

GINNINDERRA CATCHMENT GROUP connects, supports and leads local communities to improve the health of Ginninderra Creek & surrounding environments



ACT and Region Frogwatch Program & the Ginninderra and Yass components of Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch operate from the GCG office

Web: www.ginninderralandcare.org.au; **Office:** Kippax Health Centre, Holt ACT; **Phone:** 02 6278 3309

GINNINDERRA CATCHMENT GROUP NEWS

MAY 2018

Please distribute this newsletter to others in your networks and groups, or refer them to the link at www.ginninderralandcare.org.au.

From the Convenor

The talk by Guy Barnett of CSIRO at our April GCG General Meeting generated many questions, showing our community's considerable interest in the planning and processes of developing housing on the CSIRO Ginninderra Experiment Station. The 701 ha property, between Barton Highway and the northern edges of Evatt, Spence and Fraser, include large areas that are to be preserved for biodiversity conservation. In support of conservation of the area, GCG will again collaborate with CSIRO in the planting of mid-storey shrubs again this year. Last year's planting, which was undertaken through community planting days and the Aboriginal Green Army, has had an outstanding rate of survival. See below for how to get involved in this year's hands-on work, which will be on the two Sundays 20 May and 27 May.

Sandy Lolicato

[Acknowledgement of funding](#)

[Summary list of events in this newsletter \(see last page\)](#)

GENERAL GCG & LANDCARE – news from GCG Office

CULTURAL BURN AT GUBUR DHAURA

GCG and member group Mulanggang Aboriginal Landcare Group have collaborated with ACT Fire Unit to organise a cultural burn, which will be undertaken at Gubur Dhaura, an ancient ochre procurement site in Franklin, near the Gungahlin Town Centre. This cultural burn will occur in association with the South East Aboriginal Fire Forum (see *Around the Region* below) and a pre-burn was undertaken this week. This fire management will help to manage weedy grass species and assist GCG and Mulanggang in continuing to restore the area through weed control and revegetation. A new Gubur Dhaura Landcare Group is in the process of being formed in the area. If you are interested, contact Karissa.

GRASSLAND RESTORATION FILM

The work GCG has done in examining best practice management regimes for restoring native grasslands through fire management has been captured on a short film. The film prepared by CSIRO shows Ken Hodgkinson and Karissa explaining the project and the benefits of fire for grassland management. See the film at <https://ginninderraproject.com.au/grassland-trials-help-answer-burning-question/>

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE SEMINAR, Thursday 24 May

Landcare ACT is organising a regional evening seminar with guest speakers Charlie Massy (researcher and writer) and Martin Royds (regenerative farmer recently featured on ABC 4 Corners). It will be held from **5.30 to 8 pm on Thursday 24 May** and will focus on ways of integrating more regenerative practices into land management in the ACT. Contact Karissa for more info.

Note: the Landcare ACT seminar on **Aboriginal agriculture** on Wednesday 9 May, with Bruce Pascoe and Bill Gammage is **booked out** with a waiting list.

PARTNERING WITH CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS

Over the last month GCG has continued to work with Landcare Australia in partnering with a number of Corporate Volunteers to improve the environment in the Ginninderra Catchment. Thanks to all those involved!

- Volunteers from Telstra worked with Friends of Mt Painter and Parks and Conservation Staff to remove an old fence that was inhibiting animal and people movement on the reserve and undertake woody weed control. The group was hardworking and achieved desired outcomes.
- The CEO from Lockheed Martin and other staff also visited Umbagog in recognition of the new project this technological company has funded, which is focused on restoring Aboriginal cultural heritage and improving water quality. Lockheed Martin and Landcare Australia were impressed with the presentation provided by Karissa and Wally Bell from Mulanggang Aboriginal Landcare Group and all are looking forward to the partnership.
- Volunteers from Konika Minolta will also assist in Mulanggang Aboriginal Landcare Group in restoration efforts at Umbagog and Gubur Dhaura, beginning this month.

PADDOCK PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

GCG is again collaborating with the ACT Regional Landcare Facilitator to run a second (Autumn) session of paddock plant identification and management, to help rural landholders and others identify pasture plants when they are not flowering or in seed. Harry Rose from the NSW Department of Primary Industry will once again join us to share his tips on paddock plant identification, nutrition and management. All welcome! No need to have attended the first session. It will be held at Gold Creek Station, Victoria Street, Hall. **Saturday 12 May, 9:30am –1:00pm**. RSVP: sally.mcintosh@act.gov.au

CSIRO COMMUNITY PLANTING DAYS, Sundays 20 May and 27 May

As Sandy mentioned above, GCG is again collaborating with CSIRO on a number of community planting days at the CSIRO experiment station. These will be held on Sundays 20 and 27 May and will focus on increasing the shrub layer to bring birds back to the area. Register at <https://events.csiro.au/Events/2018/March/28/Ginninderra-Community-Planting-Days-2018>.

Karissa Preuss, GCG Executive Officer

WATERWATCH

AUTUMN WATER BUG SURVEYS HAVE FINISHED!

Thanks to all volunteers who have contributed to the surveys. It was another great season. We have surveyed 18 sites along Ginninderra Creek and six sites in Yass River. The photos show a Leafy Water Scorpion at Ginninderra Creek, and Taemas Bridge over the Murrumbidgee River.



FEELING FISHY EVENT YASS

Bruno and Woo joined the “Feeling Fishy” event at Yass Gorge last month, organised by Rivers of Carbon. We interacted with the visitors and talked about waterbugs, platypus, turtles and river health. It was an interesting day, with several talks and walks along the Yass Gorge. There is more information at this link: <http://riversofcarbon.org.au/events/feeling-fishy-day-yass-gorge/>

TURTLE TIME AT TIDBINBILLA NATURE RESERVE

Bruno talked to visitors at the reserve, showing them turtles and research gear, and providing information on turtle ecology and conservation. A video was recorded for more information on natural history of eastern long-necked turtles in Canberra region, at: <https://vimeo.com/263285579>



TEACHERS, look! – WATERWATCH EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

We are still running our educational workshops until end of June, if someone is interested please get in touch with Bruno by email to waterwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au. These are field-based education sessions with schools and youth groups. We have the personnel and equipment to make your outdoor education about our waterways much easier! We have nets, trays, buckets, and water quality kits, pamphlets and storybooks designed to cover various freshwater topics. Classes can range from simply fishing for water bugs with the junior kids, through to older grades conducting water quality and habitat assessments that help to make linkages between our behaviours and river health. Classes are free but limited so book early to avoid missing out. Schools demonstrating alignment with broader curriculum requirements will be prioritised.

Bruno Ferronato, Waterwatch Coordinator

Catchment member groups ‘happenings’

Grassland Restoration Landcare Group

In the last GCG Newsletter I reported that at 12 of the grassland restoration sites the two-yearly prescribed burn treatment had been applied thanks to ACT Government and the Rural Fire Service (RFS).

At the 13th site, on John & Mary Connelly’s property in NSW, the treatment was burned with minimal effort by John and myself on an evening in early April, after gaining permission from the Wallaroo RFS to do so. John had earlier mown the breaks and after wetting down the edges I used a drip torch to light one edge to make a back-burn. The fire slowly crept against the wind in a straight line and at the opposite side went out. It was a classic burn. We had a tanker on the side, loaned by a neighbour, ready to extinguish should the theory not work, but it was not needed.

A report and verbal and written comments on the burning of the treatment at the five CSIRO sites can be found at <https://ginninderraproject.com.au/grassland-trials-help-answer-burning-question/>.

Ken Hodgkinson, Convenor

North Belconnen Landcare (Evatt)

See Open Groups on Facebook for updates on our group.



It is with great sadness that I report that our oldest Landcarer Betty Davis is no longer with us. She had a lovely time at Landcare on the Wednesday morning in the patch the children call our ‘Secret Garden’ (*photo, right*), and then that same afternoon she fell in a suburban carpark and sadly did not survive the operation to repair her broken hip. Our sincere condolences go out to her family especially Harry her husband who brought her each week to our Landcare group and also enjoyed his time at Landcare. We are hoping Harry will continue with Landcare after his holiday away from Canberra. Betty would have

been 92 at the end of April. The photo (*left*) shows Betty and Harry enjoying nature.

The Scrape and Sow project started on Thursday 3 May in our Landcare Patch. (*The photo shows the first few passes, and the target area marked with star pickets, and a reserved patch of Kangaroo Grass taped off in pink.*) This is a joint ACT Government and Greening Australia venture and our Group will assist with ongoing care. It is adjacent to the footbridge



below Spain Place, and can be viewed from the footbridge. The “baddies” (Chilean Needlegrass and African Lovegrass) have been scraped off mechanically and “goodies” (native grasses and forbs) will be planted in their place.

Our ongoing Landcare start times need adjusting at this time of year as it gets cooler. Current start times are 9 – 9.15 am Wednesdays and Saturdays. Please check our Facebook page for any further adjustments of start times. Look in “Open Groups” and type in ‘North Belconnen Landcare Group’.

Lenore Hodgkinson, Convenor

Sutton Landcare (just north of Mulligans Flat)

Following the Sutton Landcare Group AGM, Dr Marta Yebra from ANU gave a demonstration of the Australian Flammability Monitoring System (AFMS) web explorer (<http://wenfo.org/afms>) which provides easier and faster access to spatial information on fuel, soil moisture and flammability from satellites at (currently) 500m pixel resolution.

The AFMS allows users to visualise and interpret national-scale information on fuel moisture content, flammability and soil moisture as maps or graphs. Data can be compared to preceding weeks, months, years or downloaded for further analysis. The overarching objective is to assist users in better resources allocation in fire protection and response and improved awareness of fire hazards to people and property.

When the system is fully operational it will be particularly useful in helping to determine whether it is safe to conduct hazard reduction burns as it provides a spatial overview of where highly flammable, high fuel loads are located, even in completely inaccessible areas. Higher resolution satellite data and more frequent satellite data will be incorporated into the future. The system will continuously upgrade to also incorporate more weather and vegetation type and condition information and thus become more and more relevant to firefighting planning and management. You can access the website now, if you are curious to have a look at our area.

The next Landcare presentation will be on **Tuesday 12 June** by **Karissa Preuss** from the Ginninderra Catchment Group. Sutton Landcare has joined Ginninderra Catchment Group as a member. There are many mutual benefits, as we cover adjacent areas with similar problems and solutions.

Arnold Dekker, President, Sutton Landcare Group



Mt Rogers Landcare (Spence, Melba, Flynn, Fraser)

News & observations from Mt Rogers are uploaded to our blog, mtrogerslandcare.blogspot.com.au.



A scene from Saturday 21 April when the Prescribed Burn planned for Mt Rogers took place between 10.15 and 17.30 hrs.

This section, approximately 1/3 of the 65 ha Urban Open Space reserve, hadn't been burnt to this extent for 45 years. Trees were marked with tapes – striped showing danger and yellow signifying habitat tree status. The rough grass was burnt along with Cootamundra Wattle branches removed as part of the site preparation.

Five separate fire crews from PCS Parks Fire Management Units and one crew of Hall Rural Fire Brigade volunteers lit fires from the top of the ridgeline. Each crew controlled their fire's behaviour and meticulously responded to the mapping by Dave Wong from Mt Rogers Landcarers' observations and knowledge of the area.

Water was on hand in each case. The 300–400 year-old eucalypts in the burn site had soil and leaf litter cleared from round their trunks or were hosed to reduce risk of fire flaring up towards their

canopies. The 'furies' showed detailed knowledge of tree, shrub and forb species and their characteristic responses to fire. They were also praised for the way they responded to the community's questions. A couple of children were delighted to be shown the power of hosed water.

It was a very professionally planned and executed event. Currawongs and Magpies have had many meals of roast protein from invertebrates unable to escape the cool, patch-burns. We await 'nature's' reactions with interest and scores of before and after photographs.

Our next working bee is on **Monday 7 May**. I propose a walk around the outer edges of the HRB area with wands and loppers at the ready. A few privets, Celtis and other woody weeds are showing themselves. Meeting near the Notice Box at 9.00 am.

Rosemary Blemings, Convenor

Jarramlee Park Landcare, Dunlop

At our last meeting, on 16 April, we had guests from University of Canberra: Dr Fiona Dyer, in charge of the project, and Gemma Stehlik, who was an Honours student who did the first lowering of Jarramlee Pond as her project. They gave us an update on the ongoing research work on the pond. The water in the Gross Pollutant Trap (GPT) and the pond is tested every week and also at Fassifern Pond, which is the 'control' site (for comparison). The vegetation in the riparian area around Jarramlee Pond will be surveyed in Spring and Autumn. They plan to use a drone to assist with this. There is water-level monitoring equipment hanging in the GPT. The pond is about 4 metres deep. The drying of the exposed banks and letting it refill naturally speeds up the denitrogenation and breakdown of nutrients. We have only had 18 mm of rain for the last two months. Any smell is caused by hydrogen sulfide escaping. The research finishes in June 2019.



Jarramlee Pond after lowering of the water level.



The rubbish awaits removal.

On 14 April, while the water level is low, we went around the pond collecting all the detritus that had been in the edge of the water and caught in the bulrushes: bottles, cans, waste plastic, a small wicker chair, pieces of board, wooden pallets and a large piece of heavy blue rubber which was in a circle like a drum with no ends. Along with the pallets, it was all taken to the collection area beside a tree just outside the gate, and Access Canberra were contacted to remove it.

On 28 April we held another working bee doing a cut and dab and/or removal of small-leaved privet, *Cotoneaster* and *Pyracantha* growing in the plantings along the floodway. Another working bee to continue this will be planned.

Our next meeting is on **Monday 28 May at 7.30 pm**, 26 Pomeroy St, tel: 6259 0750.

Pamela Fawke, Convenor

Macgregor Landcare Group, Macgregor

Macgregor Landcare Group got together in April to attack a section of the pathway along the creek that had become overgrown with privet, Cootamundra wattle and an assortment of other weeds. This particular parcel of land is challenging – rocky with quite a slope – and it had become a dumping



ground for all sorts of rubbish. With a lot of work (see the photos, by Elena Grigorieva) and much laughter we have transformed it into a much prettier and cleaner area, and plan to plant it out with

hardy natives next Spring. **Our group welcomes anyone who wants to join in a very worthwhile suburban community activity.**



Lyn Jenkins, Convenor

Friends of Mulligans Flat

The Friends of Mulligans Flat has over 480 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 parties are held on the second Wednesday of each month. Meet at the Woolshed at 9:30 am.
Seasonal work parties are held on a Sunday morning once each season, actual dates being advised closer to the activity. We usually meet at the Woolshed at 10:00 am.

March and April Work Parties



Many hands make light work. Photo courtesy of Julia Waddell-Wood.

Over the last two months the Friends have been helping the Rangers to place a floppy top on one of the Bettong enclosures. As a part of the experiment in introducing the Eastern Bettong to the Mulligans Flat sanctuary, twelve 1 hectare plots were established, where it was hoped to exclude the Bettongs to enable a long term comparison of soil and vegetation changes. Bettongs turn over a lot of soil each year and there was expected to be an improvement to the overall soil condition, compared to the small plots where there were no Bettongs ... but nobody told the Bettongs to stay out! Since then, Bettongs have made the occasional foray into the enclosures and they have even been spotted climbing the fence! To prevent this, we are trialling a floppy top to stop them getting in. The trial enclosure will be monitored by camera and

if it works by keeping those pesky little Bettongs out, the design will be rolled out to the remaining enclosures.

Fungi Foray events at Mulligans Flat and Jerrabomberra Wetlands. These are free events and all are welcome! If you have any questions please contact Sonja at canberrafungi@gmail.com.



Nearly finished! Photo courtesy of Mark Smith.

- **Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve, Sunday 6 May 2018, 9:30 am – 11:30 am.** Meet at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands Offices, Dairy Road, Fyshwick.
- **Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve, Sunday 17 June 2018, 9:30 am – 11:30 am.** Meet at the Woolshed.

Mothers' Day Bird Walk: Sunday 13 May, 9:00 – 11:30 am. Meet at the Amy Ackman St car park, Forde.

The **next work party** will be on **Wednesday 9 May**, when we hope to finish the Bettong enclosure's floppy top.

Mark Smith, Convenor

Friends of the Pinnacle (FOTPIN), Weetangera/Hawker

FOTPIN is on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofthepinnacle/>.

Aboriginal Heritage Walk at the Pinnacle Nature Reserve (*This event was supported with funding made available by the ACT Government under the ACT Heritage Grants Program.*)

Photos by John Brannan.

Ngunawal Elder Wally Bell led a highly successful Aboriginal Heritage walk at the Pinnacle Nature Reserve on Sunday 22 April. Almost 30 people turned up to hear Wally talk about the connection that his family and his people have to the land that we now call Canberra. He discussed Ngunawal cultural practices, passing around artefacts to illustrate his talk, and gave a Welcome to Country in Language, something that I think made a deep impression on everyone present.



His walk took us through woodland and grassland areas, giving Wally the opportunity to show us how his people have used some of the local plants, and finished with a stroll to the top of the Pinnacle, where he talked about his people's pathways through the landscape and touched on the different types of scar tree found in the area.



Despite it being a chilly and at times damp morning, everyone found the event extremely informative and rewarding. I, for one, am very much looking forward to the second of Wally's walks at the Pinnacle, currently scheduled for some time in October. Keep an eye on the FOTPIN website for details closer to the time – <http://www.fotpin.org.au/>.

John Brannan, Convenor

Friends of Mount Painter (Cook)

We have a **bird walk**, led by Nicki Taws, planned for **Sunday 6 May**. Meet at the noticeboard at the reserve entrance between 20 and 22 Booth Crescent, Cook at **8 am**. Last autumn we saw 28 species, including two rare species, the Scarlet Robin and Speckled Warbler. How many will we see this year?

Sarah Hnatiuk, Convenor

Friends of Aranda Bushland, Aranda

Our work parties are on the first Sunday of the month, between 9 am and 12 noon. See our website for details: <http://friendsofarandabushland.org.au>.

Autumn planting

In early April, although the weather was still unseasonably hot and dry, we went ahead with our plantings around the edges of the large erosion gully in the Snowgums grassland. Greening Australia supplied 100 *Lomandra longifolia* and 20 *Acacia dealbata* as tubestock, and ranger Phil arrived with a truck full of stakes, guards, water crystals and water.



We had 20 workers, but it still took us four hours to get them all in the ground. A few days later many of them had been pulled out by inquisitive kangaroos, as the guards were not strong enough, but Phil organised a truckload of cut branches, which were put over the plantings with the help of the day-release prisoners.

Since then we have been watering them from a nearby farm dam and we have hopes of quite a good survival rate.

Jenny Andrews, Convenor

NOTE:

To contact the Landcare or ParkCare Group Convenors, email or phone the GCG office, or check the groups' webpages on the GCG website at: www.ginninderralandcare.org.au > Landcare > Landcare groups.

Around the region

Conservation Council Dinner, 2 June

The Conservation Council ACT Region will hold its annual World Environment Day dinner at **7 pm** on **Saturday 2 June** at the National Arboretum Canberra. Guest speaker is Stuart Barry, author of [The Rich Greenie](#), and a life-long environmentalist and philanthropist. We have just missed the end of the earlybird tickets (3 May), but you can save a little money by adopting the Active Transporting option. If you are making up a group table, e.g. a GCG table, be sure to put that table name in the box at <https://conservationcouncil.org.au/CiviCRM/?page=CiviCRM&q=civicrm/event/register&reset=1&id=95> when you book and pay.

Passion Mashin': Revitalising Our Volunteer Groups, Saturday 5 May, 9.30 – 3.00

SEE-Change is convening a session of **Passion Mashin' tomorrow** with Les Robinson, one of Australia's most inspiring 'changeologists'. He's well known to many in the bushcare and Landcare community. For more about Les, see his web site: www.enablingchange.com.au. Passion Mashin' is a fun and illuminating workshop that harnesses the power of reinvention to spark new zest and enthusiasm in our volunteer groups. Hear great communication ideas and have a chance to share our own. We'll also create a great pitch to touch the hearts and minds of potential new members. It may transform the way we interact with our communities and may just spark a whole new way of doing our wonderful work. The event (free of charge) is at Corroboree Park Function Centre, Patterson St, Ainslie. **To reserve a place: call Edwina Robinson, SEE-Change, on 0403 764 230 or email office@see-change.org.au.**

Landcare and friends Celebration Dinner, Saturday 5 May, Royalla Community hall, 6.30 pm

Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare invites you to our upcoming dinner. Entertainment will be provided by our host Rainer Rehwinkel, and a selection of short videos of our local landcare groups, as you enjoy a tasty 3-course meal from Vanilla Catering. BYO drinks.

Urgent. If you'd like to attend, be sure to telephone Georgeanna, mob: 0429 779928, before 10 am on Saturday. Tickets, \$26.50 each.

Murrumbateman Landcare Group – 'Planning for planting, part 1', Sunday 6 May

MLG advises they are running a field visit to look at a property and discuss the issues to be considered in planning for revegetation, on **Sunday 6 May, 9.00 am to 12.30 pm** including morning tea. This visit to the 10 ha property of Russ Wise and Wendy Tassell will look at matters to be considered when planning a revegetation project; as well as an erosion problem, best practice weed and pastures management, identifying trees, shrubs and pasture species, and having a healthy wildlife friendly dam.

RSVP, please, before Sunday, to Bob McColl, bob.mccoll.bm@gmail.com

363 Rolfe Road, (Jeir is the locality). Turn off Barton Highway onto Kaveney's Road, travel 2 km along Kaveney's to Rolfe Rd on your lefthand side. Turn left and travel approx. 500 m along Rolfe Rd and turn right onto the driveway towards the house. Parking will be in the paddock near the house.

Inaugural South-east Australia Aboriginal Fire Forum, 10 –11 May

Hosted by ACT Natural Resource Management (ACT NRM) and ACT Parks and Conservation Service (ACT PCS), this forum, titled 'Cultural Burning: Evolving with community and Country', will give participants the opportunity to network, learn, and establish collaborations with others committed to cultural burning and caring for Country. The forum will be held on Ngunawal Country at the Ann Harding Centre, University of Canberra, Bruce, ACT. To book, and for more information:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/south-east-australia-aboriginal-fire-forum-tickets-44135825442>

Burra Erosion Community Conversation, Saturday 12 May, 10 am

Hear about and discuss managing erosion in the Burra region (NSW), with Wayne Cook (soil scientist & hydrogeological landscape mapper), Lori Gould and Ben Hanrahan. Meet at Burra Community Association Hall for the talk and tea; then site visits, followed by time for questions and discussion over a BBQ lunch. Register at www.riversofcarbon.org.au.

Beautiful local photos of wildlife – ends on 15 May!

Do make time to go to 'A Celebration of our Region's Wildlife', the **Wildlife Photo exhibition, until 15 May**, at CSIRO Discovery Centre, Clunies Ross St, Acton, **Mondays – Fridays 9 am – 4.30 pm**.

'From platypus to Pixie Parasols, Clown Fish to Glowing Ghost Mushrooms, breaching whales to spiky beetles, the ACT and south-east NSW has an amazing array of stunning beautiful plants, animals and fungi. This wonder and beauty is spectacularly captured in the 52 winning images from the 2017 Wildeye and 2018 Canberra Nature Map (CNM) photographic competitions.'

Grassland management forum, 18 May, Jerrabomberra, 9.30 am – 3 pm

'A Vision for Grassland Management & Restoration - recent achievements & next steps' is a forum to be held on **Friday 18 May 9.30 am – 3 pm**, Jerrabomberra Community Centre, NSW (supported by ACT Parks and Conservation Service and FOG). This is advance notice to claim the date. More details will be available soon. For information or to offer a presentation, contact: Geoff Robertson geoffrobertson@iprimus.com.au, phones 6241 4065 or [0403 221 117](tel:0403221117) or Maree Gilbert maree.gilbert@act.gov.au, phones [02 6205 2842](tel:0262052842) or [0432 990 896](tel:0432990896).

25 May: Rural communities in a climate conversation

This Climate conversation is a **forum on how land managers can contribute to limiting climate change and reap the benefits**. Help unlock the potential of rural communities and enable them to make a difference. The forum is on **Friday 25 May, 9 am – 4 pm**, in Yass Memorial Hall with **Genevieve Jacobs** (MC), and guest speakers **Dr Bradley Opdyke, Dr Charles Massy, Dr Christine Jones** and **Dr Siwan Lovett**. The event is supported by a range of community and industry organisation stall holders and exhibitors, and by Yass Area Network of Landcare Groups, Hovells Creek and Boorowa Community Landcare Groups, supported by Local Land Services, Rivers of Carbon and others in SE NSW. For booking information and more details (available soon): contact your local landcare group or call Linda Cavanagh on mob. 0459 681018, email landcare@boorowa.net.

Inquiry: the value of the natural environment to urbanising Canberra

The Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services invites submissions to its inquiry into the value of the natural environment to an urbanising Canberra. "... This inquiry provides Canberrans with a great opportunity to have their say about nature in our city as our bush capital grows and I look forward to hearing people's thoughts" (Committee Chair Suzanne Orr MLA). The Committee's terms of reference and other materials are accessible via the ACT Legislative Assembly website: <https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/in-committees/standing-committees-current-assembly/standing-committee-on-environment-and-transport-and-city-services/inquiry-on-the-value-of-the-natural-environment-to-an-urbanising-canberra>

The Committee invites submissions from interested organisations and individuals to its inquiry. **Written submissions should be lodged with the Committee Secretary by close of business on Friday, 8 June 2018.**

ACT Grassy Woodland forum, Wednesday 27 June evening & Thursday 28 June

Speakers at this forum, at the **Anne Harding Conference Centre, University of Canberra**, will focus on 'What is your vision for grassy woodlands?' on the Wednesday evening. The theme for Thursday is 'Managing grassy woodland in the ACT', and the day comprises short talks & posters on new research, citizen science, and on-ground projects, ending with discussion of the ACT Woodlands Conservation Strategy. To register, go to Eventbrite, <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/act-woodlands-forum-2018-tickets-44623765885?aff=es2>. Free, but places are limited.

Black Mountain symposium, 24 August 9–4.30; 25 August 9.30–noon.

'The past 50 years informing the next 50'. Early notice. Themed talks at CSIRO Discovery Centre on the Friday (themes: natural environment and cultural environment). Walks in Black Mountain Nature Reserve on the Saturday. Cost: \$55 for the symposium talks, fully catered. Guided walks \$5. To register, and for program, see: www.friendsofblackmountain.org.au/symposium

Alert about European Wasps. PLEASE READ AND ABSORB

Please be aware that at this time of year European wasps are becoming more aggressive in defence of their nests. European wasp stings are very painful and they can sting multiple times which can become a serious threat to a person's health.

Volunteers should be aware of the risk posed by wasps and be on the lookout for wasp activity which may indicate a hidden nest, such as a line of wasps coming and going from a certain location. If you find a nest do not disturb it, and report it immediately.

To report a European Wasp nest, phone **02 6258 5551** the Wasp hotline (*put it into your phone now!*). Reporting by phone app or website is detailed below.

FIRST AID

One wasp sting – apply an icepack. This is hard to do when you're in the field. BUT instant ice packs can be purchased from the chemist. These are a small and light sealed bag that can be added to the first aid kit, that, when activated, become a cold pack.

Multiple stings and a feeling of being unwell – immediately go to hospital or call an ambulance. Emergency call service number is Triple Zero (000), which can be dialled from any fixed or mobile phone, pay phones and certain Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services. There are also two secondary emergency call service numbers—112 and 106

REPORTING

Report all nests on the 'eWasp'. This is the most important thing to do after you ensure your safety, and this also means walking away and not disturbing the nest.

<http://ewasp.com.au/> is a link to the website for reporting European Wasps in the ACT. It also has additional information such as photographs for identification and treated and untreated nests. There are links to E-Wasp apps for both Apple and Android phones that we encourage our staff and members of the public to load onto their phones. These apps are where you will report the nest, which will then alert the pest control operator to inspect and treat the nest. The app will record the location, date, time etc.

Please become familiar with identifying the European Wasp. Go to the website and have a look at the photos. Load the App on to your phone <http://ewasp.com.au/>.

Rachel Tokley, Urban Volunteer Group Coordinator, TCCS

Tips to help your local bees drinking at your bird bath

Put strong thin twigs into the water of your bird bath so when bees and other flying insects come there to drink and get into trouble, they can swim to the twigs. This helps stop them from drowning. This tip comes from Lucy Bastecky, via Anke Maria Hoefer. Lucy read it in a letter in the *Canberra Times*.

Summary list of events in this newsletter (*indicates a group working bee)

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Weekly working bees: *Wednesdays & Saturdays, North Belconnen Landcare. *Thursdays, FOTPIN

5 May	Passion Mashin' workshop on volunteering opportunities, 9.30–3.00.
5 May	Landcare & friends – celebration dinner at Royalla, 6.30 pm. Need to book immediately.
6 Apr–15 May	Wildlife photo exhibition, CSIRO Discovery, weekdays 9–4.30
6 May	Bird walk at Mount Painter, 8 am
6 May	Bird walk at The Pinnacle, 9 am (full)
6 May	Fungi Foray, Jerrabomberra Wetlands, 9.30 am
6 May	'Planning for planting' – farm walk, Murrumbateman, 9 am
*6 May	Friends of Aranda Bushland, 9 am
*7 May	Mt Rogers Landcare, 9 am
*9 May	Friends of Mulligans Flat, 9.30 am
10–11 May	SE Australia Aboriginal Fire Forum
12 May	Paddock Plant ID workshop, 9.30 – 1.00
12 May	Burra Erosion Community Conversation, Burra NSW, 10 am
13 May	Bird walk at Mulligans Flat, 9 am
18 May	Grassland management/restoration forum, Jerrabomberra NSW, 9.30–3.00
20 May	CSIRO shrub-planting day
24 May	Regenerative agriculture seminar, Charles Massy & Martin Royds, 5.30–8 pm
25 May	Landholders limiting Climate Change, with four speakers, Yass, 9–4
27 May	CSIRO shrub-planting day
28 May	Jarramlee Park Landcare Group meeting, 7.30 pm

2 June	Conservation Council World Environment Day dinner, 7 pm
8 Jun	End of comments on urban environment inquiry, by ACT Government
12 June	Sutton Landcare Group meeting, Karissa Preuss speaking about GCG, 7.30 pm
17 Jun	Fungi Foray @ Mulligans Flat, 9.30 am
27 & 28 June	ACT Grassy Woodland forum, Wednesday evening and all Thursday, U. Canberra
24 & 25 August	Black Mountain symposium, 9 –4.30 (talks on 24 th); 9.30 – 12 (walks on 25 th).

Ginninderra Catchment Group is grateful for support from

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