



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
August 2025

Previous Meeting

Sunday 20 July 2025

Darrell Place

A warm and sunny Winter's afternoon for 12 of us as we walked up from Darrell Place behind Linda's car to Sentry Box rock. From there we crossed the cut-drain to tackle clumps of blackberry covering the slope. While Paul and Linda used the power tools to slash and make short work of the largest outcrop, the rest of us went after the smaller infestations. However, we soon discovered that blackberries are like icebergs (90% below the water line) in that there are many more canes running through the grass than are apparent at first glance. Still, we kept at it and by the end of the afternoon, we had established sizeable piles which will facilitate spraying of the new shoots in the Spring.



Paul and Linda demonstrate their newly acquired power tool prowess
Photo: Rob Lundie

As we mopped up Verbascum and the occasional thistle and briar rose, Paul and

Next Meeting

Sunday 17 August 2025

Darrell Place

Time: 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm.

Meet: Darrell Place

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

Task: Weeding African Love Grass

Contact: Linda Spinaze 0417276497

Linda headed over to near Kangaroo Valley to attack another blackberry outcrop.

Those who came to the weeding party were: Linda Spinaze, Paul Sheils, Jenny Shapcott, Catarina Llorens, Chris Oates, Alan Ford, Rohan Thomas, Hamish McGlynn, Tom Babington, Nick Nicholls, Rob Lundie, and very welcome newcomer Ian Priddle.



Paul after apologising to the wombat for disturbing its sleep
Photo: Rob Lundie

Before leaving, some committee members discussed the new brochure about the Group and Cooleman Ridge which is being produced by SACTCG.

Rob Lundie

Types of Weeds

A weed is a plant growing in an area it is not wanted. Weeds are generally classified into invasive species, transformer species or sleeper weeds depending on their environmental impact.

Invasive species: Weeds that adversely impact natural areas are termed invasive species. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) definition shows the difference between weeds and invasive plants: "Invasive alien species are animals, plants or other organisms, introduced by humans, either intentionally or accidentally, into places outside of their natural range, negatively impacting native biodiversity, ecosystem services or human economy and well-being". So, all invasive plants are weeds, but not all weeds are invasive plants.

Transformer species: Transformer species are weeds that alter the ecology of the area they grow in. For example, transformer species can excessively use resources, promote or suppress fire, promote erosion, accumulate litter/sand/sediment and accumulate salt.

Sleeper weeds: Sleeper weeds are plants that have naturalised to an environment and have a potential to become invasive. When prioritizing which weeds to remove, it is important to monitor populations of sleeper weeds and be ready to remove them if the populations increase.

Invasive species and transformer species are priority weeds. Sleeper weeds are ones to keep an eye on.

[ACT Weeds Manual](#)

Update on the Western Edge of the ACT

As you know the CRPCG is a member of the Conservation Council ACT (CCACT) - the peak body which works towards protecting our environment in the ACT.

A particular and ongoing environmental concern for the CRPCG is the discussion about further urban development of Canberra's Western Edge ie the area which runs from the back of the Ridge to the Murrumbidgee River and therefore includes the suburbs of Weston Creek and extends south to Kambah and north to the Molonglo Valley (including Bluett's Block) and Belconnen.

The ACT Government, with support from other MLAs, and following the recently released report ([Close to the Edge](#)) which indicates the dire state of the ACT environment, has agreed to release an amendment to the Territory Plan by June 2027, establishing an urban growth boundary [Big News!](#)

This is a great start, but the boundary line is an issue as the government has not ruled out its placement beyond the Western Edge!

What can we do to protect the Ridge and our environment?

The CCACT has a campaign in the pipeline to protect the Western Edge. This campaign will be long term and will involve community groups such as the CRPCG. Our role will be vital, and we will keep you posted. [Source: CCACT website and Yellow Box newsletter, 27 June 2025]

In the meantime, Dr Maxine Cooper, ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, and Miranda Gardner, Director, Complaints and Investigations are speaking at a webinar on Tuesday 12 August 11 am to 12pm. [Register here.](#)

And, talk to your friends and neighbours - it is surprising the number of people who are unaware of this threat to our already vulnerable environment right on our doorstep!

Helen Govey

CRPCG AGM Notice

This year's annual general meeting of the Group will take place on Monday 6 October from 3 pm at 78 Sidaway St, Chapman. The agenda will include the President's and Treasurer's reports and the election of office bearers and the committee. RSVP:

lundier@iinet.net.au If you would like to join the committee let me know. All welcome.

Rob Lundie, Secretary, CRPCG