



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

**Newsletter
October 2021**

Previous Meeting (cancelled) Sun 19 Sept 2021 Lincoln Place

Covid lockdown restrictions again meant the cancellation of our weeding party. Unfortunately, the weeds have not been going into lockdown, so it is encouraging that people have been using their two hours of designated daily exercise time to do some weeding on the Ridge.

Rob Lundie

Relocating Possums and Native Wildlife

During a recent walk along the Ridge, my friend and I came across a young man with a box at his feet near the circular reservoir. When I enquired what was happening, he explained that it was a possum box and called over his mother, Orana. She enthusiastically outlined the program of attaching the boxes to trees and relocating possums. Once a possum has been released, it is monitored over several nights to ensure it has safely adapted to its new environment. She and her family are members of [ACT Wildlife](http://www.actwildlife.org.au) (ACTW) which is a volunteer organisation committed to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of native wildlife in the ACT. If you come across injured, sick or orphaned wildlife you can call their 24/7 hotline on 0432300033. However, please note that fledgling birds do not always need rescuing. Baby birds come out of their nests and cannot fly well for a few days. They are attended to by their parents during this time. Please watch from a distance and if you

Next Meeting (Covid permitting)

Sunday 17 October 2021

Mt Arawang

Time: 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm.

Meet: Horse paddocks on Namatjira Dr.

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

Task: weeding.

Contact: Linda Spinaze 6288 6916

Nov meeting and AGM: Sun 21, Kathner St

do not see the parents then they may need to be rescued.



Possums

Photo: ACT Wildlife

Rob Lundie

Picnics, Cairns and Pink-tailed Worm Lizards

Many people have discovered Cooleman Ridge as an ideal place for daily exercise and picnics during lockdown. What could beat sitting by one of the completely full dams or on a rocky slope overlooking the valley? It can also be fun to pile up the rocks into a cairn. But please don't do this as the rocks are homes to lots of creatures, especially the rare pink-tailed worm lizard. If you destroy their homes then they become vulnerable to predators and have to find a new home. Just enjoy nature the way it is. And please take your picnic chairs away with you. A number were removed recently and can be retrieved by ringing 0418291735.

Rob Lundie

Stay on Track

There are many established trails and tracks on Cooleman Ridge such as the Bicentennial National Trail and the Centenary Trail which are great for walking, running, and bike-riding. Some of the narrower tracks wind around bends and it is tempting to cut corners to save time or get a faster run. However, the established trails have been specifically designed with environmental preservation in mind. Creating new tracks results in soil erosion and degradation of the vegetation. So, please stick to the established tracks.



'Do not create new tracks' official notice just up from square reservoir before you get to the Anniversary Seat
Photo: Rob Lundie

Rob Lundie

Pink-tailed Worm Lizard Survey 2015

In 2015 Will Osborne and David Wong conducted a survey of this threatened species, *Aprasia parapulchella*, in order that future decisions regarding the management of Cooleman Ridge would be informed and any future activities that would potentially impact on the habitat should be modified.

Cooleman Ridge is one of the sites of the *Aprasia*'s patchy distribution along the Murrumbidgee. *Aprasias* were first surveyed in 1993, where four of the nine sites surveyed found specimens. In 2015, 20 sites were surveyed, and 12 of those sites contained *Aprasia*. Most of these sites were in the northern part of the Ridge, but there was also a good scatter in the middle and on northern aspects of Mt. Arawang.

Aprasia prefer sites which contain numerous scattered rocks, 10-30cm in diameter, well-weathered and partially embedded in the soil and grass. The site will have few trees, and contain mostly native tussocky grasses, especially kangaroo grass, but also red-leg, *aristida* and *cymbopogen* grasses and *lomandra*.



Pink-tailed worm lizards

If you know a site that fills these requirements, please be particularly careful not to disturb any of the rocks/stones, because that stone could be protecting the habitat of a special pink-tailed worm lizard.

Linda Spinaze

Annual General Meeting

10.30 am Sunday 21 November 2021
End of Kathner St, Chapman All welcome