



Ginninderra Creek Catchment – from Mulligans Flat & Gooromon Ponds to the Murrumbidgee

GINNINDERRA CATCHMENT GROUP NEWS SEPTEMBER 2017

It is Landcare Week this week and I'd like to take this opportunity to recognise the landcare volunteers (including Urban landcare, Parkcare, Waterwatch and Frogwatch volunteers) who are at the heart of GCG. I would encourage everyone to attend a Landcare event this week. Details below.

Sandy Lolicato

In this issue:

From the GCG Office: [Strategic planning](#); [Environmental Groups Joint Display – Jamison Plaza](#); [Grassland restoration – can you help monitor success?](#); [Interpretive walk about Aboriginal values at Sutton Landcare](#); [ACT Environment Grants](#); [Frogwatch news](#).

In Ginninderra catchment as a whole: [Mulligans Flat](#); [Jaramlee Park](#); [Aranda Bushland](#); [Umbagog](#); [North Belconnen](#); [Mt Rogers](#); [Giralang Pond](#).

Around the region: [Seminar \(Kat Ng, Beetles\)](#); [Wandiyali open day](#); [Film 'Understorey'](#); [Ginninderra Falls Association crowdfunding campaign](#); [Black Mountain ramble](#); [NSW LLS conference](#).

General news from the GCG office

Strategic Planning

The GCG Strategy is getting closer to being drafted. A template has been prepared and is being populated. The draft Strategic Plan will be discussed at the GCG Executive Meeting on Monday 18th September. It will be distributed for member comment shortly after. Watch this space.

Environmental Groups Joint Display – Jamison Plaza

Volunteers from seven community environmental groups in Belconnen will showcase the beauty of Canberra's close-by bushland and grasslands in their annual photographic display at Jamison Plaza **8 to 10 September, 9.00am to 4.30pm**.

ParkCare Friends and other volunteers will explain how they bring back biodiversity to the bush in the "Bush Capital"; including erosion control, track maintenance, weeding, tree shrub and understorey

UPCOMING DATES

(* means working bee)

- 4–10 Sept: Start of Landcare week
- 7 Sept: Kat Ng seminar at ANU
- 7 Sept: Open day and tree planting, 'Wandiyali'
- 8–10 Sept: ParkCare & Landcare display, Jamison shops
- 9 Sept: Mulligans Flat Threatened Species Day
- *9 Sept: North Belconnen Landcare
- 10 Sept: Spring bird walk Mulligans Flat
- *13 Sept: Friends of Mulligans Flat
- 17 Sept: Giralang Pond BBQ (welcome to spring)
- 20 Sept: Film 'Understorey'
- *24 Sept: Seasonal workday at Mulligans Flat
- *24 Sept: Mt Rogers Landcare
- 25 Sept: End of main rego for NSW LLS conference
- 27 Sept: Frogwatch training, 6-8 pm
- 29 Sept: Frogwatch training, 6-8 pm
- *2 Oct: Mt Rogers Landcare
- *7 Oct: Jaramlee Park Landcare
- *7 Oct: Umbagog Landcare
- *8 Oct: Friends of Aranda Bushland
- 15 Oct: Aranda Bushland Orchid Walk

planting, citizen science, education programs and workshops, GPS tagging rabbit burrows, and reducing Common Myna Bird population.

Groups involved in the joint display include: Friends of Aranda Bushland, Friends of Mount Painter, Friends of Black Mountain, Friends of the Pinnacle, Friends of Grasslands, Canberra Indian Myna Action Group, Ginninderra Catchment Group and ACT Parks and Conservation Service.

For further information, please contact Linda Beveridge by email to gkljbev1@bigpond.net.au or phone 0437 298 711.

Grassland restoration – can you help monitor success?

Last year, GCG volunteers planted native grasses and forbs into the 13 grassland restoration fire trials plots. It is getting near time to monitor the survival rate of these plants. This information will help us to understand more about best-practice management regimes and is part of a ten year study into native grassland restoration. Please contact Karissa if you are interested in being involved in monitoring the plots: landcare@ginninderralandcare.org.au or phone 6278 3309. Training is provided; no experience is necessary. It is a great opportunity to become involved in a long-term scientific study that is improving the local environment.

Interpretive walk about Aboriginal values in Sutton Landcare

Four Aboriginal interpretive walks have been held in the Sutton area during the last two months. These walks allowed participants to see an ancient Ochre Quarry, scar trees and stone artefacts and learn more about cultural values in the Sutton area. The walks were led by Aboriginal custodians of the area Wally Bell and Carl Brown, accompanied by Dave Johnston, Indigenous archaeologist and heritage manager. Each walk included billy tea and damper.

Participants were extremely satisfied with the events. Many rural landholders came along and are now interested in finding out about cultural heritage on their properties. Thanks to Jane and David Vincent for your generosity and being pioneers in the area of protecting Aboriginal sites on rural land.

ACT Environment Grants

GCG submitted four applications in this year's ACT Environment Grant round. The grant applications were focussed on Ginninderra Grassland Restoration, Blackberry control, Frogphone (Frogwatch as applicant), and Adult Poplar removal to restore the Ginninderra Creek Corridor (Macgregor Landcare Group as applicant). All are very solid projects, which meet selection criteria.

Frogwatch news

Frogwatch Census training event dates are now out:

Wednesday 27 September, 6–8 pm and **Friday 29 September**, 6–8 pm.

The sessions are at Jerrabomberra Wetlands, and will include a soup dinner. Interested volunteers need to book a spot via the Jerrabomberra wetlands booking webpage,

https://jerrabomberrawetlands.org.au/events/list/?tribe_paged=2&tribe_event_display=list

We will repeat last year's highly successful model, and will amalgamate the introduction seminar and the field trip in one event. Tickets are \$10 per person including the soup dinner.

There will also be a training event in Cooma- on 12 October, 6–8 pm.

Tadpole kits

You can still book a tadpole kit. This program gives students of all ages the rare chance to observe tadpoles turning into frogs. It all happens in term 4 each year.

To book your kit, simply go to our webpage:

<http://www.ginninderralandcare.org.au/frogwatch-education>,

choose 'Link to the Tadpole Kit Program Page'

and follow the prompts. Easy as!!

Giveaways!

- Weatherproof brochure holders (Flyer size) – great to attach to a beam/fence at the entry of your ParkCare/Landcare area, nature reserve etc. They are brand new (see image) and we have quite a few.
- 5 hand torches.



Maybe some groups would like them??

Climate Change update

We are going great guns: with the rain, finally the dams are slowly filling up again. Breeding season has started for *Crinia signifera*, Whistling tree frog, and just recently *Crinia parinsignifera*. Once the weather starts warming up we shall hear many more froggies. This winter we had almost no Spotted Burrowing Frogs as we had almost no rain!!

Anke Maria Hoefer, Frogwatch Convenor

In the Ginninderra Catchment as a whole

Friends of Mulligans Flat (second Wednesday of each month)

The Friends of Mulligans Flat has over 400 members who have registered on our MyVolunteer database. It is through this database, supported by the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust, and FaceBook that we communicate news updates about the Mulligans Flat Wildlife Sanctuary, upcoming events and activities. Apart from the 'standard' park care activities (weeding and rubbish) the Friends can get involved in turtle relocation, echidna counts, bettong monitoring, bush-stone curlew feeding and assisting in a range of ANU projects.

Monthly Work Party – held on the second Wednesday of each month. Meet at the Woolshed at 9.30 am.

Seasonal Work Parties – held on a Sunday morning once each season. Actual dates are advised closer to the activity. We usually meet at the Woolshed at 10.00 am.

Echidnas Found! – The BBC Wildlife filming team spent nearly four weeks in late July / early August filming echidnas in Mulligans Flat, and the Friends of Mulligans Flat answered the call to search the 480 hectares for the elusive animal. Being still winter there was not a great deal of echidna activity initially but over the weeks more and more echidnas were spotted. The Friends conducted about six sweeps of the Sanctuary over the first two weeks and assisted the Woodland and Wetland Trust ecologists to fit tracking devices to a couple of echidnas. On top of the sweeps, 2 or 3 Friends assisted the BBC crew each filming day. The great thing about this activity was that everybody involved learned a whole lot more about these elusive animals.

Threatened Species Day Activities – **To support Threatened Species Day** the Canberra Woodland and Wetland Trust, in conjunction with the Friends of Mulligans Flat, are holding an **open day at the Forde Community Centre on Saturday 9 September, 12.00 – 3.00 pm**. This will be followed by the **Spring Bird Walk on Sunday 10 September, 9.00 – 11.30 am**. For more details see the Mulligans Flat Facebook page.

Spring Work Party – Our next **seasonal work party** is on **Sunday 24 September, 10.00 am – 12.30 pm**, meeting at the Woolshed. The Mulligans Flat rangers have promised us an interesting activity!

Mark Smith, Convenor

Jaramlee Park Landcare

We have taken out more dead bushes and trees in the floodway between Ginninderra Drive and Jarramlee Pond in Jarramlee Park, with three work bees so far, and more to be done. We also had assistance from the Aboriginal Green Army for one short day, and though there were only four of them they did a terrific job. At our first work bee we found stacks of undelivered brochures, dating from July 2015 and earlier, hidden under the bushes. (See photos below.)

There is also a lot of understorey Cleavers (Sticky Grass) some Privet, a few Cotoneasters, and Chinese Elm suckers which will need to be poisoned in our working bees.

Pamela Fawke, Convenor



Friends of Aranda Bushland (1st Sunday of the month)

Our work parties are on **the first Sunday of the month, between 9 am and noon**. See our website for details: <http://www.friendsofarendabushland.org.au/>.

Erosion control

This never-ending job was the subject of a recent work party, when we arranged cut branches (supplied by the obliging Phil Selmes) on the edge of our erosion canyon in the hope of allowing grass to grow there, slowing down any rainwater that might arrive – not that there has been much of that lately! *The photo* shows cut branches above the erosion gully.



Track repair

We have also been busy repairing the steep tracks in the forested part of our reserve. We do this every winter and last year we had help from the Green Army, but unfortunately that scheme has been closed down. *The photo* shows a freshly dug rollover.



Joint work party

Recently we had an enjoyable morning on Mt Painter, helping FOMP to plant some yellow burr-daisies and dig out Verbascum.

Woody weeds

We have also eradicated a large stand of young Cootamundra wattles in the lower forest, by lopping and dabbing. They seem to have germinated after the controlled burn two years ago, whether as a result of the heat or the smoke, we do not know. *The photo* shows dead Cootamundras.



Orchid Walk

On **Sunday 15 October** we will hold our **annual orchid walk in Aranda Bushland**, with three knowledgeable guides to show us a surprising variety of orchids, mostly tiny and inconspicuous to the casual eye.

Jenny Andrews, Convenor

Umbagog Landcare (1st Saturday of the month)

Although the August working bee was called off due to wet weather, a number of hard core members turned up and continued to work on the ivy infestation near the corner of Macrossan and Daley Cres. In September, we expect to do some mapping and planning for future working bees. In particular, Umbagog has been offered some plants and we need to propose the best area to put them (although we will need to get permission to plant them). Also, one of our members has identified some serrated tussock that will need to be removed. And there is always more ivy removal to do.

Our next working bee will be on **Saturday 7 October**.

Celina Smith, Convenor

North Belconnen Landcare (Saturdays and Wednesdays)

Landcare Week is from 4 to 10 September. Our participation in Landcare week will be as follows – **Landcare Wednesday 6 September**: Junior Landcare will meet at 10 am (and every Wednesday) starting at 6 Spain Place, Evatt. Activities are in the adjacent nature reserve and include planting and weeding, mulching and any activities appropriate to whoever attends. Age group 2 – 92: all ages are welcome. Our emphasis is on the young or young at heart.



Landcare Saturday 9 September: Junior Landcare will meet at 10 am (and every Saturday). This is also appropriate for young children and all are welcome. We have a particular interest in Blue Devils and various native forbs and grasses. We are working on restoring the grasslands beside the Ginninderra Creek. We are succeeding in planting a much greater variety of plants than was here to start with and have also increased the number of special plants like our favourite Blue Devils.

Enquiries? Check Facebook Open Groups for ‘North Belconnen Landcare Group’.

The photo shows Lenore Hodgkinson with one of our Junior Landcarers gathering seeds from a *Vittadinia* plant in one of our favourite sites the children have named ‘The Secret Garden’ as it is somewhat hidden from public line of sight.

Lenore Hodgkinson, Convenor

Mount Rogers Landcare (4th Sundays and 1st Mondays)

The wattles are magnificent on Mt Rogers at the moment and well worth a walk around the mount to see them. Silver Wattle is in flower and the Red-stemmed Wattle is coming into flower, taking over from the Cootamundra Wattles which are past their prime. Numerous small insectivorous birds can be seen foraging at different levels of the trees and on the ground, including Wrens, Grey Fantails, Silvereyes and Thornbills. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos have been through the reserve in recent weeks, breaking open the galls on some wattles, or peeling back bark on the trunks to reach the invertebrates underneath.

The Landcare group has attacked a number of tricky invasive Privets, Cotoneasters, Briar Roses and new patches of Ivy hiding under other trees and shrubs in the last couple of weeks, as well as a large Sweet Pittosporum. We are finding healthy St John's Wort rosettes at the bases of last year's browned-off flower shoots. They will be sprayed. Serrated Tussock and African Lovegrass are also being tackled by determined spot spraying which is steadily reducing their numbers. Our next working bees are on **Sunday 24 September** and **Monday 2 October**.

Photos and more updates about our patch are at <https://mtrogerslandcare.blogspot.com.au/>.

Rosemary Blemings, Convenor

Giralang Pond Landcare

Landcare week Activities

Giralang Pond Landcare Group will be having a BBQ for 'Welcome to Spring' and 'Christening of the new **Seat**', at **12 noon** or thereabouts, on **Sunday 17 September**, in the vicinity of 'The Seat', east side of the pond. Food will be a BBQ lunch or sandwiches.

Plans are a little fluid at the moment, so please confirm you are planning to come to this activity by getting in touch with GCG for my number, just in case the date has changed.

The photo shows the Great Cormorant who is a recent resident on the island.

Denise Kay, Convenor



Around the region

Seminar: Ground-dwelling beetles in a dynamic agricultural landscape

Speaker: **Kat Ng** (formerly a co-Convenor of GCG. **Thursday 7 September, 1–2 pm**, ANU Forestry building #48 room 108 (upstairs). Map: <https://studentvip.com.au/anu/main/maps/81445>

Widespread intensification of agricultural landscapes presents an urgent challenge for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem function. Kat's results suggest that farmlands provide important habitat for a large proportion of beetle species. Maintaining farmland heterogeneity with a mix of low-intensity land-uses can provide seasonal habitat resources and facilitate cross-habitat movement.

Kat is a final year PhD candidate at the ANU Fenner School and CSIRO (and a member of GCG). Her PhD research examined the distribution and dispersal of beetle communities across mixed-cropping areas of the NSW Lachlan Catchment.

Open day: 'Looking after landscapes for the protection of threatened species'

Thursday September 7, 'Wandiyali', near Queanbeyan NSW

11am – 1pm Expert presentations followed by a property tour. Learn about the management of threatened species in a wonderful mosaic of habitats centred on Critically Endangered Box Gum Grassy Woodlands and the serpentine gorges of Jerrabomberra Creek.

1pm – 3pm Lunch and tree planting.

'Wandiyali', 732 Old Cooma Rd, Googong. For details and express interest, contact Carolyn Larcombe, wandiyali.restoration@gmail.com

Bookings: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/looking-after-landscapes-for-the-protection-of-threatened-species-tickets-36739561016>

Film: 'Understorey'

Wednesday 20 September, 6.30 pm, National Film & Sound Archive, ACT

This is a film about the fight to save the SE forests, which eventually became the SE Forests National Park. It includes some wonderful wildlife photography, and been well-received at showings in NSW. The film is followed by a Q&A with the filmmaker. It is sponsored by the National Parks Association & will be a fund raiser for the NPA. Tickets \$10 each, from <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=304675>

Ginninderra Falls Association crowdfunding campaign

Ginninderra Falls Association is calling for crowdfunding to supplement scientific information about the Ginninderra Falls area and to raise awareness after significant concerns expressed by the community and ecologists about the fire risk and risk to threatened species in the area. Ginninderra Catchment Group has been very involved in pushing for better environmental outcomes in the area. The link to the crowdfunding campaign can be found at: <https://chuffed.org/project/ginninderra-falls>

14 October: 46th Black Mountain spring wildflower ramble

9.30 am (sharp) – 12 noon or later, at Belconnen Way entry just before Caswell Drive turnoff (look for balloons).

2017 NSW Landcare & Local Land Services Conference, Albury NSW.

25–27 October. For details, see <http://nswlandcareconference.com.au/>.

Main registration ends on 25 September.

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Ginninderra Catchment Group is grateful for support from

