

GINNINDERRA CATCHMENT GROUP INC.

ALL OF GROUPS MEETING

Wednesday 2ND October 2013 5.30 pm

FUNCTION ROOM SOUTHERN CROSS CLUB JAMISON

Meeting begins 5:40pm; Celina and Kat Ng co-chairing.

Present: Kat Ng, Damon Cusack, Ian Falconer, Kat Vincent, Harry Redfern, Kathy Eyles, Jim Arnold, Sarah Hnatiuk, Pam Fawke (and her Rotary exchange student), Rosemary Blemings, John Brannan, Jean Geue, Denise Kay, Karissa Preuss, Anke Maria Hoefer, Caroline Wenger, Ken Hodgkinson.

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Kat Ng welcomed group.

Apologies from Michael Hodgkin, Lyn Jenkins, Peter Davey, Lenore Hodgkinson

**2a. Purpose of the meeting and outline of desired outcomes:**

Kat introduced purpose and outcomes: opportunity for groups to share ideas and plan into future; explain funding details & reporting; how do group activities align with funding targets; develop catchment-wide projects; broader opportunities aside from RIS; will continue planning discussions with groups after the all groups meeting

**2b Group Plans and Feedback**

* Damon summed up past GCG projects:

LGCRRP is finished; including woody weed removal; plantings in Ginninderra Falls and erosion control

Adult Poplar Removal is finished; Lyn is currently conducting a case study of the project and monitoring ongoing control methods

Biodiversity Brochures: disseminated within the landcare community – about 1000 have been given to community groups, and another 1000 to groups who will on-sell them, so 2000 in total

Report a Patch Blackberry Removal: good project, they’ve identified spots and sprayed patches - would be good to continue, but it would have to be in Coordinators own time, as there are no funds to get contractors to do it.

Valley Ponds is continuing, with revegetation going on.

**2b. Group Plans and Feedback**

Group representatives briefly discussed the highlights over the year and their plans for the future.

**Friends of Aranda Bushland, Ian**: Received two awards, one of them the Sustainable Cities commendation; held a forum this year with a number of speaker focusing not just on the next five years of Friends of Aranda, but on the next thirty years and what goals they want to achieve; other than that, business as usual, continuing with ongoing erosion control and weed control. **Jim**: mentioned mapping out the rabbit burrows & cutting out rogue wattles in the bushland area. **Jean**: added that Native Plants Society has a reloading of plant list and photos on Living Australia Atlas.

**Holt Community Park Carers, Harry**: Planted 200 Lomandras in the park, doorknocked and received 180 signatures on a petition regarding signage in around the park, emailed to Shane Rattenbury.

**Friends of Mulligans Flat, Kathy**: Held a Bettong information evening in July, ‘scientists in the sanctuary’; business as usual is assisting in wildflower walks, running a number of trials as Forde and Bonner is a relatively new area; plans for the future are assisting in erosion control and rabbit/pest identification as it affects bettong reintroduction.

**Friends of Mt Painter, Sarah**: approached by Spicers and offered a grant which was then used to put 60 coir logs + volunteers to place them; Landcare Australia also granted funds for signage around Mt Painter; business as usual next year – weeding, planting, monitoring plants, maintenance, erosion control, corporate plantings and a joint work party with Aranda.

**Jarramlee Park Landcare (Formerly Dunlop Environment Volunteers), Pam**: changed name back to Jarrramlee Park Landcare, only 6 members currently in group. Damon spoke to TAMS and 6 eucalypt trees were planted near the pond. Sent article in to Scribbly Gum Magazine; and business as usual – maintenance, rubbish clean up, weed control.

**Mt Rogers Landcare Group, Rosemary**: With GCG’s help they have had lovegrass, Chilean needlegrass and serrated tussock sprayed. Had a hazard reduction burn in April, no damage evident. Looking towards the future – keeping an eye on woody weeds, spot spraying weeds (serrated tussock, lovegrass & Chilean needlegrass); holding two working bees a month and strengthen connections between groups and each other.

**Friends of the Pinnacle, John**: Highlights – brochure printed for group; Greening Australia planting; woodland revegetation project going along well. Plans are business as usual – weeding, revegetation programs; ‘complimentary plantings’ – understory of trees eg shrubs and ground cover; replacing the woody weeds Monday the 7th; still want signage around the pinnacle.

**Giralang Pond Landcare Group, Denise**: requested minister to have a look at the area (creek has silted) to encourage dredging. Minister came with TAMS – as a result the weir has barricades, lights & flood signs. Bad results, the rain has built up debris on the north side because of these additions. Mowing an ongoing problem affecting past problems. Has found a patch of blue devils, 2m wide, about 6 plants in total; planted 50 casuarinas and eucalypts west side of the north end of creek, lots of blackberries present.

**Umbagong Landcare Group, Caroline**: High quality grassland which they’ve been caring for (past 5 years) was ruined by mowing (had been managed for the past 5 years). It drew attention to lack of communication and liaising between agencies e.g. fire people and mowers. Prioritised mapping so as to campaign for better management. Saved the stepping stones from bridge development. Future plans are to raise profile of riparian & habitat conservation – get the ACT Riparian Strategy up and running; development of indigenous site.

**Nth Belconnen, Karissa on behalf of**: won the Junior Landcare Award this year; Lenore runs a weekly working party with many young people attending. These will continutue to focus on weed removal, creating protected areas for native vegetation to avoid mowing, ; Evatt Grassland Trials

**Macgregor, Karissa on behalf of:** focuses on maintaining and restoring riparian corridor along Ginninderra creek; main achievement the Adult Poplar Removal Project; business as usual, riparian plantings to avoid erosion, following Poplar removal; woody weed removal; debris removal after flood.

**2c Overview of GCG funding and associated project outcomes**

Karissa provided details on GCG’s funding sources.

* Our main fund is from CFOC RIS, but note its funding has been reduced
* 5 years of RIS funding: years 1- 2 at 100%, years 3 – 5 at 80%
* Conveyed RIS reporting obligations: There is now a reliance on groups to report the work they are doing to meet required targets (outputs and milestones).
* Waterwatch, frogwatch and landcare were previously all separately recorded – they are now all joined and outputs that need to be met are from the entire group.
* The funds do not include ‘operational budget’ as such.

**RIS Outputs categories:**

* Managing weeds & pest animal species
* Protecting and restoring species of national environmental significance (eg threatened ecological communities such as box gum and temperate grasslands)
* Erosion control
* Inappropriate public access
* Fire management – Nth Belco Trials
* Increasing community engagement
* Building indigenous capacity for NRM (working with Wally Bell?)

ACT Government are beginning to work well with and take into account Landcare groups. There have been a number of meetings to assist this process organised by Jasmine Foxlee. The meeting with Umbagong and City Services regarding consultation on mowing was, in part, an impetus for these meetings.

**Reporting on RIS targets**

* Powerpoint showed table of how activities from member groups work towards certain RIS category targets. Damon is working on reporting template to help member groups report their activities to GCG. Some ideas were discussed:

Kathy mentioned most groups reports to PCS at the moment anyway.

We could consider basing template on Parkcare Landcare Volunteer Sheet so that there will be no double counting, note ACT Gov are funded through different funding streams therefore the volunteer hours can be acknowledge by both GCG and PCS.

There should be an **event report** of activity, with a focus on how many total hours volunteered; how much vegetation restored; whether it relates to a threatened or pest species.

**2d. Identifying new ideas and innovations outside current funding**

**Current funding outside the RIS:**

Karissa explained that this includes:

Community Landcare Grants – Action on Weeds; Wallaroo Road CFOC

Greater Goorooyarroo – contract to undertake community engagement of this project awarded to UMCCC thorugh the Community Landcare Grants program CFOC

Frogwatch Ephemeral Revegetation Program – ACT Environment Grant

ACT Heritage Grant – Aboriginal Heritage in Ginninderra Catchment

Spicers – Landcare Award to Mt Painter

Rosemary brought up reminding ACT Gov re foxes

**2e. Identifying potential catchment wide suggestions and projects**

Karissa explained the 3 ideas that had been previously suggested:

* Catchment tour – go to all sites and have groups do short talk on their site: would a weekday or weekend be best for this?

Action: Following group discussion it was decided a potentially good option would be to run a tour on a weekday to enable ACT Government staff, including PCS to join.

* Woodland Project
* Weed Mapping Training Courses
* Extension of the Nth Belconnen Fire Trials – Ken Hodgkinson gave an overview of the project thus far. He described that the idea came when he noticed weedy grasslands along creek. Mowing is more destructive than helpful, grazing ‘kind of’ works, but autumn fire burns seemed to be the most efficient – wanted to see whether it would be useful and viable in today’s grassland management.

The results: Spring burns do not seem to turn an effect, **regular autumn burning over 3 years** has shown the emergence of 6 or 7 new species in that grassland area.

Met with mowers and fire people to discuss fire burns in selected places where there are native grasses and see whether there are similar results. Volunteers would then do some plant identification work. It would be a Ginninderra Creek level program.

Other Suggestions from member groups:

* Foxes and management: how big is the problem? Great. Gooroo. Project may be able to fund some work on that. Blackberry removal already reduces fox habitat.
* Upper catchment: bit of a gap in the Gungahlin area; perhaps Mulligans flat can begin acting as a filter or mentoring group for small groups who want to start up in that area.
* Youth Education: relies a lot on teachers but needs to be very coordinator driven – possibility as an extra-curricular activity?

**2f. Identification of additional training resources and requirements:**

Some suggestions to equip our own capabilities proposed, thinking beyond RIS: Weed Identification Training – Weed Portal Training 6th November – GPS Training – Assist in recruiting volunteers – chemical certification – website training. Some equipment can be provided by GCG.

**3. Parks and City Services (PACS) Review**
Application for the whole of GCG was Tues 1st October, but Karissa managed to get a one-week extension on the deadline. Suggestions are better liaison between agencies, more interaction equals better results. Other feedback should be sent to Karissa via email.

**4. Frogwatch (Anke Maria)**

Revegetation Program

Frog census coming up – there is a map of how many frogwatch sites in a certain group’s area.

It only has funding for 18 months, there are only two more census rounds for data.

Meeting closed 8:06pm