

COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
August 2017

Previous meeting
Sunday 16 July
Chauvel Circle

A clear sunny afternoon took the edge off a crisp Winter's afternoon as nine Group members met at the end of Kathner St. It was particularly pleasing to meet and welcome newcomer, Chris.

Before heading off to Chauvel Circle, everyone gathered near the pamphlet box to discuss the proliferation of eucalyptus saplings under the trees. Concern was expressed that they are too thick and will cause an increasing fire hazard. They also threaten to shade out some of the grasses and forbs being established in the area. It was suggested that they be thinned out, possibly leaving 5-10 small trees for every mature tree.

Currently the saplings are small enough for the Group to cut and dab, or use a saw if necessary. A specific work party could be organised for this job but assistance would be needed in removing the litter off the Ridge. It was recognised that Parks and Fire Management would need to be consulted before embarking on this project.

Malcolm took the opportunity to point out the spot on the pamphlet box where he had removed a graffiti tag that had recently appeared.

It was reported that Parks would like to work on the Nature Trail, improving it and changing the signs to encourage more people

Next Meeting
Sunday 20 August

Darrell Place

Time: 1.30 pm– 4.00 pm

Meet: End of Darrell Place

Bring: hat, gloves, secateurs, doona cover, hacker, drink, raincoat if it is wet

Task: plant identification, weeding

Contact: Linda Spinaze 6288 6916

to use it rather than the dangerously steep and gravel-slippery 'yellow brick road'.

Up in the vicinity of Chauvel Circle Doug and Chris dealt with verbascom (thapsis and virgatum), and fleabane. Alan and Malcolm also tackled some verbascom as did Jenny and Gota who also added fleabane and St Johns Wort to their targets in Pauline's Patch.

Linda disposed of verbascom thapsis rosettes and verbascom virgatum flower spikes (the latter being removed from the site because they still had seed in the heads). A similar method was used on fleabane (again, removing the flowering heads from site).

Rob hacked out a few isolated briar roses and a newly emerging blackberry. Rohan continued his relentless crusade against phalaris.

Rob Lundie

Tree Survey on Coolerman Ridge

In 1997 our Park Care Group started a survey of the trees on the ridge. You may still come across metal tags with numbers on some trees. The numbers define the area (1 to 8) and the individual tree number.

Photo by Gosta Lynga

On our web site www.coolermanridge.org.au click on "Flora" and then on "Tree Survey" and you get access to the survey guide and Excel files with the data for each of the trees, its species, size, health, position, and much more. There are also photos of some of the trees and their GPS coordinates, so that the trees can be identified even after the 2003 fire destroyed some of the tags.

Area 1 near Kathner Street was revisited in 2009 and comparisons were made to draw conclusions about the trees. The report from that study is also available on the web site. Obviously, it would be very welcome if somebody wants to revisit one or another of the areas and make new observations for comparisons with the stored data. Send me an e-mail (gosta@esc.net.au) if you want to know more about this.

Gösta Lyngå

Curious Coolerman

Does anyone know the history and significance of the tag in the photo below? It is located on a tree on your right and just before the step through gate as you proceed up the Darrell Place Fire Trail from the Bicentennial Nature Trail. The metal strip is tied to the tree at about head height and has recently had a bicycle reflector attached to it. There are no other identifying features and Gosta says it is not a part of the tree survey mentioned in the article above. Any suggestions can be emailed to the Editor.

Photo by Rob Lundie

Commemorative Seat

You may have your favourite site on the Ridge where you like to just sit and watch and contemplate it may be a special rock, underneath Coolerman Trig, or the seats by the Kathner Street Dam and the Old Dam. Now there is a new place to commemorate 25 years of service in the care of Coolerman Ridge by the Coolerman Ridge Park Care Group. Parks recently installed a commemorative seat under the large tree at the top of the Centenary Trail just across from the panoramic map board and a cairn of rocks.

Photo by Rob Lundie

At some point in the coming months there will be a small 'ceremony' to mark this achievement. So, watch this space.