

Join GCG!

- Volunteers needed to participate in regular working bees
- Interested in waterwatch? We have many sites needing to be 'adopted' throughout the catchment

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Contact us on:
02 6278 3309 or at:
www.ginninderralandcare.org.au



Update on Blackberry Project

In the last Catchment Group Newsletter we told you about a project funded by the ACT NRM Council's WONS Program to spray blackberries and rehabilitate areas with native seed and tube stock in the Ginninderra Catchment. This project has now finished, with a total of 2.5ha of spraying of Weeds of National Significance including blackberries, Chilean needle grass, serrated tussock and African love grass (a regionally significant weed). As a continuation of the great work achieved we would encourage you to "Repot a Patch (of blackberries) if you know of any within the Ginninderra Catchment. Call the catchment Coordinator on 6278 3309 or email landcare@ginninderralandcare.org.au



Large patch of blackberries in Belconnen



Sprayed Infestation

GCG Member Group Issues!!

GCG has ten landcare and parkcare member groups working within areas of urban open space and reserves throughout the catchment. A major issue they are currently tackling are weeds—and keeping up with the ever present task of keeping the nasty ones out of their patches. This season you may

noticed areas covered in bright yellow and thought how lovely this looks. This is actually St John's Wort — a highly invasive weed. It can be poisonous to stock and can irritate your skin. Also of note is the ever present African Lovegrass, Chilean Needle Grass and Serrated Tussock. For images of some weeds in the ACT see the following page:

Weeds in the Catchment



St John's Wort—Yellow Flowers



African Love Grass—Black seed head



Paterson's Curse—Purple flowers



Verbascum—Yellow Flowers

These weeds are just a few species that occur within the ACT. There are also many woody weeds invading our reserves including hawthorn, cotoneaster, pyracantha, briar rose, crack and basket willow and privet. When planting out your garden choose local native species, as many of these perform a similar function to the lovely looking exotics but are also bird attracting. A good resource for choosing the correct plant is : Grow me instead—which is a brochure available from your local Catchment group.

Why participate ?

Find out all about our local frogs

Learn how to identify different frog species

Take action to protect these fascinating creatures



See the Frogwatch website for full details on all seminars at: www.ginninderralan.dcare.org.au



Summary of 2012 Frogwatch census

There is life after the Census!! We are very busy analysing and verifying this year's recordings and data entries. Thanks everyone for the great support of this year's Frogwatch Census! So far we do have around 170 surveys; most are already verified and accepted. Well done!!

Good news from the ANU

Martin Westgate and Ben Scheele, both (from the ANU Fenner School) are keen to develop a tool for automated identification of frog assemblages from call recordings. The aim is to make these tools freely available, to make frog monitoring an easier task for all involved. Yeahhh. Cannot wait to see the tool "in action".



Upcoming Event in January 2013

Snakes Alive! at the Australian National Botanic Gardens

17.01. - 20.01.2013

Come along to see and touch one of the most diverse displays of Australian herpetofauna – everything from snakes, lizards, frogs, turtles to

crocs!

You can see a perentie goanna, the largest lizard species in Australia, a baby crocodile, pig nose turtle, death adder and a variety of pythons, lizards, and frogs.

Enjoy seeing and touching live reptiles and amphibians, learning about rare and threatened species and assisting with morning and afternoon feeding times. There will also be kid's competitions and people can take home a gift or souvenirs.

Looking for the perfect Christmas gift?? Eager for an adventure??

Help scientists unravel the mystery of the world's vanishing frog species in the ancient rainforests of eastern Australian.

Join Associate Professor Michael Mahony from the University of Newcastle and explore the wonders of the

mountain forests in Australia's Watagan National Park. For one week you will be collecting data that will help scientists understand how our frog populations might cope or flounder as they encounter chytrid infections.

12th -18th January 2013. This team is \$1,500 and starts from Newcastle.

4th -10th November 2013. This team is \$2,895 and starts from Coffs Harbour. Interested?<http://www.earthwatch.org/australia/exped/mahony.html>

Waterwatch Spring

This spring the upper and mid Catchments have again been under pressure from the high sediment loads from the development sites in Gungahlin. Consistent overflow of very muddy water from Casey and Crace has caused most of the turbidity in the stretch of creek from Gungahlin Pond to Lake Ginninderra.

Giralang pond is bearing much of the impact of the sediment and is showing the effects of many years of consistent pressure. Large deposits of silt are now clearly visible at the confluence and it appears that dredging is urgently required if local residents are to see the high habitat and recreational values of the pond return. Many local residents reflect on the pond that 'used to be' and are saddened by the decline.

It is well recognised in management that prevention is cheaper than cure. If we allow our processes to continue we may see the problems that are plaguing the southern catchments escalate in the Ginninderra Catchment and with our first toxic algal bloom in Lake Ginninderra in many years the early signs do not look good.



Whilst acknowledging the value to the economy of development and the priority placed on this there is also a long held ideal; 'you do not throw your rubbish over the neighbours fence'. This is precisely what we are doing as a community in the north; the public amenity of some of our established suburbs is being heavily impacted to provide that same amenity to new residents.

There are a lot of positive developments on the horizon for the region in the world of water quality with major concerns being addressed on a number of fronts. Much of the credit for this can be attributed to the vigilance of our fantastic Waterwatch volunteers throughout the region. These concerns have resulted in a renewed effort to enhance and maintain much higher standards in water management. It also seems that the recreational and mental health benefits of healthy waterways in urban areas are being recognised.

The lower Catchment is a more positive story from this spring with work continuing on the Lower Ginninderra Riparian Restoration Project (LGCRRP). Woody weeds have been removed from the ACT section and strategic habitat plantings completed which will provide biodiversity 'hot spots' along the creek. A cooperative project involving Ginninderra Catchment Group, landcare groups and Conservation Volunteers Australia the project is also complimenting ACT Government Place Management works. By targeting weeds in areas that can not be controlled by ACT Government this project has significantly increased the effectiveness of the ACT Government works.



CVA International volunteers Macgregor 2012

Completion of Willow removal, stock exclusion fencing and regeneration works along the NSW section has also been a significant benefit for the condition of the creek. A big thank you to Ange from Greening Australia for project managing this section and to the Landowners for their fantastic commitment to the project and the long term future of the creek corridor.



GA planting Lower Creek NSW

One final thank you to all who attended the QA/QC event at Black Mountain Peninsula, a very valuable day and great to see so many keen volunteers. It is an uplifting experience to chat to people who care enough about our waterways to help monitor them and advocate for their improved condition.



QA/QC Event Lake Burley Griffin