Friday).

Back to August and the meeting on Sunday 2nd will be a "choose what you do" day. We meet at Guinness Place at 1.30pm and, if you are on time, you can drive through and up to the small reservoir. There we will be weeding along the spillway, whipper snipping down the slope, clearing corrugated iron from an old dump, or pulling up and bagging St John's Wort.

As we are in a new financial year we need to have an AGM. With two committee members out of the country I can't fix a definite date but it will be on a Friday in late September or early October. If you have a favourite date let me know.

Please tell me about any hours you have worked on/off the Ridge this month at or before the August meeting.

Statistics for June :-

Hours	On Ridge	171.5
	Off Ridge	104
Woody weeds cut & sprayed or dug		196
Herbaceous weeds pulled or sprayed		8065
Trees and shrubs planted		18
Herbaceous plants planted		114
Grasses planted		100
Whipper snipping		A lot!

Dates to Remember:

Sunday 2nd August	Guinness Place 1.30pm
17th July to 17th October	Digging Paterson's Curse
Wednesdays from 9.30 am	Whipper Snipping - phone me.

Pauline will be the contact person from 3 to 17th August on 62882009

Cheers
Bess (62887536)

Malcolm