



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
May 2024

Previous Meeting

Sunday 21 April 2024

The Anniversary Seat

It was one of those perfect Canberra Autumn days, gloriously sunny, no wind, with the temperature just right. And where better to experience it than on the Ridge near the Anniversary Seat looking over the valley. Six of us (Linda Spinaze, Paul Sheils, Jenny Shapcott, Natasha Newman, Rob Lundie and Helen Govey) walked up from Darrell Place. We spent most of the time cutting a swathe up the hill, lopping the heads off *St Johns Wort* which we stuffed into 14 bags. A couple of hours later we carted them back down to Darrell Place. A 'random' passer-by very kindly took two of the bags for us. She had worked on track maintenance and understood and appreciated what we were doing. Other weeds we tackled were *Verbascum* and briar rose. Meanwhile, Alan Ford worked along the cut-drain near Darrell Place. It was good to have him back. Being school holidays, there were quite a few walkers on the Ridge that afternoon, one of whom spotted a fox running across the track near the Old Dam wombat hole. There was also a woman painting a scene of the valley and a young couple who marvelled at the Ridge and its views, having just discovered it for the first time. Seeing people enjoying the Ridge makes our weeding efforts all the more worthwhile.

Rob Lundie

Next Meeting

Sunday 19 May 2024

Darrell Place

Time: 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm.

Meet: Darrell Place.

Bring: hat, gloves, water to drink.

Task: weeding – attacking woody weeds

Contact: Linda Spinaze 62886916

June meeting: Sun 16 Lincoln Place

What Tree is That?

Do you have a favourite tree on Coleman Ridge, one that gives you a lift in the early morning or late afternoon light? Have you ever wondered what that tree is called? I certainly have which is why since October 2022 Linda Spinaze, Deirdre McKeown and I have embarked on a project to identify and label significant trees that you may come across as you walk along the Ridge. We have been gradually walking along the various trails and picking out certain mature native trees of a moderate size that are close to the track and which you are likely to pass. I place a numbered card at the tree, Deirdre takes a photo of the tree and records it on a master sheet. Then Linda identifies the tree. This is no easy feat as there are so many varieties and it can be difficult to differentiate amongst them. However, by observing the bark, the leaves, the seeds and with the aid of the book: Field Guide to the Native Trees in the ACT, (and much discussion), a tree name is agreed

upon and recorded. After that, Deirdre writes up a sign for the tree which includes its common and botanical names. I then place the sign at the base of the tree or close to it. Sometimes it has to be wrapped around the trunk, We hope that your enjoyment of the Ridge is enhanced by the identification of its trees. My favourite tree is the Red Box (*Eucalyptus polyanthemos*) just next to the Anniversary Seat. We still have to cover much of the southern end of the Ridge but if you have a special tree that you would like identified and labelled please let us know.



Tree identification sign Photo: R. Lundie

Rob Lundie

Using the NatureMapr app

Recently after I had uploaded a sighting using my “NatureMapr” app I was surprised to receive the following message:

Your **Brachychiton populneus (Kurrajong)** sighting is making an impact!

Your impact: Your sighting is a new species for the following locations: [Cooleman Ridge](#)

This message can probably be explained by our tendency to mainly seek out the unusual rather than the more common flora. It is a good reminder to also map these more common species so that others know what we have on the Ridge. I have found that the “NatureMapr” app is a good learning tool to get practice in species identification. I have found the best way to use it is to initially just take several photos with my phone which has the camera location tags set to on. That way in the comfort of home I can identify the species from reference material before adding the sighting to Nature Map. This link:

<https://canberra.naturemapr.org/locations/sightings/23?p=3> will take you to sightings on Cooleman Ridge. To subscribe to receive alerts of new sightings and record your own sightings on the Ridge you will need to set up an account with your email address and password. It is very interesting to see what others have recorded and adds interest to walks on the Ridge. NatureMapr has recently announced that “NatureMapr ACT based data has started to feed into the new [Biodiversity Data Repository \(BDR\)](#) being established by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water”. “The BDR is an important initiative from the Australian government that will:

- Make data on living things in Australia easier to find, access, share and use
- Improve the currency and accuracy of biodiversity information
- Create a system that will work side-by-side with existing environment information systems
- Build capability for other systems to share data with the repository.

This will support our planning, decision-making and reporting. The repository will improve the management and conservation of Australia’s biodiversity”.

Everyone is encouraged to get out there and record their sightings as your data can help protect biodiversity in our reserves.

Paul Sheils



Cooleman Ridge

Photo: Natasha Newman