



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

Website: NOW LIVE! <http://ginninderralandcare.org.au>; **Office:** Kippax Health Centre, Holt ACT; **Phone:** 02 6278 3309

GINNINDERRA CATCHMENT GROUP NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2018

Please distribute this newsletter to others in your networks and groups.

From the Convenor

I am pleased to advise that GCG was successful in the recent Environment Grant on Grasslands restoration in Ginninderra – \$35,953. For further details see:

http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/open_government/inform/act_government_media_releases/gentlem/2018/eleven-projects-awarded-act-environment-grants

Bernie Bugden (standing in for Karissa Preuss) has settled in well and is working with Southern ACT Catchment Group, Molonglo Catchment Group and the ACT Government Environment Directorate to progress 3 projects to examine a future sustainable funding base for the catchment groups. I attended a workshop to develop an implementation plan for the ACT Water Strategy – a number of actions will involve the catchment groups including Waterwatch, Frogwatch and communication and engagement activities.

We will continue to support our members on a range of matters. The following actions arose from the recent meeting held on 17 September:

- Circulate a document detailing Roles and Responsibilities for GCG and Rachel Tokley of TCCS.
- As part of the catchment projects (as detailed above), engage with Members on opportunities to partner in new areas (such as mental health, schools, citizen science).
- Review First aid kits (including snake bandages) and training across ParkCare / Urban Landcare member groups and seek required funding from ACT Government.
- Provide update on Ginninderry Bush on the Boundary / People & Places arrangements.

AND please vote for your favourite for this year's National Landcare Awards (see below). Good luck to Lenore Hodgkinson (for the Individual Landcarer Award) and GCG (for the Fairfax Media Landcare Community Group Award)!

The newsletter again provides outlines of some of the wide level of activities being conducted across the catchment. Let's hope we get some serious rain soon. Finally, I wish to congratulate Karissa and Chun on their birth of their son, Clancy Jack Morton.

Sandy Lolicato

[Acknowledgement of funding](#)

[Summary of dates in this newsletter](#)

GENERAL GCG & LANDCARE – news from GCG Office

COULD THESE BE YOUR KEYS?

At the Landcare display on 7 – 9 September weekend, at Jamison shopping centre, Macquarie, the team found a **set of keys on a red lanyard** (see photo). If these could be yours, or belong to someone you know, please contact Margaret Ning on mob. 0427 788 304.



THANKS to all WHO STAFFED THE JAMISON DISPLAY



It was a happy weekend, and there were numerous interactions with shoppers who were passing and stopped to read, look, chat and sign up for selected further information. Thank you all who contributed time to this now-annual display organised by Jean Geue (ably assisted by Linda Beveridge and John Brannan). As a result, more people who shopped at Jamison that weekend will be joining in Landcare, Waterwatch, Frogwatch and/or ParkCare groups from now on. Welcome!



(The photos, by Linda Beveridge, show the displays only, between Coles and Cassidys.)

CORE CAPACITY – PROTECTING OUR CATCHMENT FUNDING 2018/19

Director for the Environment, ACT Government, Ian Walker has advised of initial funding to the three ACT catchments groups at a total of \$150,000 across 3 projects. The three Catchment Groups have been individually contracted to undertake the following projects:

- Report on community-based catchment models applicable to the region & provision of Framework for a Regional NRM Strategy for the ACT. **Lead, GCG.**
- Risk Management & Management. **Lead, MCG** (i.e. Molonglo Catchment Group).
- Value Proposition & Business Case. **Lead, SACTCG** (Southern ACT Catchment Group).

While the nature of this work will limit Bernie's time to principally that contracted above, the scope of the work does provide the catchment groups a useful opportunity to input in these matters for the future.

The three catchment groups have been meeting and have made sound progress on the formation of the project plans. In addition, we have finalised governance principles that will cover each of the projects. We have now signed off contracts and commenced initial work. While we are contracted individually, the three groups are working collegiately across the three projects. Initial contracts cover off work to be completed by 31/12/18.

There is remaining \$202,000 to be allocated through discussions with the catchment groups and EPSDD which may take the form of additional projects arising from our initial contracts. This later funding will be available for work to 30/6/19.

CURRENT STAFF ARRANGEMENTS

As a result of new core funding arrangements and Karissa's maternity leave, please note there are some significant changes with regard to staff support. Bernie's work times are limited to 2.5 days per week primarily due to new core funding contract. Staff days and hours are:

Staff Member	Work Days	Comments
Bernie Bugden	Monday & Wednesday 8am to 4pm. Thursday 8am to 12 noon	May vary due to meeting commitments
Bruno Ferronato	Tuesday to Thursday 9am to 5pm Friday 9am to 1pm	
Fiona Spier	Wednesday and Thursday 9:30am to 5:30pm	
Anke Maria Hoefer	Monday Tuesday Wednesday	As above
Julian Low	Tuesday	

INVITATION FROM SUZANNE ORR

MLA Suzanne Orr has invited GCG to a clean-up day and bbq, **Saturday 20 October**. See ['Around the Region, below](#).

HAVE YOU VOTED in the NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS – Peoples' choice?

The National Landcare Awards celebrate the achievements of Landcare volunteers around the country who dedicate their valuable time and energy into caring for the land and water that sustain us.

- **GCG** has been nominated for the **National Fairfax Landcare Community Group Award**.
- **Lenore Hodgkinson**, Convenor of the North Belconnen Landcare Group, has been nominated for the prestigious **Individual Landcarer Award**.
- **GCG** was also involved in the **Green Army Partnership Program**, nominated for the **National Australian Government Partnerships for Landcare Award**.

You can **VOTE for a candidate in the People's Choice Award** until Wednesday 10 October! The award goes to the finalist who receives the most votes from the general public in the lead-up to the awards.

The winner will be announced on Thursday 11 October at the Awards gala dinner. *Voting is now open and closes on Wednesday 10 October 2018*. Follow the link at <http://nationallandcareconference.org.au/awards/>. See [Around the Region, below](#), for conference registration details.

Bernie Bugden, GCG Executive Officer

WATERWATCH

IN OUR CATCHMENT – JUNE TO AUGUST (WINTER) 2018

We had a dry winter in our region, with below average rainfall during June, July and August, but most notably in July (Fig. 1). Slightly warm temperatures as well, with mean maximum temperatures 0.7 °C higher in June and July. Several sites presented low water levels but we did not have any dry site this winter, a difference from autumn 2018, where a few sampling sites were completely dry.

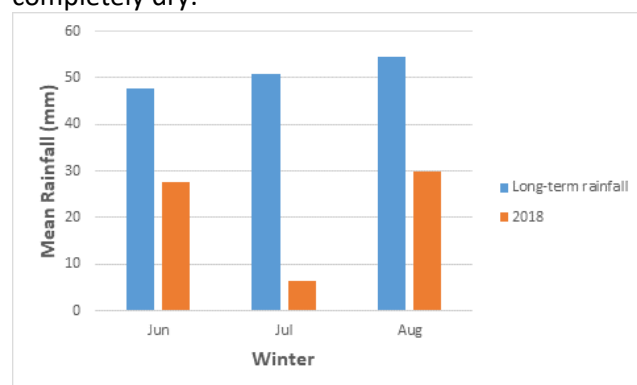


Fig. 1. Mean rainfall in northern Canberra

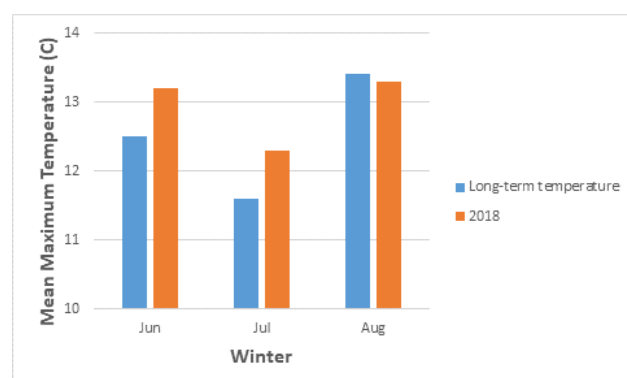


Fig. 2. Mean maximum temperature in northern Canberra

Electrical conductivity (EC) in some Yass river sites have been elevated, but they appear to be within the range for those sites during winter (YAS430, 800 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$; YAS005, 880 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$). It was

good to see low EC readings for Kippax Creek and Jarramlee Pond (185 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ and 130 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$, respectively).

Despite the dry conditions, we did observe some good reading of *dissolved oxygen* in Yass and Murrumbidgee River and Ginninderra Creek, and that's possibly influenced by the lower temperatures which tend to increase oxygen level (GIN006: 89% saturation, YASS005: 71% saturation, and CMM050: 93% saturation).

In terms of nutrients, *phosphorus* readings were low with only a fair result in Kippax Creek (0.04 mg/L) and a poor reading in Valley Ponds (0.07 mg/L), and for *nitrates* there were a few degraded results (>2.6 mg/L) throughout our region, with some high results in the Murrumbidgee River and Yass River and Ginninderra Creek.

SPRING BUG BLITZ

Bug Blitz has started and we will have several field days this season, please get in touch if you are interested in joining me for a day in the field. It is fun, and we provide all the gear. Some of the dates:

- 10/10 (Gungahlin area),
- 17/10 (Belco and Gungahlin area), and
- 24/10 (Yass area).

If you are interested, please write me at waterwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au

LARGE ILLEGAL NET FOUND IN ACT URBAN POND

Although an unfortunate finding, this story (at the link below) can help to educate people to avoid using illegal nets and traps and how this could impact on our native fauna. See

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/national/act/net-from-commercial-fishing-trawler-pulled-from-franklin-pond-20180720-p4zslu.html>

GOLDEN AGE OF CITIZEN SCIENCE

There is an exponential increase in citizen science projects around the world, and Australia is no different. Here are some examples of successful projects 'down under' and the importance of our volunteers in collaborating in projects such as Waterwatch:

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/aug/06/the-golden-age-of-citizen-science-and-how-it-is-reshaping-the-world?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Tweet

Bruno Ferronato, Waterwatch Coordinator

FROGWATCH

THIS YEAR'S CENSUS (supported through funds made available by the ACT Government)

Frogwatch is running a **Census seminar at Jerrabomberra Wetlands** to get every keen Frogwatcher geared up for this year's spring census. The seminar will be held on **Thursday 4 October, starting at 6 pm** at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands education centre. A PowerPoint presentation will take you through the ins and outs of frogwatching and introduce you to our local frogs and their amazing calls. We then will fill our bellies with hot soup before heading out in the cold night to practise our newly learned skills, right then and there at the beautiful wetlands!!

We have a list of 'orphaned' **Frogwatch sites that need** to be taken into the care of by a **frogwatcher** who can do **2 site surveys during Census week** (21–27 October). (See also below under 'OUR NEW FROGWATCH PORTAL...' .)

To book your spot in the **4 October seminar** simply go to the *Jerrabomberra Wetlands events page* by clicking on the link <https://jerrabomberrawetlands.org.au/events/list/> and follow the prompts.

ALSO, Frogwatch will run a training seminar at **Cooma on Thursday 18 October**, just before the Census week. If you are interested in coming along please **contact Antia** from Cooma Region Waterwatch, on phone 0429778633 or email coomawaterwatch@gmail.com.

These two events are made possible by *Lori Gould*, Program Manager at Jerrabomberra Wetlands, Woodlands and Wetlands Trust; and by *Antia Brademan*, Cooma Region Waterwatch Coordinator, respectively.

*Please read the last item in this newsletter to see how to use the **Frogwatch online portal** to find a site and record your observations.*

CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT (funded through the ACT Government)

Despite the acute lack of rain frogs can be heard around town. Our amazing Climate Change volunteers have detected up to 4 species so far- *Crinia signifera*, *Crinia parinsignifera*, *Litoria verreauxii* and *Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*. Go climies go!!

BIO-INDICATOR STUDY (funded through the ACT Government)

All is geared up for this year's extended repeat of the 2015 frog habitat study at 45 wetlands across town. CIT students will be doing the in-depth habitat assessments, all of which will be done in the first week of October. ANU and CIT students will then join forces for the weekly monitoring of the sites involved, throughout October!!

Preparations are currently being finalised and it will all be 'go-go-go' from Monday 1 October onwards!!

Special thanks to *Aftab Jalal* (MJ) for taking on the crucial job of preparing the right databases and running the data analysis in early November, and to *Danial Stratford* for covering some harder-to-get-to sites in Mulligans Flat.

And, on Saturday night I trained a bunch of lovely ANU students!! They will be instrumental in monitoring for frogs @ 11 sites in the Inner north, the ANBG, ANU, the Arboretum and in the Aranda Bushland throughout October. These site surveys will contribute important data to the Bio-indicator study as well as to the annual Census!!

FROGS AT BUSH BLITZ, NOVEMBER – DECEMBER

Bush Blitz is Australia's largest nature discovery program and the next Bush Blitz will take place in the ACT from 26 November to 6 December 2018. There will be a community day at the Australian National Botanic Gardens on Sunday 2 December from 10 am to 3 pm. This event will give visitors a chance to learn about taxonomy, interact with Bush Blitz scientists, and find out how they can get involved with local community groups to contribute to our knowledge of Australian biodiversity.

To all frog-keen people: Jodi Rowley from the Australian Museum will be one of the Bush Blitz scientists on site on 2 December – a great opportunity to pick her Froggie brain!!

If you would like to be involved in the activity or need more detail please contact: Paula Banks, Bush Blitz Reporting Officer, [phone 02 6250 9467](tel:0262509467), [email paula.banks@environment.gov.au](mailto:paula.banks@environment.gov.au)

OUR NEW FROGWATCH PORTAL on Canberra Nature Map – and how to use it

After a mammoth effort – hours of work with Aaron Clausen – the Frogwatch data portal finally went live last weekend on Canberra Nature Map (CNM). What a milestone! So much work! From here on, there will be fine-tuning forever, but at least the data are now saved there and usable.

To use the portal, simply follow this link –

<https://frogwatch-act.naturemapr.org/>

Create your own log in and start entering surveys.

You can also find this link on (GCG's) Frogwatch census webpage

<https://ginninderralandcare.org.au/frogwatch/frogwatch-census/>

If all else fails, go to the CNM start page, <https://canberra.naturemapr.org/>,

scroll all the way down to the bottom of the page, and click on the Frogwatch (FW) icon there!! This will also get you to the FW portal.

Find active FW sites by searching the overview map or by scrolling through the POINTS OF INTEREST.



I will (in time) work on simplifying the site codes so that they better reflect in which area the sites are and that neighbouring sites have the same site letters; however, that might have to wait till after the census!!

If you want to add a SURVEY, go to 'add a survey', and then to the FW survey form.

Please remember: from this year onwards we are collecting some new descriptors of habitat quality and wetland features, such as min/max length exposed soil and the vertical drop.

The updated Field data sheet is attached again to this email (and run in as images), and it is also on our webpage <https://ginninderralandcare.org.au/frogwatch/frogwatch-census/> as well. (The frogs are in alphabetical order on this version; otherwise, no real changes.)

As a number of popular FW sites are already well covered by volunteers, through the Climate change and bio-indicator studies, I have created a list of **orphaned sites** in need of some attention during this year's Census week (**21 – 27 October**). I will leave a link to the list on the FW Census webpage (<https://ginninderralandcare.org.au/frogwatch/frogwatch-census/>) (which is still under construction and looks very uninspired!! sorry about that!!).

If you see a site, or even several sites, on the list that you could survey during Census week (best to do it twice) please just send me an email at frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au, or phone me on 62783309 (**Tuesdays or Wednesdays**), and I will then take that site(s) off the list to avoid double ups!!

AN IMPORTANT REQUEST!!!! If you have already submitted data into the Canberra Nature Map Frogwatch portal could you please let me know how many surveys in total, or the sites and the dates?? I would like to double check that they are fully shown in the list!!

News from the catchment member groups

Friends of Mount Painter (Cook)



We have had a busy time this month, starting with a joint work party with Friends of Aranda Bushland. We helped them plant trees and groundcover plants along the creek in their grassland area. It was good to work on someone else's patch for a change and meet new and old friends from the other side of Bindubi Street.

The following weekend was occupied by a display at Jamison Plaza by the local Parkcare and Landcare

groups, Friends of Grasslands, Ginninderra Catchment Group and the Southern Tablelands Ecosystem Park. Together we mounted an engaging and colourful account of parts of the natural world in our area and the activities that our groups carry out. A goodly number of people stopped to talk and look and carry off the hand-outs available.

On 15 September, a small number of Friends of Mount Painter and of Aranda Bushland took a walk through the grassland area in the Wildflower Triangle that was burnt in March to look at the variety of small plants that have come up. Before the burn, they were hidden from view by large grass tussocks or struggled to thrive in the shade. We have discovered more than 20 species, including some that we did not know were there, for example, orchids



and lilies. Despite the dry season, some are even flowering. (*Left photo: Common Woodruff; right photo: Billy Buttons.*)

The following day, we wound up our September activities with a work party among the old eucalypts in the Old Road Reserve. We took out many small hawthorns and a few other woody weeds.

Our next work party is on **Sunday, 21 October**. The task and locations are still to be decided and will be posted on our Facebook page.

*Sarah Hnatiuk, Convenor,
m. 0424 263 565*

Friends of Mulligans Flat

The Friends of Mulligans Flat has over 500 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 9:30am.

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 10:00am.

MONTHLY WORK PARTY

The September work party once again focused on the main priority in the new Sanctuary: namely, removing feral and exotic pests and predators, in particular rabbits. So far, there are not too many signs of rabbits. A few large warrens were ripped and compacted a year or so ago and none of them shows any signs of re-entry. We hope the drought will help keep rabbit numbers down a bit as well. We are keeping our fingers crossed.

SPRING WORK PARTY

For the spring work party we had a lovely day to wander around the sanctuary, with our main aim being to chip away at the serrated tussock that just won't go away. Although the density is quite low, so we are able to keep on top of it, it will always be an annual problem due to seed distribution. We really like the shaped spades that Ranger Dave has 'manufactured'. They really aid in getting under the roots with minimal ground disturbance.



The modified spade.
Photo by Kathy Eyles.



A nice shady place for a break.
Photo by Kathy Eyles.

SPRING BIRD WALK

Our annual Spring Bird Walk was held on Sunday 9 September. It was a windy morning and with the lack of rain there was not a great deal of activity on the avian front, but we were treated with some sightings of bettongs and echidnas. Many thanks to our two wonderful guides from COG – John Brannan and Bill Graham.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

The next monthly work party will be on **Wednesday 10 October from 9:30am to 12:00 noon**, meeting at the Woolshed.

Mark Smith, Convenor

Friends of Aranda Bushland

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>

On the 2nd of September we had a busy session of planting, with the help of the Friends of

Mt Painter. Altogether we had 37 workers, who did a total of 99 hours – a record! We planted 250 seedlings around the deep unsightly erosion gully, and protected them with guards, as we still have a massive overpopulation of kangaroos (in the recent cull, only 27 kangaroos were taken out, although Parks and Cons had been hoping to remove about 300). Marty kindly provided a water cart for the occasion. The photo shows the scene at the planting session.

Meanwhile some workers sawed down many large feral hawthorns from the nearby ex-rural lease, and dragged them to the erosion gully, where they are doing a sterling job as a further layer of protection against kangaroos.

Next month we will need to concentrate on attacking the ever-threatening St John's Wort and Paterson's Curse rosettes.



Jenny Andrews, Convenor

Friends of The Pinnacle (FOTPIN) (Weetangera)

SPRING BIRD WALK AT THE PINNACLE, Sunday October 7th, 9 am – 11.30 am

John Brannan will lead a bird walk to observe some of the many resident and migratory bird species that nest at the Pinnacle every year. All ages welcome. Meet at the Dungowan Street entrance, Hawker. **No bookings needed, just turn up!**

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE WALK, Sunday October 21st, 9 am – 11 am

Join local Ngunawal elder **Wally Bell** as he takes us on a walk through the Pinnacle to see the landscape through the eyes of Australia's first people. Wally will point out and explain the traces of his people's ancient history in the region, and tell us how they used the area's natural resources. All ages welcome. Meet at the De Salis Street entrance, Springvale Drive, Weetangera

Numbers are limited and bookings are essential.

Please register with John Brannan, coordinator@fotpin.org.au

** This event is supported with funding made available by the ACT Government under the ACT Heritage Grants Program.*

WILDFLOWER WALK, Sunday November 4th, 9 am – 11 am

Enjoy a stroll through one of the Reserve's loveliest areas of natural vegetation and learn a little about the trees and plants to be found there. **All ages welcome, no need to book.** Meet at the De Salis Street entrance, Springvale Drive, Weetangera. Go to www.fotpin.org.au for more information.

If you have any questions at all, just give me a call on 0405 331 405.

John Brannan, Convenor

Jarramlee Park Landcare Group (Dunlop)

We are still working on the floodway between Ginninderra Drive and Jarramlee Pond, which is a long-term project as the native plantings there are old and many have died over the last few years.

On Saturday 22 September, we undertook the ninth workbee in the floodway. Four of us took out dead bushes, cut and dabbed feral bushes, plants and trees, including Cotoneaster, Small-leaved Privet, Large-leaved Privet, a large load of Passion Vine, Chinese Elm, Briar and Photinia.



Passion Vine removed by a happy worker!

We also collected a lot of rubbish, including a pile of undelivered catalogues and papers hidden under a bush near the bridge on Archdall St, and further up, dumped under bushes, a heap of Vodka Cruiser bottles. There is also a fair amount of glass thrown off the bridge onto the path below. There is a bus stop on the bridge, so always some rubbish.

The stumps of cut down dead trees have been tagged with orange ribbon, and TCCS have offered to take these stumps out and hopefully more dead bushes. It is intended to start replanting next Autumn.



Briar, cut and dabbed.

Pamela Fawke, Convenor

Umbagog Landcare Group (Latham)

Umbagog Landcare group has emerged from a few months of silence with a core group of 10 people prepared to share the organisational responsibilities previously assigned to a solo convenor. Thank you, Celina (our previous Convenor), for your contributions.

A calendar of regular group working-bee dates and times has been drawn up 'til autumn 2019. Our **next working bee** will be on **Saturday 6 October, 9 am**, meeting at the carpark on Florey Drive.

Several volunteers will continue to take on tasks solo, when time permits.

For our standard 1st-Saturday working-bees we have concentrated on weeds in good-quality grassland and woodland areas. We have notified TCCS, via Rachel Tokley, that invasive species in and close to Ginninderra Creek need to be treated on a whole-of-creek-line basis. It would be ideal if TCCS could particularly remove the woody weeds that are now too big a job for our volunteers.

As elsewhere, the extreme dryness has affected native wildflower species. Many have not emerged from dormancy or have short stems with fewer flowers. Just now, green leaves show where there's dampness and, usually, that weed species are benefiting.

A TCCS contractor has been through the Reserve identifying and spot-spraying African Lovegrass and Chilean Needle Grass. Thanks, TCCS for boosting the effect of this Landcare Group's on-going efforts against these grasses and Serrated Tussock.

We had a few days' notice of a Hazard Reduction Burn in the Blue Devil Grassland near Southern Cross Drive/Florey Drive intersection. It is an area that really needed this follow-up ecological burn, which happened on Friday 21st September. New recruits to the ACT's bushfire teams gained first-hand experience of protecting existing trees and treating native grassland respectfully.

Warm days have seen the return of summer birds. We have installed caution signs at a known Eastern Brown snake area. They are common through the reserve. We've submitted Rakali and native bird sightings to Canberra Nature Map.

Two *Reading the Landscape* walks have been enjoyed by 11 people. We shared sightings, place-names, experiences and our admiration for the much-visited Umbagog section of the creek.

Rosemary Blemings

North Belconnen Landcare Group

We still await decent rain to activate the 'scrape and sow' project (Betty Davis wildflower patch) by the Evatt footbridge. No sign of life on this patch yet, but there has not been sufficient rain to germinate the native seeds.

Weeding and watering are still high on our agenda at the moment, removing St John's Wort, Chilean Needlegrass and African Lovegrass, our worst enemies. The large patch below the play park is now looking



good with most of the African Lovegrass removed.

The 'Blue Devils' patch is showing signs of life again after dormancy with these lovely plants coming up again. They should be in flower by November if not sooner.

Our current meeting times are Wednesday and Saturdays at 9.30 am on a weekly basis. Different people attend each of these groups. We try to meet for one hour but it sometimes goes a little longer. As the weather gets warmer the start times will be earlier.

As many of you know, I will be attending the National Landcare Conference in October, where I shall be competing at the National Level for the Individual Landcarer Award!

Lenore Hodgkinson, Convenor

Above: Going home with a bag of African Lovegrass: Josh, Callum, Ewen with Lenore, September.

Below: Ewen with trailer full of African Lovegrass.



Grassland Restoration Landcare Group

It will soon be time to measure the plant species richness (number of species per unit area) and estimate plant evenness at the 13 grassland restoration study sites in the Ginninderra Catchment. The second half of October and early November are the best times.

If you remember, the plots are treated by regular mowing, or by burning in autumn, or they are left alone as a 'control'. Burning doesn't happen every year (but did happen this year, 2018). Also, last year (2017), with volunteers' help, we planted five species of wildflowers (forbs) into the sites.

The sites were surveyed in 2016 and, according to plan, they should be surveyed again this year to measure the changes. Last year, we surveyed the plantings and their survival and whether the survivors were flowering. The results were varied. Experienced plant ID people are very welcome to help with the surveys, in addition to those kind volunteers who have helped me before (whom I've emailed separately already). Please contact me at ken.hodgkinson@csiro.au if you are interested and available.

We have just been funded for this and other restoration work in the Ginninderra Catchment. We have received a research grant from the Capital Region Landkeepers Trust and the Australian Native Plant Society for a study of the 'Roles of soil properties in survival of planted native forbs, germination/establishment of native species and competition between forbs and grasses of exotic and native species.' A PhD student from Northeast Normal University (China) will be conducting a glasshouse experiment in CSIRO with me as part of this project. Her name is Yinong Li and she will be arriving in mid-October for a 4-month visit. I would like her to have a wide and enriching experience while she is here so I hope you will meet her during her visit. The other funding is an ACT Environment Grant for 'Grasslands restoration in Ginninderra' (\$35,953) recently announced.

Ken Hodgkinson, Convenor

Mt Rogers Landcare Group

Our next workparty is on Monday 8 October, meeting at 9 am, Wickens Place, Fraser.

Rosemary Blemings

NOTE:

To contact the Landcare or ParkCare Group Convenors, email or phone the GCG office.

The groups' webpages will all be up again on the GCG website **when the rebuilding is complete:** www.ginninderralandcare.org.au

Around the region

TONIGHT: Talk on dynamic bushfire behaviour in Canberra's west. 27 September, 7 pm, Flynn

Professor Jason Sharples, a volunteer fire fighter and bushfire researcher is the speaker. Ginninderra Falls Association AGM (6.30 pm) precedes the talk at **7pm. Flynn Community Hub Hall, 21 Bingle St, Flynn** (parking accessed off Hedland Cct). This is a public meeting arranged by the Ginninderra Falls Association. All welcome.

Working bee, 6 October, Hall Cemetery woodland: Friends of Grasslands

On **Saturday 6 October**, your help is needed and welcome at Hall Cemetery (a short way along Wallaroo Road, which is a turning off the Barton Highway not far before the NSW border). The task is to tackle emerging weeds, especially plantain, and selected patches of exotic grass in the woodland that surrounds the cemetery. The work will be a combination of spot application of herbicide and physical removal or trimming.

Morning tea is provided. Please dress for the weather and gardening, with sturdy footwear.

Most important: REGISTER with john.fitzgerald@fog.org.au at least two days before the workparty, so there is enough tea and equipment for everyone.

National Landcare Conference 2018, 10–12 October, Brisbane

‘Landcare – Building a Better Tomorrow’ is the title of this year’s conference. Details are at <http://www.nationallandcareconference.org.au>. GCG and one of our group convenors (Lenore Hodgkinson, North Belconnen Landcare) are nominated in the national awards, so it would be great to have lots of GCG landcarers at the conference! Pip Courtney, host of *Landline* on ABC TV, will MC the conference and awards gala dinner.

Invitation from Suzanne Orr to help at North Mitchell with bbq (20 October)

‘Friends of Grasslands and I will be hosting a clean-up and BBQ at North Mitchell Grasslands, and we would like to invite the Ginninderra Catchment Group.

We’ll be cleaning up the grasslands on **Saturday October 20th from 11am to 1pm** then I’ll be hosting a **BBQ lunch** straight after for all the volunteers. The clean-up day is a great chance for locals to come and meet other people in their neighbourhood that are as passionate about the environment as themselves.

Everyone is welcome to join us for a fun day of hands-on environmental action.

You can find more information about the event on my Facebook page or by clicking on the following link to the event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/340491456514573/>

I hope we shall see some people from the Ginninderra Catchment Group joining us on the day!

Kind regards,

Suzanne

Suzanne Orr MLA, Member for Yerrabi ’

Grassland forum, 24 and 25 October, Canberra

You (land managers, policy makers, researchers, volunteers, NGO personnel and anyone with an interest in grasslands) are invited to attend a **grassland forum called ‘A vision for grassland management & restoration’** to explore recent achievements and next steps in the understanding, management and restoration of our Natural Temperate Grasslands.

DAY 1 comprises talks and discussion at **Gold Creek Station, Hall**. DAY 2 is a field trip to grassland restoration at Molonglo River Reserve, Ginninderra Creek in Evatt, and Mulanggari Grassland

Nature Reserve and Franklin grassland in Gungahlin, ACT. **Themes:** biomass management; habitat enhancement; use of fire; weeds strategies; community involvement; grassland advocacy.

Presenters invited include Dr Paul Gibson-Roy (Greening Australia) and Nathan Wong (Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises) to share their experience with us. The Discussion panel includes Professor Kate Auty (Commissioner for Sustainability and Environment), Ian Walker (ACT Conservator), Maree Gilbert (ACT Government) and Sarah Sharp (FOG).

The event is free, includes lunch and morning and afternoon tea, and is open to the general public. Be sure to register at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/act-region-grasslands-management-and-restoration-forum-tickets-50151263780>

Biodiversity and Climate Change Roadshow – 31 October Queanbeyan

The Biodiversity Node of the NSW Adaptation Research Hub is running a series of free roadshows, on the theme ‘How can we conserve species from the impacts of climate change?’. This is a day of tailored training with leading climate adaptation researchers and practitioners, which will suit conservation practitioners at all levels. Explore interactive adaptation web tools; ask questions, engage in discussion & connect with other adaptation researchers & practitioners. More information: Victoria Graham, phone 02 9850 6298 or email Victoria.graham@mq.edu.au. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/biodiversity-climate-change-roadshow-queanbeyan-tickets-47943605615>

12th Australasian Plant Conservation, Conference, 11–15 November

‘Moving house – a new age for plant translocation and restoration’ is the title of this week-long conference at CSIRO Canberra ACT. If you join the ANPC you receive a discount on the registration fees. Find out more about APCC12, and register, at <http://anpc.asn.au/conferences/2018>.

Is this how we got all these weeds and invasive species??

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/australia-s-ark-how-a-few-ships-and-decade-of-madness-cost-billions-20180915-p503yq.html>

Ginninderra Catchment Group, Frogwatch and Waterwatch (Ginninderra Ck & Yass R) are grateful for support from

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SCROLL DOWN to find the LATEST (Sept) FROGWATCH DATA SHEET (2 pages) as 2 images.

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SUMMARY OF DATES IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- 27 Sept (TONIGHT) Talk on bushfire behaviour in Canberra's west. 7 pm. Flynn
- 3 & 6 Oct North Belconnen Landcare work parties, 9.30 am
- 4 Oct Training seminar for FROGWATCHERS, 6 pm, Jerrabomberra Wetlands
- 6 Oct Umbagog Landcare work party, 9 am
- 6 Oct Hall Cemetery woodland work party with FOG, 9 am

- 7 Oct Friends of Aranda Bushland work party, 9 am
- 7 Oct Spring Bird Walk at The Pinnacle, 9 am
- 8 Oct Mt Rogers Landcare work party, 9 am
- 10 Oct Friends of Mulligans Flat work party, 9.30 am
- 10 Oct BUG BLITZ Gungahlin
- 10–12 Oct National LANDCARE CONFERENCE, Brisbane
- 17 Oct BUG BLITZ Belconnen and Gungahlin
- 18 Oct Training seminar for FROGWATCHERS, Cooma
- 20 Oct Clean up day, 11 am, & bbq at North Mitchell grassland (with Suzanne Orr)
- 21 Oct Aboriginal Heritage walk, 9 am (must book)
- 21 Oct Friends of Mt Painter work party
- 21 Oct First night of the annual FROG CENSUS
- 24 Oct BUG BLITZ Yass
- 24 & 25 Oct Grassland Forum, Gold Creek Station, Hall (must register)
- 27 Oct Last night of the annual FROG CENSUS
- 31 Oct Biodiversity and Climate Change day at Queanbeyan
- 4 Nov Wildflower walk, The Pinnacle, 9 am
- 11–15 Nov Australasian Plant Conservation conference, Canberra
- 2 Dec Bush Blitz Community Day, Australian National Botanic Gardens



Frogwatch Field Data Sheet Sept 2018

Please complete Field Data Sheet for each survey, for instructions, refer to the back of this page		
Site Code:	Date:	Time:
Observers:		
WEATHER (Please tick the appropriate box that best describes the current conditions)		
SKY CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> Clear or a few clouds <input type="checkbox"/> Partly cloudy or variable <input type="checkbox"/> Cloudy (broken) or overcast <input type="checkbox"/> Fog <input type="checkbox"/> Drizzle <input type="checkbox"/> Showers	
WIND	<input type="checkbox"/> Still= smoke rises vertically <input type="checkbox"/> Light breeze= wind direction shown by smoke drift <input type="checkbox"/> Light wind= wind felt on face, leaves rustle <input type="checkbox"/> Windy= leaves and branches in constant motion	
AIR TEMP:	°C	WATER TEMP: °C
HABITAT-		
WATER DEPTH:	<input type="checkbox"/> < 30 cm <input type="checkbox"/> > 30 cm <input type="checkbox"/> unknown <input type="checkbox"/> dry	
POND IS:	<input type="checkbox"/> FULL <input type="checkbox"/> NEARLY FULL <input type="checkbox"/> Bank VERY EXPOSED <input type="checkbox"/> NEARLY DRY <input type="checkbox"/> DRY	
WATER FLOW:	<input type="checkbox"/> Still <input type="checkbox"/> Slow <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Fast	
VERTICAL WATER LEVEL DROP to nearest 25 cm		cm
AREA OF EXPOSED SOIL (High water mark (HWM) to water's edge)		Min: meter Max: meter
VEGETATION		
EMERGENT AQUATIC VEGETATION COVER OF POND	<input type="checkbox"/> none <input type="checkbox"/> just localized <input type="checkbox"/> <25% <input type="checkbox"/> <50% <input type="checkbox"/> <75% <input type="checkbox"/> <100% <input type="checkbox"/> entire pond	
FRINGE/EDGE VEGETATION COVER (along the highwater mark)	<input type="checkbox"/> none <input type="checkbox"/> just localized <input type="checkbox"/> <10% of edge <input type="checkbox"/> <25% of edge <input type="checkbox"/> <50% of edge <input type="checkbox"/> <75% of edge <input type="checkbox"/> <100% of edge <input type="checkbox"/> entire edge	
POND AREA SHADED BY TREES (AT LEAST PART OF THE DAY)	<input type="checkbox"/> none <input type="checkbox"/> <10% <input type="checkbox"/> <25% <input type="checkbox"/> <50% <input type="checkbox"/> <75% <input type="checkbox"/> <100%	
EVIDENCE OF MOWING:	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
WIDTH OF UNMOWN BUFFER FROM HWM AROUND POND:	<input type="checkbox"/> <1m <input type="checkbox"/> 1-5m <input type="checkbox"/> >5m	
INVENTORY OF SPECIES: Estimates of numbers: 1 – 5 6 – 20 21 – 50 51 – 99 >100		
Species Detected	Number	Comment
<i>Crinia parsignifera</i> (Plains froglet)		
<i>Crinia signifera</i> (Common eastern froglet)		
<i>Limnodynastes dumerilii</i> (Eastern banjo frog)		
<i>Limnodynastes peronii</i> (Brown-striped frog)		
<i>Limnodynastes tasmaniensis</i> (Spotted grass frog)		
<i>Litoria peronii</i> (Peron's treefrog)		
<i>Litoria verreauxii</i> (Whistling treefrog)		
<i>Neobatrachus sudelli</i> (Spotted burrowing frog)		
<i>Uperoleia laevisgata</i> (Smooth toadlet)		
Other species??		
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:		
Please take this sheet with you and fill in all the survey details. Submit the data and recording online. Contact us for assistance: P: 6278 3309, 0429066046, frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au , PO Box 446, Holt, ACT 2615		

Further details about collecting data: A survey will take approximately 15 mins.

To do a survey at your chosen Frogwatch site(s) you need a

- Field data sheet
- Torch
- Recording device (e.g. phone, mp3 recorder)
- Thermometer (provided by FW)
- Watch, a ruler or marked stick until you get used to estimating distances

During a survey you need to collect all requested parameters AND a 3min recording (even if no frogs are calling). State all observations, the time, date and site code at the beginning of the recording- then start the 3mins.

1. How to determine the pond level (depth of pond):

This will provide important information about the holding capacity of the water body. Simply guess if the pond level is <30cm or >30cm, then decide which of the below describes the pond best:

POND NEARLY FULL = distance to plant cover less than 25cm

POND BANK VERY EXPOSED = large area of exposed mud, gravel etc.

POND NEARLY DRY = just a muddy puddle left in a large area of dry or damp clay, silt etc.

POND DRY = dry cracked clay, no water

2. Waterflow

Is the water flowing- if yes then how fast?? Ponds are generally STILL

3. How to measure the exposed soil between high water mark (HWM) and current water's edge:

Cast your eye along the edge of the water, all the way around the pond. Find the spot with the largest and with the shortest distance between the highwater mark and the water's edge. Measure the distance and enter your results onto the field data sheet. If a pond has fringe vegetation that covers the distance between edge of the pond and the highwater mark your measurement will for the shortest distance will be 0m. All measurements should be in meters.

4. Vertical water level drop

Instructions for determining how much a pond water level has dropped:

Go right to the edge of the water and look back towards the bank. Find the highwater mark and squat down so that your eyes are in line with it. Now estimate the vertical difference between the highwater level/your eye level (pond full) and the current level (where your feet are) by 'eye-balling' it to the nearest 25cm.

How to train yourself to get it right:

You can train yourself by taking along a 1m ruler (or a piece of wood 1m long) and standing it at the water's edge (you can tape the ruler onto a sharpened stake that can be pushed into the mud/clay without it covering up part of the ruler - alternatively you can just take a stake and mark the 20 cm increments on it but leave some of the stake so it can be pushed into the clay. Then squat down behind or beside the ruler so your line of vision is about level with the highwater mark to make the visual estimate. Then tie a string at the sighted level, run it across to the nearby highwater mark, level it (with a line-spirit level, \$5 at the hardware store) and read the measurement- this will be a good practise to find out if your estimates are good enough. It doesn't need to be too accurate - just to the nearest 25cm.

1: Full; 2: 1 to 25 cm down; 3: 26-50 cm down; 4: 50 - 75 cm down; 5: 76-100 cm down; 6: greater than 1 metre down).

5. How to determine the effect of mowing:

Can you see if there is any evidence of recent/regular mowing within 10m of the pond? Answer

No or yes. If yes then go into a bit more detail about the width of unmown buffer around the pond? Is it
 <1m 1-5m >5m?

6. How to determine the amount of emergent aquatic vegetation:

This will describe the percentage of current pond surface area that is covered by vegetation above the water. Your estimate will have to fit into one of the following categories:

NONE	JUST LOCALIZED	COVERS <25% of pond	COVERS <50% of pond
	COVERS <75% of pond	COVERS <100% of pond	COVERS the entire pond

7. a) How to determine the amount of fringe/edge vegetation and b) the amount of shading by trees:

a) This will describe the percentage of vegetated pond edge, i.e. how much of your pond edge is covered with vegetation? If the pond is less than full you will still need to look at the **fringe vegetation at the HIGH-WATER MARK**- NOT next to the current water level!! Your estimate will have to fit into one of the following categories:

NONE	JUST LOCALIZED	COVERS <10% of edge	COVERS <25% of edge
COVERS <50% of edge	COVERS <75% of edge	COVERS <100% of edge	ENTIRE edge vegetated

b) This describes the percentage of pond surface that receives shade from surrounding trees/bushes for at least part of the day. No trees close to the pond will mean no shade. Naturally, trees on the northern edge of a pond will provide good shade, whereas trees on the southern side will not. Tall trees provide more shade than small trees or bushes.

8. Weather conditions

Observe the sky and wind conditions as described, measure the air temperature first. The water temperature is measured at the side of the pond, at an arm's length and 5-10cm below the water surface.

9. Inventory of species

Give it a go!! Try to identify the species you might have heard, and their abundance.