



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

**Newsletter
October 2020**

Previous Meeting Sunday 20 September 2020 Chauvel Circle

Rain earlier in the day threatened this month's weeding but 14 of us gathered at the end of Kathner St then headed up to the area above Chauvel Circle. Ingrid, Jenny and Peter (Flint) weeded Reet's patch. Rohan sprayed his targeted weeds. Doug weeded the Nature trail. Natasha and Chris planted *xerochrysum*, then joined Paul, Linda and Jumo digging out the Paterson's Curse. Helen, Brigitte and Lyndall dug out Paterson's Curse near the *Eucalyptus nortonii* grove.

Rob wandered over the Olympic site dealing with Paterson's Curse, briar roses and *verbascum*. A brief shower had people seeking shelter but it was not enough to force them off the Ridge.

Linda Spinaze and Rob Lundie

Friday Group at Kathner St

We were visited by Mike Mulvaney who pointed out a Sacred Kingfisher on a tree near the horse-paddock fence. The brilliant little bird came down to the dam fishing and diving several times, then drying its feathers before leaving. A Willie Wagtail joined it, swinging its tail and chittering about in the same area, on the uphill bank of the dam. It's likely they'll both be about again, so let us know if anyone gets a good photo.

We also had a visit from a very knowledgeable lady and her two grandchildren. With a beaker and magnifying glass they looked for bugs and found a

Next Meeting Sunday 18 October 2020 Darrell Place

Time: 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm

Meet: Darrell Place

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

Task: Weeding of invasive, exotic plants. Native plant identification.

Contact: Linda Spinaze 6288 6916

November meeting: Sun 15, Lincoln Place

tadpole. They were excited to see big blue dragonflies and both blue and red damselflies hovering about.

Ingrid and I transplanted native grasses grown from seed provided by Linda, and raised by Pat Ryan. Ideal conditions for the task.

We removed mainly Proliferous Pink and introduced grasses (Rye, Wild Oats) from the area in which we did the transplanting.

The Yam Daisies Ingrid planted there previously are looking okay, and there is a Golden Everlasting daisy (*Xerochrysum*) coming into flower. Lots of native tomatoes are emerging and flowers are still on the *Indigophera australis* bushes.

We took away some clumps of African Love Grass, from which we had removed the seed on a previous occasion.

Only one bag of dog's droppings today - but we weren't looking for them.

Arminel Ryan

Orana School Year 4 Visit

On Friday 11th September, my colleague and I rode our bikes from Orana Steiner School to the Kathner Street entrance of Cooleman Ridge Nature Reserve with 42 Year 4 students. We certainly picked the perfect day for it! We left our bikes outside the reserve and walked to the trig point to have lunch. On the way we met a lovely member of the Cooleman Ridge Park Care Group [Arminel] who told us about the wood ducks which have their nest near the dam and come out for regular swims. We managed to catch a glimpse of mum and dad but the ducklings knew better than to come out with all those children watching (even though the children waited in silence). The scenery at the back of Cooleman Ridge is breathtaking and I could hear the children also gasping in awe as they looked over to the Brindabellas which seemed so close. The many landmarks of Canberra we could see from the trig point at the top took us back to our Local Geography and History Main Lesson - it was like being reunited with an old friend. Being there on such a beautiful day made it all the more magical. We had such a wonderful time. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the work you put in to keep this very special place so beautiful.



Waiting for the ducklings Photo: Lena Hoffman-Raap

Lena Hoffman-Raap
Year 4 Teacher, Orana Steiner School

Paterson's Curse, Cape Weed, Little Eagles, Cows and Flowers

With recent rain and warm weather Paterson's Curse has taken off on the Ridge and surrounding countryside. Fortunately, at the time of writing, cape weed which has

exploded throughout Canberra, has not taken a serious hold on the Ridge.

Mike Mulvaney (Red Hill Regenerators) has been out watching for Little Eagles and asks us to report any sightings, with the direction in which we see the birds flying away. He is also interested in any reports of Gang-Gangs, and particularly any using nesting hollows. In the past two weeks groups of 13 cows have been grazing along the back trail and in the third week there were 26 of them.



Cows at the Old Dam

Photo: Rob Lundie

Beautiful Cream Candles and Bulbine Lilies can be seen in 'kangaroo valley'. These can be viewed by coming out of Darrell Place and going left on the fire trail. Then continue straight ahead for about 50 metres on the dirt track and look to your right,

Rob Lundie

Annual General Meeting

Damp ground forced 14 members to stand in a circle at the end of Kathner St for the AGM on 20 September. That it was all over within ten minutes is probably testament to the stability and harmony within the Group, ably led by Linda. All members agreed to continue in their roles with Paul Shiels a welcome addition to the committee. Office bearers for next year are:

President: Linda Spinaze

Vice President: Alan Ford

Secretary/Editor: Rob Lundie

Treasurer: Rohan Thomas

Public Officer: Doug Tinney

Committee: Brigitte Brickwood, Jenny Horsfield, Natasha Cole, Paul Shiels, Chris Oates, Doug Tinney.

Thanks to Roger and Chris for providing afternoon tea.

Rob Lundie