

# THE GINNINDERRA CATCH-UP

## Ginninderra Catchment Group Newsletter



Waterwatchers at the Autumn QAQC visited the Murrumbidgee River, though not at this bridge which is the last Waterwatch monitoring site on the Murrumbidgee before the Burrinjuck dam.

### *News from the Convenor*

This newsletter again provides an outline of the wide range of activities that GCG and its member landcaring groups are involved in. We have some good news from Minister Gentleman. GCG will receive \$90,000 in 2019–2020 with a focus on four areas, including support of urban Landcare. The other Catchment Groups have been provided with the same level of funding. This announcement is testimony to the good work that on-ground landcarers do, as well as to the lobbying that we have been doing with Landcare ACT. The Catchment Groups with Landcare ACT will continue to explore further funding opportunities with the Commonwealth, ACT Government and business.

We are hoping that funding will come through for Waterwatch and Frogwatch. We will provide a further update shortly.

I would like to thank the staff and all the volunteers for their tireless work. In particular, a big thanks to Bernie Bugden for taking on the Executive Officer role while Karissa was on leave, including preparing a report on a Framework for a Regional Natural Resource Management for the ACT and chairing the Ginninderra Bush on the Boundary.

Please note that that next GCG General Meeting, postponed until after the ACT Government budget announcement, and now will be held **TODAY** at **5.30 pm on Tuesday 11 June**. David Maxwell from Ginninderra will provide an update on the development and the work of Bush on the Boundary.

*Santo Lolicato, Convenor*

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### *News from the GCG Office*

#### **PROTECTING OUR CATCHMENTS PROJECT**

GCG has drafted a framework for “*Managing ACT infrastructure corridors for enhanced environmental outcomes*”, as part of tranche 2 of the ‘Protecting our Catchments Project’, funded by the ACT Government. This framework highlights the benefits of a community/government partnership model.

This framework compliments the first stage of this project, which was to provide a *Framework for a Regional NRM strategy for the ACT and report on Catchment Models applicability to the region*.

GCG have provided input into associated projects being undertaken by other Catchment Groups, including the Value Proposition of the Catchment Groups and Consolidated Risk Assessment of the Catchment Groups.

At the recent Steering Group Meeting for this project, Ian Walker (Executive Director of Environment and ACT Conservator, ACT Government) explained that he is satisfied

with the outcomes thus far and will be compiling the documents to send to the Environment Minister. The Value Proposition Document will be turned into a four page glossy document. Work associated with this project will also be available online.

### **HEALTHY WATERWAYS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION/ DRAIN STENCILLING**

We are currently working on the ACT Government funded project aimed at increasing community awareness of Catchments and healthy waterways. As part of this project, stencilled messages have begun to be painted on stormwater drains, including “**water flows to the Ginninderra Creek**”. Staff and community volunteers have attended the required traffic management course, as most drains are close to roads. A number of drains have been painted in the Kippax area. 100 drains will be painted and 100 surveys about community perceptions will also be undertaken. Please let Fiona know if you are interested in being involved.

### **FEDERAL LABOR PARTY URBAN WATERWAYS PROGRAM**

In early June, just prior to the Federal election, Andrew Leigh MP, announced a pre-election promise of \$600,000 for GCG to support community in restoring Ginninderra Creek in the Fenner electorate as part of Urban Waterways Program. This was in addition to an announcement from Alicia Payne for \$1 million in the Canberra electorate, of which \$160,000 was earmarked for areas in the Ginninderra Catchment, i.e. Kaleen, Bruce, Evatt. For media coverage see [here](#) and [here](#). Given that Labor was not elected, this \$760,000 will not flow to GCG. However, it has raised the profile of the Catchment Groups and their ability to potentially leverage significant Federal funding.

### **ACT LIBERAL PARTY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Canberra Liberals have announced that if they are elected at the 2020 ACT election they will commit \$130,000/year for four years to the Catchment Groups. Media coverage can be seen [here](#). This announcement, along with the Federal Liberal announcement, has highlighted the value of the Catchment Groups and the importance of secured longer term funding.

### **ACT ENVIRONMENT GRANTS**

- GCG submitted an application for a 2019–20 ACT Environment Grant for work on removing the invasive woody weed, Box Elder, along Ginninderra Creek.
- The Adult Poplar Project, which removed invasive woody weeds, has been completed in conjunction with Macgregor Landcare Group. GCG has worked closely with a weeds contractor and community members in undertaking this work for this grant.
- The Catchment-Wide Blackberry removal grant work is also now completed. Thanks to everyone who sent through blackberry sightings.

### **ABORIGINAL LAND MANAGEMENT**

GCG, including Wally Bell (Member of GCG Executive and Mulanggang Aboriginal Landcare Group Leader) have been in further discussions with Dean Freeman about a cultural burn at Gubur Dhaura. This is now due to happen next week. Following the burn, work to restore biodiversity to the grasslands there will be undertaken, thanks to funds from Lockheed Martin and Landcare Australia.

### **GRASSLAND RESTORATION**

It is anticipated that Croke Place, Evatt, the location of the long-term grassland restoration research, will have a prescribed burn in the coming days. This burn, planned to be undertaken in Autumn, will be undertaken by ACT Rural Fire Service.

### **TCCS PARTNERSHIP**

GCG staff are in ongoing discussions with Transport Canberra and City Services, Place Management section about how to best support Landcarers working on Urban Open Space land. Karissa and Fiona recently met with Rachel Tokley, Allan McLean and Sue Marriage (who will be leading Place Management in Jane Carter’s old position). Relative roles and responsibilities will be further discussed with GCG members in the August General Meeting, where Allan McLean will be the Guest Speaker.

### **BELCONNEN TRUNK SEWER UPGRADES**

Icon Water is currently planning upgrades to the Belconnen trunk sewer to enable the sewer to cope with increased use from the growing population. Most of the infrastructure work will affect open-green-space areas used for recreation in the Ginninderra Creek Corridor between Copland Drive and Florey Drive. The Ginninderra Catchment Group and Icon Water have been working together to identify the best locations to put some of the infrastructure needed for this project and Ginninderra Catchment Group will assist with identifying preferred species for

replanting in areas that are disturbed by the project (including areas of Natural Temperate Grasslands). To find out more about these projects and opportunities to provide feedback, visit [www.iconwater.com.au/bts](http://www.iconwater.com.au/bts).

*Karissa Preuss, GCG Executive Officer*

## Waterwatch news

[waterwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au](mailto:waterwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au)



### **AUTUMN BUG BLITZ**

Bug blitz has recently finished, in May. We sampled over 24 sites in our region (northern Canberra and Yass). Thanks to everyone who helped us, including two CIT students, four GCG waterwatchers, and the Yowie Pack at Birralee Scout Group. **If anyone is interested in volunteering in the bug blitz, next one is coming in September/October.** Looking forward to hearing from you then, to the email address above.



Isis, one of the CIT volunteer Waterwatchers, during water bug sampling for the Autumn

### **WATERWATCH QAQC**

The Waterwatch Program hosted our Autumn Quality Assurance, Quality Control (QAQC) workshop on 11 May at 'Scottsdale', the Bush Heritage property near Bredbo. It was great to see many volunteers there testing their Waterwatch gear; visiting the Murrumbidgee River; learning about Scottsdale's new greenhouse and water treatment works; and learning about the latest results from the 2018 CHIP report from Waterwatch's Woo O'Reilly. The next QAQC workshop will be in Spring, and we will send out more details soon.

### **WATERWATCH EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Our educational activities will continue until July 2019, so if you know any teacher or school that might be interested, please contact Bruno at 62783309 or [waterwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au](mailto:waterwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au)

### **SOCIAL RESEARCH PROJECT: CONNECTIONS IN THE WATERWATCH NETWORK**

This month, Pat Bonney, a PhD researcher at Federation University in Ballarat visited us in Canberra. He interviewed the Waterwatch staff, stakeholders and the Waterwatch volunteers (thanks everyone!). His research is focused on the links between citizen science and natural resource management. Pat is interested in how community groups and governments can best work together for the management of water environments. This research will provide new insights into the ways citizen scientists can contribute to the management and protection of the waterways in the ACT region. Pat mentioned he should be here next before the end of this year, and that he will give us a talk about the results from his research.

*Bruno Ferronato, Waterwatch Coordinator*

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## News from the Catchment Member Groups

### **FRIENDS OF THE PINNACLE**

#### **2019 Fotpin planting on 5 May**

Fotpin's first planting day for four years, held on 5 May 2019, was very successful. The day was bright and clear, though with a nasty, cold southerly wind. (I was reminded of a comment from a recent arrival from Darwin, who said: "It's (expletive deleted) freezing and you keep saying 'It's a bit fresh.'"). This day rated as a bit nippy, at least.

John B, Warren and Bob H had set up our 'camp' early that morning, so all the equipment was in place for us to start planting by 9.30 am in the Bottom Pinnacle. Holes had been augured by our friends at PCS, and a water tank installed. A hundred tubestock plants were provided by Greening Australia, paid for by a generous grant from Evoenergy, and stakes and plant guards were recycled from our previous plantings.

The aim is to establish ten island plantings to act as stepping-stones between existing larger patches of woodland. Each 'island' consists of a single gum tree

accompanied by smaller trees and shrubs as understorey plants. The eucalypt species selected for the plantings were local box woodland gums (Yellow Box, Blakely's Red Gum, Apple Box and Scribbly gum); the smaller trees were wattles (*Acacia dealbata*, *Acacia rubida* and *Acacia implexa*), and the shrubs were *Cassinia* (two types), *Bursaria* and *Dodonea*. All were sourced from local seed.

John demonstrated what to do and everyone fell to with a will (partly to keep warm with exercise). By about 10.30, all 100 plants had been planted, with only watering to be done, so we took a break for a very welcome morning tea or coffee, with cakes or savoury nibbles, provided by Fotpin members. Watering didn't take long, and the task of cleaning up and stowing away all the equipment happened in record time.

Once we got back to the parking area near De Salis Street, the wind was blocked by the ridge behind us and it seemed surprisingly warm. Well, that's Canberra in Autumn.

All in all, a very productive and enjoyable time: a job well done, all down to volunteers, with help from the professionals. Thank you so much everyone – we couldn't do it without you all.

Photos by John Brannan and Elizabeth Smith.

*Elizabeth Smith 24 May 2019, Fotpin member*



## **2019 SGM/AGM**

The minutes from the combined SGM and AGM held on Sunday 19 May will be posted in full on our website as soon as they are ready, but I summarise the main points here, since a few important decisions were taken.

The purpose of the SGM was to make some changes to our rules; specifically, to abolish the 2-year limit on committee office bearers holding any of the Fotpin offices (Convenor, Coordinator, Treasurer and Secretary), to abolish the Coordinator position and merge its functions into the Convenor position, and to increase the number of ordinary committee positions to account for the lost Coordinator position.

Fifteen members were present for the AGM and they unanimously approved all the proposed changes to the rule.

We then continued on to the AGM, and I introduced our guest speaker, Brett Howland. Brett is a PCS ecologist who has an extensive background in the use of fire as a management tool for grasslands. His talk was extremely interesting and informative, particularly for those of us engaged in rehabilitating the areas burned in last year's hazard reduction burns in the Weetangera and Eastern paddocks.

Brett's remarks were supplemented by comments from Sarah Hnatiuk, Convenor of our neighbouring ParkCare group, the Friends of Mt Painter. She summarised their experience with hazard reduction burns and their own efforts to enrich the recovering grassland areas with plantings of native grasses and forbs.

I'm delighted that both Brett and Sarah were able to make it along to the AGM and would like to thank them both for making the time to share their time and knowledge with us.

The remainder of the AGM was devoted to electing the new Coordinating Committee, as follows: Convenor: John Brannan; Secretary: Warren Bond; Treasurer: Margo Hellyer; Ordinary Members: Denise Hall, Len Taylor, Alana Wilkes. Members present were asked to consider nominating for the position of Secretary, as Warren already has a lot on his plate as web page creator/editor and in his role coordinating, reporting on and taking part in our weed management program. In the absence of other volunteers for the position, Warren again agreed to act as Secretary until someone else agrees to take on the role.

Many thanks to the wonderful folks at Weetangera Primary School for allowing us to use their staff room for the meeting, and to everyone who came along and brought the yummy snacks for afternoon tea.

*John Brannan, Convenor*

### **FRIENDS OF ARANDA BUSHLAND**

#### **Weeding**

Since circumstances (mainly encroaching increpidity) had us behind in smiting St Johns Wort in time (i.e. before seeding), we bagged seedheads until too late (i.e. seed-fall). Also, being timely to tackle Serrated Tussock, the few clumps in our paddocks were sprayed, and Honeysuckle was torn down in the bushland fringe.

#### **Anti-'roo**

The dry weather, and our barely-culled roo cohort (none this round either), gives little chance for the paddock grasses to seed, so we're devoted to protecting as much as possible with exclosures (fenced-off areas), and it's gratifying to see how prolifically Kangaroo-grass seeds when relieved of roos' 'predation'. To the couple of exclosures already set-up by the rangers, we have added a larger version. They are near the start of our Frost-hollow to Forest Walk.

#### **New bushland seat**

This bench in the photo is beside the Powerline Link Road, part-endowed by our Falconer stalwarts. Launching ceremony to come.



*Jim Arnold, Convenor*

### **NORTH BELCONNEN LANDCARE**



North Belconnen Landcare Group 1.5.19.  
View of Betty Davis Wildflower Patch, taken from the Footbridge at Evatt.  
Photo: Yvette Perine.

What a difference results when a team of CIT horticulture students comes to work on African Lovegrass (ALG) for an hour! Lecturer Vanessa brought her class to learn to identify ALG in the North Belconnen Landcare Group's area near the Betty Davis Wildflower Patch at Evatt last Thursday, 6 June. First Ken Hodgkinson told them how weed grasses had taken over native grasslands since European settlement, and explained the scrape and sow method that has established the Patch (photo). Then the students moved upslope with landcarers as guides (to help them distinguish ALG from Redgrass (*Bothriochloa macra*), *Panicum* and other native grasses, and identify the native blue bells (*Wahlenbergia*) and yellow buttons (*Chrysocephalum*) there) (photos below). When the team left at 3 pm there was hardly an ALG plant to be seen, and everyone said they'd had a really enjoyable time!

Thank you so much, students and Vanessa.

*Lenore Hodgkinson, NBLC Convenor*



**FRIENDS OF MULLIGANS FLAT**

The Friends of Mulligans Flat has over 40 active volunteers – around 12 regulars who come to our monthly ParkCare work parties, and a diverse group (including several ParkCarers) who volunteer on activities managed by the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust such as Turtle Patrol and Twilight Tours. Our ParkCare work parties are held on the second Wednesday of the month from 9.30 to 12, and other activities are listed on the Trust’s Myimpact page.

Our May work party unfortunately wasn’t held on one of our recent perfect Autumn days!! For a change we met at Little Mulligans for some serrated tussock weeding in an offset area. We started at the top of a hill and worked down from a fenceline battling wind and occasional spitting rain, finishing with cake and coffee from the back of Mark’s ute. Thanks to Rangers Mim and Dave.

Our Autumn Bird Walk took place on Mother’s Day, hosted by Kathy Eyles and led by John Brannan and Bill Graham. While there was a bit of fog, the group saw some superb parrots on the walk in, and had a go at identifying bird calls. Thank you to Kathy, John and Bill for offering their time, talents and knowledge.

We were also lucky this month with the Woodland and Wetlands Trust holding a movie night to thank volunteers for their time and efforts. We watched the great documentary ‘Maratus’ telling the story of local Stuart Harris and his discovery of several species of peacock spiders and were lucky to hear from Stuart after the movie.

Our next work party is on Wednesday 12 June. For further information, please contact [FriendsofMF@hotmail.com](mailto:FriendsofMF@hotmail.com).

*Convenors, Julia Raine and Bridget Pearl*



(Top) Serrated tussock weeding party photos: Julia Raine.



(Middle) Movie night photos: Millie Sutherland Saines.

(Left) Bird walk photos: Kathy Eyles

### FRIENDS OF MOUNT PAINTER

Last month saw us continuing to weed Cobbler's Peg and we still have not got rid of them all. We have particularly concentrated on locating and eliminating scattered outliers, which we have found all over the hill. We hope this will reduce the spread of this very invasive weed.



Much more interestingly, we also spent a morning planting as part of our program to add biodiversity to one of the grasslands in the Wildflower Triangle. We planted 250 tubestock from Greening Australia's nursery, including daisies, lilies and a sedge. Ranger Marty augured the holes for us and transported bark chips to the site for mulching the plants. Ten members of FOMP and the local community turned out to plant and we were joined by eight Radford College students and a teacher. It was a good day!

We hope these plants will do as well as the grasses we planted last year: all 200 of the Kangaroo Grass and River Tussock planted then have survived and grown well. We recently took the guards off them and discovered that the kangaroos like Kangaroo Grass but not the River Tussock.



On Sunday, 28 May, Jane Lake and I led a walk along the western edge of the reserve for some families from Macquarie Primary School's P&C. The destination was the canoe scar tree. I am now putting together some notes about Mount Painter and what there is to see there for the teachers at the school. It has become something of a tradition for each of the classes to climb the hill each year. At a recent staff meeting at which I spoke, it was agreed that having some information about what's there to see and do would be useful, especially for new teachers.

*Sarah Hnatiuk, Friends of Mt Painter*

### SUTTON LANDCARE – Weeds: what can we do?

On **11 June 2019, 7.30 pm**, Brett Lees, Senior Biosecurity Officer for the Yass Valley Council, will join the Sutton Landcare group for our June presentation, **'Weeds in our region: What can we do?'**.

As usual we will meet at the Sutton primary School from 7.30 pm. We will talk about the new Yass Valley Council weed strategy: The weed Action Plan. Also discuss the inventory Sutton Landcare Group did of prevalent weeds in our area of concern to residents of Sutton and surrounds. We will discuss how Landcare and Yass Valley

Biosecurity Staff can collaborate to manage our most invasive and persistent weeds through chemical, mechanical and biological control and best land management practices. Following the presentation, supper will be provided with an opportunity to talk further with Brett Lees. For further information on Sutton Landcare Group, please contact our secretary on [sutton.landcare@gmail.com](mailto:sutton.landcare@gmail.com).

*Arnold Dekker, Sutton Landcare Group*

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## Opportunities around the region

### **SOMETIMES YOU NEED MORE THAN AN UMBRELLA ...**

#### **Small Business Survey on Extreme Weather Impacts**

Has your business been impacted by extreme weather events such as drought, storms, bushfires or heatwaves?

To support small business to better plan, respond and adapt, the NSW Government has developed this short survey to understand how small business are currently impacted by extreme weather events.

Please share your experiences. The survey will take approximately 7 mins to complete.

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NSW\\_SmallBusiness\\_InformationNeeds](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NSW_SmallBusiness_InformationNeeds)

We are planning to leave the survey **open until mid-June**.

If you have any questions you can contact Suzanne Dunford (Climate Resilience Information Delivery), or Suzanne Webbey (Senior Adviser - Advocacy and Strategic Projects, Small Business Commission), ph 02 8650 6114.

*NSW Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability (ECCS) Division*

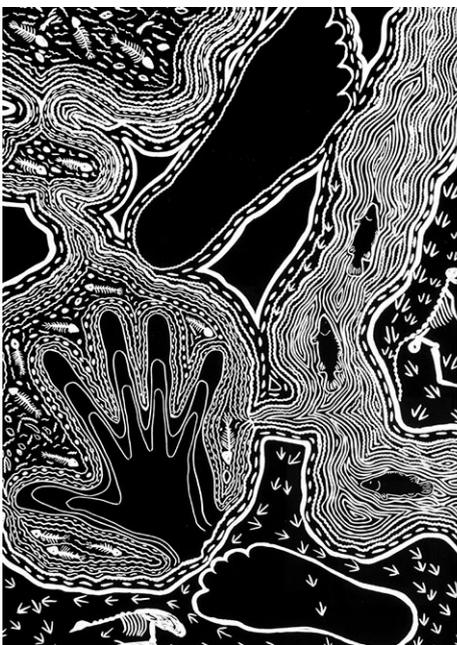
### **FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR SUPERB PARROT PLANTINGS**

Greening Australia has funding available for Superb Parrot habitat on properties in the South west slopes area – Yass, Boorowa, Young, Harden, Jugiong. Assistance is available for landholders who wish to plant or direct seed trees and shrubs or erect fencing to protect woodland habitat greater than 10 hectares for the Superb Parrot. Contact: Nicki Taws (02) 6253 3035, [ntaws@greeningaustralia.org.au](mailto:ntaws@greeningaustralia.org.au)

### **RIVERSIDE FIELD DAY AND WINTER PADDLE, MURRELL'S CROSSING, NSW**

A field day to discuss the new 'Reaching for Recovery' project to build a long-term monitoring and action plan for Macquarie Perch is on **Saturday 15 June**. The site is near the Monaro Hwy a little north of Cooma. Morning (10–12) will be about the project. Afternoon (1–3.30) will be a demonstration and/or paddle (bring own canoe) or walk to ID local plant and animal species. RSVP essential (i.e. registration), at <https://riversidefieldday.eventbrite.com.au>. Lunch provided.

### **EXHIBITION: 'BARKA THE FORGOTTEN RIVER', OPEN UNTIL 21 JULY**



#### **BARKA THE FORGOTTEN RIVER BADGER BATES & JUSTINE MULLER**

BELCONNEN ARTS CENTRE | 13 JUNE – 21 JULY 2019

A timeline of the love artists Badger Bates and Justine Muller have for the Barka, or Darling River – “our mother and the blood in our veins” – and its people, the Barkandji. It is a story of desperate fear for the river and its ecology, for the cultural, social and economic life of the Barkandji people and their determination to fight for their river, as it disappears before their eyes and turns into a cesspool of algae, death and destruction.

**OPENING 6PM THURSDAY 13 JUNE 2019**

*Front Barka the Forgotten River and the  
Desecration of the Meinindee Lakes* Badger Bates

Gallery hours | 10am – 4pm Tues – Sun  
118 Emu Bank, Belconnen ACT | 02 6173 3300  
[belconnenartscentre.com.au/forgotten-river](http://belconnenartscentre.com.au/forgotten-river)



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Ginninderra Catchment Group connects, supports and leads local communities to improve the health of Ginninderra Creek and surrounding environments.

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

Website:

<http://ginninderralandcare.org.au>

Office: Kippax Health Centre, Holt

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Phone: 02 6278 3309

## *ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS*

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



