



# COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter  
February 2021

## ***Previous Meeting*** ***Sunday 17 January 2021*** ***Chauvel Circle***

A clear and sunny but not too hot nor windy morning for 16 weeders who spit up into four groups.

Jenny, Gosta, Rosalie and Mike weeded Reet's patch. Jenny reported that the patch is looking good but the small blackberry patch that she and Mike Morriss attacked last year is still there. So, they cut and dabbed it all and it should be good for another year.

Rob, Charlotte and Natasha headed to the Olympic site to take out *Verbascum* and some briar roses in the tall grass.

Helen, Brigitte with 4-yr-old Zoe, and later Peter, removed fleabane from under the Mealy-bundy trees (*Eucalyptus nortonii*) along with *Verbascum*, deadly night-shade and milk thistles.

Doug, Paul, Chris and Linda tackled the briar-roses on the southern aspect of One-tree Hill, cut-n-dabbing them with glyphosate.

Rohan the Reliable was just that.

A good days' work!!

*Linda Spinaze*

## **New Seat at Kathner St Dam**

Many of us enjoy Coleman Ridge by walking, running, cycling and horse riding along it. Others also enjoy just admiring the views or contemplating life on the dams. Unfortunately, the seats have not always invited people to linger for long as they are not overly comfortable. However, in early February this was remedied at the Kathner St

## ***Next Meeting*** ***Sunday 21 February 2021*** ***Darrell Place***

**Time:** 8.30 am – 11.00 am

**Meet:** Darrell Place

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

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

**Contact:** Linda Spinaze 6288 6916

March meeting: Sun 21, Lincoln Place

Dam. The old wooden seat was replaced with a brand new metal one which provides greater back support and thus provides a more relaxing contemplative experience. It would be great if something similar could be done at the Old Dam.



New seat at Kathner St Dam

Photo: Malcolm Gill

Rob Lundie and Malcolm Gill

## Ridding Ridge Rabbits

I was talking to 'Bec' a govt worker (ranger?) who I met at Kathner St just after she'd done all that slashing on the path. I asked her about a pole with a camera attached on a bare patch of ground below Fencepost Hill. She said it is for monitoring rabbit and kangaroo movements.

Bec also told me about a practice they are using to deter rabbits - scrunching up coir (coconut?) matting and stuffing it down the hole and pegging it into place. If you don't have access to this, she said scrunched up newspaper works well. At least they will be abreast of the news.

*Jenny Horsfield*

## Coleman Ridge Nature Park: a history, part 3

[Parts 1 and 2 of this history can be read in the Group's Newsletters of [July 2020](#) and [January 2021](#). This last part covers the period from 2003 to 2009 - Ed]

The fires of January 2003 had a devastating effect on the Ridge and on the Group who cared for it. Founding members Pauline and Gosta Lynga lost their house and all their possessions in the fire. Many of the Group records, photographs and equipment were also destroyed; and of course, the Ridge itself took the full blast of the firestorm. A further blow that year was the scheduled resumption of cattle grazing on the Ridge without any consultation with the Group.

The fire recovery process began soon after, both on the Ridge and within the Group itself, with surveys of surviving trees. The Weston Creek Rotary Club provided help in resurrecting the landmark signs on the nature trail; the Southern ACT Catchment Group, of which Coleman Ridge Park Care Group is a member, provided funds to replace equipment and reference books. A working bee with parents from Chapman Primary School replaced the burnt posts and pamphlet box on the school trail. Caretaker groups began the long task of ridding their patch of the many weeds that invaded the Ridge after the fires. In 2003 Coleman Ridge, Farrer Ridge and Mt Taylor Park Care Groups were joint winners of the Alcoa Landcare Community Group award for conservation and land care

work. All three groups are helping to restore biodiversity to former farming land in our region.

A year later on 18 January 2004 a Recovery Walk took place along the Ridge with 100 people attending, and expert guides Joe Walker, Malcolm Gill and Daniel Iglesias providing an enlightening commentary on the impact of the fires.

While the Group maintained their opposition to cattle grazing, they agreed to help in 2005 with data collection for Parks management into methods of 'exotic grass control'. This experiment, conducted on fenced plots on the western side of the Ridge, aimed to compare the various effects of mowing, wick wiping and grazing on the survival of exotic grasses. The experiment was discontinued with no clear results achieved.

In July 2006 the Group received a grant from Environment ACT to resurrect the Nature Trail, which now, in 2009, remains one of the most popular and well-used features of the Nature Park. New pamphlet boxes have been installed, and leaflets printed as a guide to the walk. As well, a small grant from the Canberra Southern Cross Club in 2008 enabled the Group to print a pamphlet introducing the Park Care group, its aims and activities, to the general public.

*Jenny Horsfield, April 2009*

## Echidna sighting

I spotted this echidna late one afternoon in early January near the square water tank. It is the biggest, fattest one I have seen although I have only come across three in 40 years on the Ridge.



Echidna.

Photo: Brian Black

*Brian Black*