



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
November 2022

Previous Meeting ***Sunday 16 October 2022*** ***The Anniversary Seat***

Six of us (Linda Spinaze, Natasha Newman, Jenny Horsfield, Jenny Shapcott, Paul Sheils and Rob Lundie) gathered at the end of Darrell Place where Paul demonstrated a battery-charged spray pack, and Rob a tool to extract weeds. Linda pointed out the area across from the octagonal reservoir where we will work with a scout group to plant trees. Then we headed up to the Anniversary Seat where we attacked *Verbascum* by bagging the seed heads, chopping out or cutting and dabbing the rosettes. On a pleasant Spring afternoon, we felt pleased to have made a significant effect on the area, having removed nine bags of seed heads from an area that is now thick with yellow Australian paper-daisies (*Xerochrysum viscosum*). These should develop their full flowers soon. It was good to meet appreciative walkers, runners and bike riders as we paused to look over to the Bullen Range and beyond. On the way back, Linda could not resist removing a briar rose. It was noted that there seemed to be fewer of this weed this year. A credit to our efforts over the years?

Rob Lundie

Annual General Meeting 2022

10.30 am Sunday 20 November. Meet at the end of Darrell Place, Chapman. All welcome.

Rob Lundie

Next Meeting and AGM ***Sunday 20 November 2022*** ***Darrell Place***

Time: 8.30 am – 11.00 am.

NOTE NEW TIME. AGM at 10.30.

Meet: Darrell Place.

Bring: hat, gloves, water to drink.

Task: weeding.

Contact: Rob Lundie 0418291735

Dec meeting: Sun 18, Lincoln Place.

Frogs on the Ridge

Have you noticed all the frogs calling on Cooleman Ridge? They really love this wet weather, so the males are madly calling for mates, particularly in late afternoon and early evening. The most common one you'll hear is the Common Eastern Froglet (*/Crinia signifera*),/ whose "crick, crick, crick" call is a bit like a child's toy clicker. This one is a bit unusual, as it often calls at other times of the year too. Because we usually hear rather than see frogs, the experts have colourful ways of describing the calls. Another common one on the Ridge is the Spotted Marsh Frog, whose call sounds like a toy machine gun, a rapidly repeated "uk, uk, uk". Then there's the Plains Froglet, with its high pitched "reeeeet", and the Pobblebonk (a guttural "plonk"), and the Green and Golden Bell frog, which sounds like a motorcycle revving followed by a grunt. Listen carefully and you'll soon be able to differentiate them.

Lots of others in our area too, with calls sounding like a cork being removed, a table tennis ball, and a maniacal laugh. Frogs are key indicators of ecosystem health, so it's important that they are monitored. We've just completed the ACT's annual Frogtober survey, during which over 200 sites are monitored. But your next opportunity comes with the national FrogID survey, from 11-20 November. But you can help monitor and get identification assistance any time if you download the Australian Museum's FrogID app -

www.frogid.net.au<<http://www.frogid.net.au>>
Hop to it!

Peter Lindenmeyer

Scout Group Tree Planting

On Sunday 6 November we enjoyed a very successful tree-planting event with the valuable assistance of the Stromlo Forrest Scout Group. Some of the plants were purchased by the Scouts with a grant from the ACT Childrens' Week Committee, and additional plants were provided by Parks and Conservation Service. We planted a mixture of mostly eucalypts and acacias to the south of the Square Reservoir. About 20 scouts, cubs and parents planted the 120 species in six sites, under the guidance of CRPCG volunteers: Paul Sheils, Helen Govey, Alan Ford, Natasha Newman and Linda Spinaze. Our work was greatly enhanced by three rangers who dug the holes with an amazing auger, and provided the guards and stakes for protection. Many thanks to all involved, and especially to whoever organised the beautiful sunny day!



Linda Spinaze and Senior Ranger Kristy Gould select the plants
Photo: Natasha Newman



Plantings by the scouts Photo: Natasha Newman

Linda Spinaze

Spray Unit review

I recently gave a SOLO 406Li battery sprayer a trial on my patch. It has a 6 litre spray tank and weighs approximately 2kg empty with specifications saying 3.5hrs spraying time. Unfortunately, it only comes with a shoulder strap so I picked up a second hand backpack and adapted that to take the spray unit. I found the approximately 8kg load quite manageable while spot spraying on rough terrain. I was targeting *Verbascum*, *Fleabane* and thistles. I used a thumb operated Tally Counter to record each herbicide application. The tank was empty after about two hours and my tally was 807 which averages 7.43mls per application. I used 100ml of 360g/L Glyphosate with 6ltr water. I had enough battery run time to clean out the sprayer when I got home. Overall, quite happy with this spray unit for spot spraying.



SOLO 406Li battery sprayer Photo: Paul Sheils

Paul Sheils