



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
October 2018

Previous meeting
Sunday 16 September
Above Chauvel Circle

A fairly typical Canberra spring afternoon saw ten of us (the most since last year's AGM in November) gather above Chauvel Circle to see which exotic invasive plants had emerged over the area following controlled burn-offs in April, and stimulating rainfalls in recent weeks. Pleasingly there were no *Verbascum*, a rare occurrence.

However there were plenty of St John's Wort, *Phalaris*, wild sage and Paterson's Curse rosettes for Linda, Doug, Rohan, Bridget, Chris, Rob, Gosta, Arminel, Alan and Malcolm to deal with. This was accomplished by hacking or poisoning.

It may seem that all we do is weed but this is not the case. The Group also carries out regeneration work. This photo shows Alan spreading Kangaroo Grass seeds on either side of one of the fences.



Alan spreads Kangaroo Grass above Chauvel Circle
Photo: Rob Lundie

Rob Lundie

Next Meeting
Sunday 21 October
Darrell Place

Time: 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm

Meet: Darrell Place

Bring: hat, gloves, secateurs, dabber-doover, hacker, drink, raincoat if it is wet

Task: plant identification, weeding

Contact: Linda Spinaze 6288 6916

Nov. meeting: Sun 18 Nov, Lincoln Close

Rare sighting on the Ridge 1: Speckled warbler (*Pyrrholaemus sagittata*)



Speckled warbler (*Pyrrholaemus sagittata*)
Photo: S Wishart Source: Canberra Nature Map

This Speckled Warbler was seen on the Ridge in mid-September by S Wishart. These birds forage singly or in small groups often in the company of other birds such as thornbills, honeyeaters, and robins. They hop around

while foraging for insects in the leaf litter and fallen branches underneath trees. If interrupted, they fly quickly to safety on a higher perch before resuming their foraging.

Rob Lundie and [Birdlife Australia](#)

New sighting on the Ridge 2: Ant-eating spider (*Habronestes* sp)

This ant-eating spider was located on the Ridge in August by S Wishart and confirmed in September by Michael Mulvaney.

Habronestes is an ant-eating spider genus that occurs only in Australia. Spiders in this genus are 2.5 to 10.5 mm long, with an orange or sepia brown body and yellow or pale brown legs.



Ant-eating spider (*Habronestes* sp) Photo: S Wishart
Source: Canberra Nature Map

Rob Lundie

Hopefully NOT seen on the Ridge: Red-whiskered bulbul



Red-whiskered bulbul Photo: PS News

There was an unwelcome positive sighting of the red-whiskered bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*) in Lanyon Valley last month. This

bird is not native to Australia and is considered both an environmental and an agricultural pest, as it competes with local native birds for food and predated on small reptiles and insects. ACT Conservator, Ian Walker, says: 'It could also contribute to the spread of many invasive weeds, including blackberry, African boxthorn and privet.' The bird was deliberately introduced into Sydney and Melbourne in the 1800s and populations have since expanded, particularly northwards from Sydney. The nearest known established population is in the Illawarra region but they are likely to spread if existing populations and new incursions are not managed. At this stage, it is not sure if the birds positively identified were escapees from those held illegally in captivity or part of a broader feral population. The last reported sighting in the ACT was in 2015. Ian Walker asks if anyone spots a red-whiskered bulbul could they email a photo, if possible, a location and a time to: EPSDInvasiveanimals@act.gov.au

Source: Public called to swoop on unwanted bird, ACT PS News, 5 July 2018.

ParkCare Hub

Have you visited the recently established ParkCare Hub? This site was created by ACT Parks and Conservation to help people find out about volunteer opportunities in ACT parks and reserves. This includes assisting rangers, looking after wildlife, counting fauna and working to regenerate our reserves. Our Group has been registered so that volunteers can join our work-parties. Also, we are now able to log our work-hours directly onto the site, so that CPS can see an up-to-date picture of our volunteer hours. This can be done for either the group as a whole, or as individuals to be added to the group's total hours. I'd encourage everyone to ensure their hours are logged, because they are an important tool in bargaining for funding. If you don't want to use the Hub, then please send your hours to me every month so that I can include them (linda@xamax.com.au). Here is the link to the [ParkCare Hub](#).

Linda Spinaze

Annual General Meeting

10.30 am Sun 18 Nov Lincoln Close