



## **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**

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## **GINNINDERRA CATCHMENT GROUP NEWS**

**OCTOBER 2018**

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

### ***From the Convenor***

I attended the National Landcare Conference (with kind support from the ACT Government) which enabled Landcare Groups across the country to share their experiences. There were quite a number of themes including recovery after the drought, valuing carbon in the landscape and better ways to partner and deliver programs. We are not alone in the difficulties in maintaining a sustainable financial base. There was a strong field of nominations across the States and Territories including three nominations from GCG. Even though we were not successful, it was an opportunity to demonstrate our unique and strong approach to Landcare. Please see the more detailed report from Lenore (North Belconnen Landcare Group) below.

*Top: Karissa (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) with Martine, Miranda and Kerry from Southern ACT Catchment Group.*

*Below: Karissa (far right) with the State/Territory nominations for the Fairfax Media Landcare Community Group award.*



In the last 2 days I attended the Grassland Forum '**A vision for grassland management & restoration**' jointly organised by GCG, Friends of Grasslands, Kosciusko to Coast and the ACT Government. There were around 100 attendees, and it included presentations from grassland experts on recent achievements and next steps from NSW, Victoria and ACT. Ken Hodgkinson, Karissa Preuss and Wally Bell presented the Ginninderra Catchment Group's approach to grassland restoration including integrating Aboriginal values. A field trip yesterday (Thursday 25 October) visited four grassland sites including Ginninderra Creek in Evatt. The Forum will guide our future work on grassland restoration and management.

Photos from the field trip: *Left: Ken presenting. Right: Wally presenting.*



The three catchment groups will be meeting next week to discuss potential models for the catchment groups to be more financially sustainable. We will examine some of the learnings of the other states and will present a report to the ACT Government Environment Directorate by the end of the year.

We have continued to support our members on a range of matters, including distribution of first aid kits (including snake bandages) and other actions arising from the 17 September meeting.

Some key dates you should put in your diary:

5 Nov                Members Annual Review Meeting (GCG Offices, Kippax), 5.30 pm  
10 Dec              GCG AGM (GCG Offices, Kippax), 5.30 pm

The newsletter again provides an outline of the wide level of activities being conducted across the catchment.

*Sandy Lolicato*

[Acknowledgement of funding support & summary of dates in this newsletter](#)

## **GENERAL GCG & LANDCARE – news from GCG Office**

### **PROTECTING OUR CATCHMENTS PROJECT**

Ginninderra Catchment Group has been tasked to provide recommendations on an ACT Region NRM Strategy Framework and review of other models across Australia applicable to the ACT. A desktop analysis and interviews of NRM bodies around Australia have been complete and a table of results will be discussed next Tuesday with the three Catchment Groups representatives on the project steering committee. A draft discussion paper will then be prepared for consultation with peak groups. Final recommendations for the framework and NRM Model are expected by 15 December to be provided to the Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD). Ginninderra Catchment Group continues to work with Molonglo and Southern ACT Catchment Groups on their respective project deliverables.

### **GINNINDERRY BUSH ON BOUNDARY (BoB)**

The last meeting of the Ginninderry BoB group was held on 3 October. Ken Hodgkinson and John Fitz Gerald attended a Place-naming workshop on 17 October which BoB members had been invited to attend. A combined BoB and People & Places Group workshop will be held on 28 November to consider Terms of Reference and meeting options relating to a proposed merger of the two groups. Subject to negotiations the merger is proposed to start early next year.

### **GINNINDERRA CATCHMENT GROUP ANNUAL ALL MEMBERS MEETING**

**5 November at GCG:** all member groups are invited to attend our Annual Review meeting. The focus is to hear from each group on their highlights for the past year; their plans for next year and their needs from GCG. If members cannot attend, please send your report to Bernie for collation and presenting at the meeting. This review is a valuable exercise, seeking your input into our plans for supporting member needs.

*Bernie Bugden, GCG Executive Officer*

## **WATERWATCH**

### **WATERBUG WORKSHOP**

In November Waterwatch, in partnership with the National Waterbug Blitz team, will host **two FREE waterbug workshops** for anyone who is keen to learn how to collect and identify waterbugs. Anyone can join in the workshops – you don't have to be a Waterwatch volunteer. No prior experience is necessary and experts will be on hand to answer all your questions.

**When and where:** Friday 2 November from **10:00am to 3:00pm** in **Adaminaby** at the Community Hall. This will enable all who attend to see and learn about some of our 'high country' bugs.

Saturday 3 November at Lion's Youth Haven, 244 Kambah Pool Road, **Kambah** from **10:00am to 3:00pm**.

Please **RSVP by 31 October** 2018.

For more information contact: **Woo O'Reilly** on **6207 4426** or [waterwatch@act.gov.au](mailto:waterwatch@act.gov.au)



### **WATERWATCH QAQC**

The Waterwatch program will host our **Spring Quality Assurance, Quality Control (QAQC)** on **24 November at 10:00am** at **Lions Youth Haven** (Westwood Farm), Kambah. We also will also have an afternoon workshop on riparian condition (assessing the plants and habitats around a waterway) led by our Cooma Waterwatch Coordinator, Antia Brademann.

**RSVP by** Wednesday 21 November to your Waterwatch coordinator or to Woo O'Reilly 0413 246 761. Please let us know if you are coming to QAQC, if you are staying for lunch and if you will be attending the workshop.

### **CARP HERPES VIRUS PLANS PUT ON HOLD**

Another 12 months has been granted to the National Carp Control Plan. That will allow more research, looking into current knowledge gaps, and engagement with new stakeholders. Read more about it here: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-12/carp-herpes-virus-plans-put-on-hold/10370836>

*Bruno Ferronato, Waterwatch Coordinator*

## **FROGWATCH**

### **TRIVIA NIGHT 2 November (raising funds for FROGWATCH, and the Myanmar Rohingya crisis)**

The **Rotary Club of Canberra Burley Griffin** is holding a Trivia Night at the **Woden Hellenic Club** on **Friday 2 November, 7 pm**. Entry is **\$30 per head** at the door. Souvlaki and pizzas will be provided. These kind people are raising funds partly to support **Frogwatch!**

If you would like to join a GCG table (only 8 people **max.**), please contact [santo.lolicato@gmail.com](mailto:santo.lolicato@gmail.com) our Convenor, phone 0429943717, **by Monday evening 29 October**. There are terrific prizes, and also an Auction to raise funds.



### REMINDER: BUSH BLITZ, Sunday 2 December at ANBG

At the Bush Blitz community day on Sunday 2 December at the Australian National Botanic Gardens, frogs will be represented by Jodi Rowley, a Bush Blitz Froggie scientist from the Australian Museum!! The community day is free (it's for all kinds of biodiversity, not just frogs), and runs from 10 am to 3 pm.

### REMINDER: Our FROGWATCH PORTAL is on CANBERRA NATURE MAP

Details of how to use the portal, which is at <https://frogwatch-act.naturemapr.org/>, were in the September GCG newsletter: see the Ginninderra Catchment Group website, <https://ginninderralandcare.org.au/category/news/>, and on the Frogwatch page at that website: <https://ginninderralandcare.org.au/frogwatch/frogwatch-census/>

Anke Maria Hoefer, Frogwatch Coordinator

## News from the catchment member groups

### North Belconnen Landcare Group

Here are two photos from our group, followed by my report (also on Facebook) from the National Landcare Conference.

Left: A young Blue Devil *Eryngium ovinum* emerging after a period of dormancy.

Right: NBLC group member Callum watering a thirsty plant.



### NATIONAL LANDCARE CONFERENCE: As I saw it

Our Ginninderra Catchment Group was well represented at the National Landcare Conference in Brisbane last week held on Thursday 11 and Friday 12 October with multiple field trips on offer Wednesday 10 October prior to the conference.

Myself, husband Ken Hodgkinson\*, Karissa Preuss\* and her husband and 5 week old baby, as well as Rajvi Kaur\* (Facebook name Minhas Ruhi) and Sandy Lolicato\* all attended from the Ginninderra Catchment Group, along with many other delegates from Canberra – too numerous to name here. The social side of friendships renewed is always very important. I even met a delegate from Uganda Landcare Network who knows the landcare member who joined our North Belconnen Landcare Group and puts posts of his landcare groups in Uganda. She was enthusiastic about his landcare work. (\*all members of the GCG Executive)

It was a well organised conference with good food and everyone found it interesting and informative with many inspiring stories and audio presentations of great environmental outcomes.

Our Catchment did not win at the National Level, but we certainly did well at the ACT level.

Ken and I attended the Maleny field trip and found it very interesting in the Blackall Range showing forest restoration work and community partnerships linking up remnant small rainforests on private land.

The Thursday and Friday program was packed with inspiring keynote speakers including Landcare Patron Major General Michael Jeffery and the Opening Keynote speaker Professor Mark Howden, Director of Climate Change Institute at ANU. The entire conference was hosted by TV presenter Pip Courtney from ABC *Landline*.

Professor Howden gave a convincing address about the reality and dangers of Climate change and the need for action.

There were four options for the daily programs which ran concurrently but you could swap from one stream to another. These were:

- i. sustainable agriculture (innovation and conservation in a changing landscape);
- ii. community in action (grassroots with a purpose);
- iii. partnerships (collaboration for successful outcomes);
- iv. environment (improving and protecting our natural assets).

It was somewhat tiring trying to get to as many sessions as possible but each of these were in adjacent rooms and the main opening and closing programs were in a large auditorium nearby.

The Gala Dinner on Thursday evening, attended by about 600 people, had inspiring speakers from the winners of the Landcare Awards in each of 10 sections including the People's Choice Award and a welcome from the Minister for Agriculture David Littleproud and Shane Norrish the CEO of Landcare Australia and again hosted by Pip Courtney.

A memorable conference.

**A final note:** David Marsh, who is a farmer at Boorowa and well known to Landcare people in Canberra, won the Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award. He gave a wonderful speech at the dinner.

*Lenore Hodgkinson, Convenor*

## ***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' ParkCare 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:-** 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, November**

The next monthly work party will be on **Wednesday 14 November 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 8.30 am and 11.30 am. See our website for details: <http://friendsofarandabushland.org.au>*

Our October work party again attracted a big number (22) and the gratifying part is that a lot of them are quite young, so there is hope for the future. We divided our workforce into three – one group used the newly installed water cube (see photo), in the Snow Gums reserve, to give our recent plantings a good drink; another group cut down hawthorns and dragged them to the erosion gully; while the third group concentrated on the emerging rosettes of St John's Wort and Paterson's Curse.



Normally we hold an orchid walk in the Aranda bushland in October, but this year it was so dry that hardly any orchids came up, so we didn't bother.

*Jenny Andrews, Convenor*

## ***Friends of The Pinnacle (FOTPIN) (Weetangera)***

### **REMINDER: 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](http://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*

## ***Sutton Landcare Group***

### **SUTTON LANDCARE NATIVE GRASSES AND WEEDS WALK**

On **Sunday 4 November at 9am** there will be a walk around the Sutton Village to identify native grasses and weeds. In the drought there is not a lot of germination this year but there will be enough for quite a few species to be pointed out, particularly after that welcome storm last weekend. The walk will be led by Sutton Landcare member Alison Elvin, an environmental scientist with great plant knowledge.

Meet at the car park opposite the Sutton Baker, next to the small bridge leading to the Waterwise Garden. If you would like to bring plants to have identified (trees, shrubs grasses, forbs, weeds), please bring them in bags. If there is rain (we wish!) we can use the hall or the Sutton Baker's verandah.

The walk will take about an hour, and people are welcome to stay for morning tea in the park. Please bring a Keep Cup if you think you would like pop over for the road for coffee.

For further details on Sutton Landcare Group, please check our website or contact our secretary Marchien Van Oostende at [sutton.landcare@gmail.com](mailto:sutton.landcare@gmail.com).

*Arnold Dekker, President*

## ***Macgregor Landcare Group***

Macgregor Landcare Group is keen to see the second stage of the removal of mature poplar trees along Ginninderra Creek in Macgregor get a little closer. After much consultation with representatives from GCG, ACT Tree Unit and interested members of the public the trees to be removed have been identified for poisoning and removal over the next 4–6 months, funded by an ACT Environment Grant 2017–18.

Some years ago, a number of these trees were removed because of their aggressive sucker-producing behaviour and the area was progressively replanted with a range of natives endemic to the area. Macgregor Landcare Group has tended these plants through drought and flood and can happily report they have done very well and are already on the way to replacing the problematic poplars.

Our next working bee will be **this Sunday 28 October at 9.30am** meeting up at the **Swift PI walkbridge**. All welcome. Come prepared with sturdy boots, hat, gloves, water and sunscreen. Other equipment will be provided.

*Lyn Jenkins, Convenor*

## ***Mt Rogers Landcare Group***

The next working bee dates are Sunday 28 October and Monday 5 November. We'll meet at 09.00 hours on both days, and continue work on Honeysuckle. The patches we worked on previously have

re-sprouted as we expected, but at least now we can see where the berries first landed and germinated after birds brought them from a suburban garden.

On Sunday 28 we'll start from Schey Place, Spence, so we can bring the necessary tools up towards the main path. On Monday 5 we'll meet at Wickens Place, Fraser. There are also woody weeds in that area we can check on.

*Rosemary Blemings, Convenor*

#### **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](http://www.ginninderralandcare.org.au)

## **Around the region**

### ***Nominees for the ACT Environmentalist of the Year Award 2018***

Three of the eight nominees are well known to members of Ginninderra Catchment Group and Waterwatch: **Sarah Sharp** (known for her expertise in Natural Temperate Grassland), **Nicki Taws** (of Greening Australia and well known for leading bird walks and her ornithological knowledge) and **Deb Kellock** (a Waterwatch Coordinator like our Bruno). The winner will be announced at the Spring Mingle event on **Friday 26 October**, held by the **Conservation Council ACT Region at 6–9 pm at the Lena Karmel Rooftop Gardens, Level 5, 26 Barry Drive, Canberra**. Register to attend:  
<https://conservationcouncil.org.au/CiviCRM/?page=CiviCRM&q=civicrm/event/info&reset=1&id=97>

### ***Native Plant Sale, 27 October, Greening Australia***

Greening Australia has a range of local native plants available (in 50mmx120mm forestry tubes) for purchase, including Bulbine Lilies, Chocolate Lilies, Yam Daisies, Paper Daisies, native tussock grasses and more. Plants are sold only in trays of 20. Mix your own or take a full species. Price = \$50 per tray. Also available: *Ngunnawal Plant Use* books, \$25. Greening Australia *Bringing Birds Back* books \$5. 900 mm hardwood tomato stakes \$10 per bundle of 10.

**Saturday 27 October, 9.00–10.30 am.**

**5 Kubura Place, Aranda.**

Cash transactions are preferable however EFTPOS facilities will also be available.

### ***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](mailto:Victoria.graham@mq.edu.au). **To register:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/biodiversity-climate-change-roadshow-queanbeyan-tickets-47943605615>

### ***Weed Swap, 3 and 4 November***

Environmental weeds from your garden can be taken to **CSG Green Waste Recycling Centre on Parkwood Road, Belconnen: 8.30 – 4.30 pm on both Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 November**. To find out what types of weeds will be swappable for a native plant (tubestock), see

<http://www.environment.act.gov.au/parks-conservation/plants-and-animals/Biosecurity/invasive-plants#swap>

## ***Conservation Council short walks series: 'Walk the Border, "light"'***

A series of half-day walks, which will explore the history and environment of parts of the ACT's border. The walks revisit sections of last year's circumnavigation of the ACT by the Conservation Council of the ACT Region. There are four walks in the Walks Program, and one of them is in the Ginninderra Catchment:

**Sunday 11 November – 9:30am – North Mulligans Flat.** Duration: 4 Hours

Features: This walk follows the zig zag section of the ACT's northern border where the border follows the ridgeline. Well tracked walk following the Centenary Trail. Some great views from the ridges. Lunch at the Northern campsite of the Centenary Trail before returning via a slighter shorter route to the starting point. To register, visit

<https://conservationcouncil.org.au/civcrm/?page=CiviCRM&q=civcrm/event/register&cid=0&reset=1&id=100>.

## ***12<sup>th</sup> 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>.

## ***Wild Pollinator Count: 11-18 November***

Pollinators are important in grasslands and woodlands. The twice-yearly Wild Pollinator Count project gathers information to support pollinator conservation. Pick a warm sunny day in the count week, watch a flower for 10 minutes and submit your observations online. For all information, see <https://wildpollinatorcount.com/> or email [wildpollinatorcount@gmail.com](mailto:wildpollinatorcount@gmail.com).

## ***Article in The Conversation about glyphosate***

<https://theconversation.com/stop-worrying-and-trust-the-evidence-its-very-unlikely-roundup-causes-cancer-104554>

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



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## **SUMMARY OF DATES IN THIS NEWSLETTER**

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|------------------|--|
| 26 Oct (TONIGHT) | Spring Mingle at Lena Karmel Lodge, 6 pm. Must register.         |
| 27 Oct           | Plant sale at Greening Australia office, Aranda                  |
| 28 Oct           | Working bee at Mt Rogers, 9 am                                   |
| 28 Oct           | Working bee for Friends of Aranda Bushland, 8.30 am              |
| 28 Oct           | Macgregor Landcare Group working bee, 9.30 am                    |
| 27 Oct           | Last night of the annual FROG CENSUS                             |
| 31 Oct           | Biodiversity and Climate Change day at Queanbeyan                |
| 31 Oct           | RSVP by now for Waterbug workshops (Waterwatch)                  |
| 2 Nov            | Trivia Night (by Rotary), raising funds for Frogwatch and others |



2 & 3 Nov	Waterbug workshops, Adaminaby and Kambah
3 & 4 Nov	Weed Swap at Green waste recycling, Parkwood, 8.30 – 4.30 pm
4 Nov	Wildflower walk, The Pinnacle, 9 am
4 Nov	Sutton Landcare Group walk to ID native grasses and weeds, 9am
5 Nov	Working bee for Mt Rogers, 9 am
5 Nov	Members meeting (GCG Offices, Kippax), 5.30 pm
11 Nov	Walk the Border, 'light', 9.30 am, North Mulligans Flat
11–15 Nov	Australasian Plant Conservation conference, Canberra
11–18 Nov	Wild Pollinator Count
14 Nov	Monthly workparty at Mulligans Flat
21 Nov	RSVP by now for Waterwatch QA/QC workshop
24 Nov	Spring QA/QC workshop (Waterwatch)
2 Dec	Bush Blitz Community Day, Australian National Botanic Gardens
10 Dec	GCG AGM (GCG Offices, Kippax), 5.30 pm