

JULY 2019

Website: <https://ginninderralandcare.org.au/>



# THE GINNINDERRA CATCH-UP

## Ginninderra Catchment Group Newsletter



Ginninderra Creek after the confluence with Gooromon Ponds Creek, one of the Waterwatch RARC survey sites. *Photo: Bruno Ferronato.*

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### *News from the Convenor*

This newsletter again provides an outline of the wide range of activities that GCG and its member landcare groups are involved in.

GCG will receive \$270,000 in 2019–2020 from the ACT Government for broad community engagement. This includes \$100,000 for community engagement regarding Catchment issues with a focus on urban landcare and waterways. In addition, funding for Waterwatch has been secured commensurate with last year's funding, with some additional funds for education. The big positive change is Frogwatch is funded for three days/week. The single contract with Environment, Planning & Sustainable Development Directorate has been signed and GCG staff are busy finalising work plans for the year. The Catchment Groups, working with Landcare ACT, will continue to explore further funding opportunities with the Commonwealth, ACT Government and business.

We had a good turnout at our last member's meeting, where we had discussion on urban landcare and Ginninderra development. Following the meeting, an agreed set of roles and responsibilities are being taken up with Transport Canberra & City Services (TCCS) to enable urban landcare groups and volunteers to more effectively do their on-ground work. TCCS has acknowledged this approach and will work with us to set this in place in the next 3 months.

In 2019, Landcare celebrates its 30-year anniversary. Over the past 30 years, Landcare has evolved into a powerful movement of volunteers who donate their time, skills, and expertise for the benefit of the environment, and the communities that seek to protect it. Please note that the Landcare Awards have opened. Nominations close on **Monday 12 August 2019**, and details are at this link: <https://www.e-award.com.au/2019/landcareawards/newentry/about.php>.

Please note that that next GCG General Meeting, is planned for **Monday 5 August 2019**, 5.30 pm at Kippax.

I would like to thank the staff, members of Executive and all the volunteers for their tireless work.

*Santo Lolicato, Convenor*

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### *News from the Executive Officer*

#### **RESTORATION OF GUBUR DHAURA**

This week is NAIDOC week and GCG with Mulanggang Aboriginal Landcare Group, have been onsite at Gubur Dhaura, the ochre procurement site in Franklin, planning for further restoration of the area. A cultural burn was conducted a few weeks ago by ACT government, after Mulanggang Aboriginal Landcare Group highlighted the importance of burning the area.

The site is now ready for weed control and planting of culturally significant species. This restoration work will be undertaken by GCG and the broader community, and is funded by Lockheed Martin, with assistance from Landcare Australia.

### **PROTECTING OUR CATCHMENT PROJECT**

The Protecting Our Catchments Project, funded by the ACT Government for the 2018–19 financial year, has almost come to a close. As outlined in the last newsletter, GCG has now drafted a framework for “Managing ACT infrastructure corridors for enhanced environmental outcomes”. This framework highlights the benefits of a community–government partnership model.

Other areas where the model can be applied in the ACT are in the process of being completed as part of the project. GCG have provided input into the other pieces of work as part of this funding, including: the value proposition of the Catchment Groups and Consolidated Risk Assessment of the Catchment Groups. Relevant documents will be available online once finalised.

### **GRASSLAND RESTORATION PROJECT EXPANDING**

The Croke Place grasslands, the site of the initial grasslands restoration experimental site have recently been burnt, with thanks to the ACT Rural Fire Service. Grassland species will now be planted into the area in accordance with a scientific process developed by Ken Hodgkinson, CSIRO Research Fellow and Convenor of GCG Native Grasslands Landcare Group. This project will continue to examine best practice management regimes for restoring native grasslands, including impact of different management approaches on various grassland species. Volunteers will be needed for the planting effort. Please contact Karissa or Ken if interested.

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

GCG staff have been busy painting drains to increase community awareness of Catchments and healthy waterways. Keep an eye out for the stencils, such as “water flows to the Ginninderra creek”, which are increasingly appearing around the Catchment. 100 drains will be painted and 100 surveys about community perceptions will also be undertaken as part of the ACT Government funded project.

### **DECLARATION OF AN ABORIGINAL PLACE IN SUTTON AREA**

In late June, a celebration to formally mark the declaration of an ochre quarry as an “Aboriginal Place” was held on the rural property Gollion, owned by the Vincent family. GCG have been involved in this process since its inception, and more recently Wally and Karissa have coordinated interpretive walks on the site, which were all booked out. The recognition is part of program run by NSW Office of Environment and Heritage that protects significant sites on private land and allows Aboriginal custodians to host tours of them. GCG is now working to find additional funds to run a further series of tours at the site. More information about the day can be found here (<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6247395/farms-history-as-significant-aboriginal-site-celebrated/> and <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-07-06/aboriginal-heritage-listing-embraced-by-farmers/11274744>).

### **GIRALANG CLEAN UP EVENT**



In mid-June GCG collaborated with Suzanne Orr, Alicia Payne and Giralang Landcare Group to hold a successful Clean-Up event at the Giralang Pond.

This event engaged many local residents who previously had not been actively involved

in landcare. It will be followed up by a tree planting activity during National Tree Day.

### **CSIRO FIELD STATION DEVELOPMENT**

Advance notice that there will be a field trip to CSIRO’s Ginninderra Field

Station on 17 September, to talk about progress with the proposed development there. More details nearer the time.

### **LIDS4KIDS**

Please stockpile your plastic bread tags and plastic bottle lids and then recycle them into the bucket that is placed outside the door of the GCG office. The tags and lids will be sent off to the Holden Rally team Lids4kids, a Canberra-based charity that collects them to make into artificial limbs. See <https://www.facebook.com/Lids4KidsAU/>.

*Karissa Preuss, Executive Officer*

## **Waterwatch news**



### **RIPARIAN CONDITION ASSESSMENTS (RARC)**



It is that time of the year again and Bruno conducted 16 RARC (riparian condition) surveys in the Belconnen and Gungahlin area. RARC surveys are conducted on each Waterwatch site, every two years.

In spring, Bruno should conduct a few more RARC surveys in Yass region. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please get in touch via [waterwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au](mailto:waterwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au)

The photo shows the Yass River at Macs Reef Road – one of the RARC survey sites. (Photo by Bruno Ferronato).

### **WATERWATCH EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

In partnership with Waterwatch coordinators from SACTCG and MCG, Bruno has conducted 5 sessions of Waterwatch educational activities during June. They were in: Kaleen High School (2 sessions), Narrabundah College, West Belconnen Community Centre (Koori Boys), and Radford College. 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)

### **PLATYPUS MONTH COMING SOON**

Next month (August) is Platypus Month. Waterwatch will be doing platypus/rakali (water rat) surveys at various site around Canberra and we'd love to have you along. Please email Woo on [waterwatch@act.gov.au](mailto:waterwatch@act.gov.au) to find out details of surveys, which are generally done early morning and take a bit over an hour.

*Bruno Ferronato, Waterwatch Coordinator*

## **Frogwatch news**



Wow ... long time since the last update. Heaps has happened.

Most important of all: **Frogwatch has secured funding for the current financial year!!** This is very exciting news and I would like to acknowledge the generous support provided by the ACT Government!! Watch this space as the next 12 months will see Frogwatch getting back into providing environmental education, running another FrogCensus in October and generally advocating for improved wetland conditions. So hopefully this will mean you will see and hear much more from Frogwatch this year!

With the end of the 2018–2019 financial year, many of our Frogwatch projects have come to an end as well. Here is a short summary:

### **2018 BIO-INDICATOR STUDY**

The extended re-run of the 2015 Bio-indicator study was a great success. It engaged students from CIT and the ANU, as well as other volunteers, in the measuring and monitoring of 49!!! wetlands across the ACT. A mammoth task. A preliminary report has been filed and once all the data has been analysed, I will share the findings with you.

### **2015–2018 CLIMATE CHANGE STUDY**

All good things must come to an end (so they say). After four years of weekly monitoring activities at sites across Canberra it is time for number crunching! The expert team, led by Martin Westgate, supported by Will Osborne, is doing this efficiently and quietly in the background, using

statistical tools that I cannot even start to understand.

Findings should be out very soon, so watch this space!! Some information about this project can be found in the latest *Landcare in Focus*, to be published soon at <https://landcareaustralia.org.au/resources/publications/landcare-in-focus/>.

#### **CANBERRA NATURE MAP FROGWATCH PORTAL**

I am sure by now most of you have tried and tested the new system. It is much faster, more straightforward, less clunky and easier to use. Therefore, I am very happy to announce that the testing phase has absolutely come to an end and that we are now a fully-fledged data portal!! Aaron Clausen and his wonderful team have performed at least 27 miracles while getting it all set up and working – so a big hurra to them!

The next startling leap will be developing a Frogwatch mobile app. Let's save that wish for later...

#### **COROWA LANDCARE EDUCATION RESOURCE**

Developing education resources tailored for teachers and students from the Corowa region has been a very rewarding activity. I have learned a lot about the amazing habitats in and around Corowa and I am very keen to meet the Sloane's froglet sometime soon (they are winter breeders)!

The project is now at the graphic designer-stage and I am eager to see the end product coming out of the press soon.

#### **WHAT'S UP FOR THIS YEAR:**

Frogwatch helped out doing some serious graffiti around town, called drain stencilling. The activity is funded through the ACT Healthy Waterways' H2OK project. The drain stencilling tries to educate the public about the negative effects of nutrients and pollutants being washed into our lakes and waterways. Keep your eyes peeled when you are around town, to see how many of the stencils you can spot!!

The 2019 tadpole kits for schools program, funded by Icon Water, will be kicked off soon. The booking process is starting in week 1 of Term 3. All project material has been counted and sorted and prepared and is ready to get distributed to 120 classes in the capital region at the start of Term 4.

The Downer Community group, led by Fiona Dickson, has pledged to save precious tadpoles and frogs from being bulldozed as their home of many years (the old Downer Primary School) gets developed into an apartment block (they paved paradise and put up a parking lot). What excellent stewardship for our local environment!

Our new webpage is up and running but not without its challenges. Please let me know if you come across a missing or malfunctioning link: much appreciated.

Frogwatch will run two frog pond workshops this year: in the Molonglo Valley and in Gungahlin, both kindly funded by the ACT Herpetological Association. Let me know if you are keen to attend and I will put you on the VIP list!

This year's census week will be **20–26 October**, but I like to encourage everyone to monitor throughout October. Training seminars will be run in late September and in October and will be announced later in the year. Keep your keen eyes open for the dates!

Last, but not least, a very big thank you to the Field Naturalists Association of Canberra for their kind donation to Frogwatch. Your support is very much appreciated and valued!

*Anke Maria Hoefler, Frogwatch Coordinator*

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## *News from the Catchment Member Groups*

#### **FRIENDS OF THE PINNACLE**

##### **BIRD WALK**

Canberra Ornithologists Group is hosting the Pinnacle Nature Reserve walk led by John Brannan. Heavily planted with trees in the 1980s and 1990s, the Reserve now offers a lovely mix of woodlands and open areas, including a largely undisturbed patch of remnant Red Stringybark woodland, and expansive views across the Molonglo Valley.

**Sunday 21 July 2019, starting at 9.00 am.** Meet at the reserve gate at the

southern end of Dungowan St, Hawker.

*John Brannan, Convenor*

### **NORTH BELCONNEN LANDCARE**

The Landcare group meets on **Saturday mornings each week, starting at 9.15 am**, under the capable leadership of Yvette Perine.

Also, Lenore has re-started the **Wednesday group** for mums and bubs and home-schooled children. Meetings are by arrangement, depending on when the families are available. Lately it has been 2 pm for one hour on most Wednesdays.

If you've noticed that the path down to the footbridge has recently been re-mulched, then thank this Wednesday group for doing it!

In other news: Ken and Lenore are downsizing and moving out of their home at the end of Spain Place above the landcare-group area in Evatt. The house will be soon put on the market after some refurbishments. It would be great if a landcare family wanted to buy this lovely home right beside the nature reserve at Evatt near the footbridge.

*Lenore Hodgkinson, 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.*



June was another month for Serrated Tussock weeding for our Friends group. We're very happy with our growing group of regulars –

now 16–18 every month. Soon we'll have to bake 2 cakes!! The photo (by Julia Raine) shows the June working group.



On 17 June, the ACT Environment Minister Mick Gentleman MLA officially turned the first sod for the new Learning Centre in the Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary, which will be located in Throsby. *See the photo at left (supplied).* The Learning Centre will be a focal point for

educating visitors about the endangered Box–Gum Grassy Woodland communities found at Mulligans Flat and in many of Canberra's nature reserves. The opening of the Learning Centre next year is also expected to open up more volunteer opportunities in the enlarged Sanctuary.

**Monthly work party:** This week, we are stomping off the frost from our boots and going hunting for more Serrated Tussock grass on **Wednesday 10 July**, meeting at **9.30 am at the Woolshed** inside the sanctuary. Hopefully on the way we will come across some dew-encrusted spider's webs (but not the spiders themselves!). We are finishing up at around 12 noon after morning tea.

Another great thing that will be happening **tonight, 10 July**, is the annual **'Science in the Sanctuary!'** seminar. Hear current PhD students share their research projects, telling us the latest about the reintroduction of quolls and our ecosystem engineering bettongs; monitoring the superb parrot; genetics; AND exciting new research on small mammals; and more ...

**Wednesday 10 July, 6.45–9 pm**, at Forde Community Centre. These free forums usually book out, so please *register* at <https://bit.ly/2X3Tm23>  
*Convenors, Julia Raine and Bridget Pearl*

### **SUTTON LANDCARE GROUP**

The next meeting of Sutton Landcare Group is on **6 August 2019, 7.30 pm**. Based in Canberra, Vanessa Whelan and Sue Bestow are both from the Australian Government. Together with their colleagues, they are delivering the \$1 billion National Landcare Program (NLP).

Their talk, titled *'Protected and Productive Environments'*, will focus on the agricultural component of the NLP. They will present some background information on the program, looking at Landcare's journey so far, what it has achieved and what this next phase of the program is looking to deliver. They will discuss the two main elements of the NLP: the Regional Land Partnerships component, which is delivered through a network of 54 Management Units nationally, and the Smart Farms component, which is currently supporting over 200 projects Australia-wide, and there are more to come. Their talk will also give examples of Landcare work being done locally and other work that is relevant to the Sutton area. There will also be plenty of opportunity to ask questions about Landcare, so you are encouraged to attend and take this opportunity to talk to representatives of the government directly.



For further information on Sutton Landcare Group, please contact our secretary on [sutton.landcare@gmail.com](mailto:sutton.landcare@gmail.com).

*Arnold Dekker, President*

### **JARRAMLEE PARK LANDCARE**

We are pleased to welcome two new members to our group, but sadly will be losing one member soon, house sold, and leaving Canberra to be near family.

We have a working bee on **Sunday 14th July, 10.30 am**, at one of the plant sites next to Jarramlee Pond – the one nearest the dam wall – which needs a good tidy up. In Spring we need to address the feral bushes and trees growing around the south side of the pond.

Dr Fiona Dyer, of University of Canberra, is not available on **Tues 23 July**, the date of our next meeting, to speak to us about the Urban Water Research Project. Fiona has asked Rod Ubrihien, Doctoral Fellow, to talk to us at that meeting about the Project, which was completed in June. Jarramlee Pond was the local waterbody involved, and Fassifern Pond was the 'control'. It should be very interesting. Strangely, the pond has lowered a couple of times since completion of the research, and there is some concern for the ecology of the edges, where we have water primrose, bullrushes and frog habitat.

We have not yet received permission to plant in the floodway where we removed a lot of dead bushes. We hope to do something in the Spring. A plant list was submitted, and originally we hoped to do this planting last Autumn.

There are ongoing meetings and discussions with GCG, TCCS and group convenors, to address the responsibilities between GCG volunteers working on TCCS land and GCG, which should result in a better system of 'who does what', and we look forward to the result.

*Pamela Fawke, Convenor*

### **HALL LANDCARE**

A small group (20) of Hall residents, some of whom are in our landcare group, have formed a Bee / Pollinator group called the HALL HONEYS.

We hope to start planting flora (natives) that support pollinators, especially bees. We have just received a positive response from ACT For Bees. They are happy to endorse the Hall Village charter of being a bee-friendly community. We will establish and maintain a Pollinator-safe Habitat. For bees, safe implies pesticide-free.

A meeting with the ACT Minister Chris Steel on Tuesday 9 July will discuss plantings for a bee-friendly ACT.

*Bob Richardson, Convenor*

*Photos courtesy of Bob Richardson: Greg Flower (and lambs) with a flow hive (left). A bespoke flow hive (right).*



## Opportunities around the region

### **RESILIENT FARMING COMMUNITIES: Planning For Climate Uncertainty**

After the success of the Climate Conversation in Yass at the end of May last year, Boorowa Community Landcare group invite you to a forum empowering land-managers to make change. It will be at Boorowa Ex Services Club, 55 – 59 Pudman St, Boorowa, 2586. on **Friday 16 August, 8.30–4.30**.

#### Themes/Topics of the day:

- Maintaining health and wealth in dry times;
- Decision making drivers in farm business;
- Achieving profit and resilience in your business in a changing climate;
- Financial, Ecological & Well being bench marks for success;
- Managing land to leave in a better condition for the future;
- Understanding behaviour and support to allow practice change.

We have a unique group of speakers. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion with presenters and local land managers, and stalls that support land and business solutions with resources to help make decisions.

For more information and to buy a ticket (\$20), see:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/resilient-farming-communities-planning-for-climate-uncertainty-tickets-64771792174?&>

### **HABITAT CORRIDORS – SCIENCE + ART + ENVIRONMENT**

*INVITATION:* Work with artists and ecologists on Habitat Corridors!

This will be an immersive science and creative interactive process beginning on **27 July and 3 August** with two 6-hour workshops at the **Old Court House in Harden-Murrumburrah**.

Learn about local threatened species including the Squirrel Glider, Superb Parrot, Scarlet Robin and the Flame Robin and their habitats during a workshop involving print making and paper dyeing.

- First, hear a talk by the Office of Environment and Heritage about the local and regional habitat corridors and their protection and growth
- Then join in a 6-hour print making workshop responding to the local threatened species and their habitats, 10 am – 4 pm on both days.

Then on **10 August, 2 – 5 pm**, the works and processes from the printmaking classes will be exhibited alongside a forum at the Mechanics Institute in Harden. Five speakers at the forum will address arts and science for change.

To register your interest in the classes or to RSVP to the forum, please contact **Caitlan** on phone 02 4823 4407 or by email: [ao@southerntablelandsarts.com.au](mailto:ao@southerntablelandsarts.com.au)

This program is offered by the Southern Tablelands Science Hub, Southern Tablelands Arts, the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (formerly OEH).

### **YASS COMMUNITY NURSERY OPEN ON NATIONAL TREE DAY**

**Where to Plant. Why to Plant. How to Plant** (for the Yass Landcare Group's 'Paddock Tree Project'). Learn how to protect existing trees and the animals that depend on them. Demonstration plantings will show how isolated paddock tree seedlings can withstand livestock pressure. Some kits will be available on the day and lunch and refreshments will be on offer. (gold coin donation).

YASS COMMUNITY NURSERY (Behind Men's Shed), 1428 Yass Valley Way **Sunday 28 July 11.30 am – 2.30 pm**.

To RSVP and for further info: Jeremy on 0427 059142.

**PLANTING ON NATIONAL TREE DAY near Goulburn**

You may like to join the team from Rivers of Carbon in a planting event on National Tree Day to help restore a waterway in Baw Baw, just west of Goulburn. It is an opportunity to help reduce erosion, restore habitat for native birds and animals and improve water quality in the Upper Wollondilly River Catchment.

**Sunday 28 July, 10.00 am – 12.30 pm**, followed by a free bbq.

The planting site has been ripped and is on a gentle slope along a waterway, allowing for easy digging and walking. You need to take your own hat, sunscreen, long sleeves, long pants, gardening gloves, sturdy boots, and a water bottle.

You MUST register by 4pm, Wednesday 24th July, at the Eventbrite site: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/greening-australia-national-tree-day-planting-sunday-28th-july-2019-tickets-63836351245>. Numbers are limited, so please register early to avoid disappointment. On registering you will be given directions to the planting site. Or you can book a seat on the free bus that leaves Civic at 8.30 am and returns there by about 3 pm.

Please contact the Greening Australia Canberra office for any information not on the Eventbrite webpage: [cbr.admin@greeningaustralia.org.au](mailto:cbr.admin@greeningaustralia.org.au) or phone 02 6253 3035 (weekdays).

The works are part of the **Rivers of Carbon – Source Water Linkages** project partnership between Water NSW, Greening Australia and the Australian River Restoration Centre, to improve the quality of Sydney’s drinking water and the health and biodiversity of the catchments. This day’s event is supported by Water NSW and the Australian River Restoration Centre.



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.

Email [landcare@ginninderralandcare.org.au](mailto:landcare@ginninderralandcare.org.au)

Website: <https://ginninderralandcare.org.au/>

Office: Kippax Health Centre, Holt. Phone: 02 6278 3309

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Ginninderra Catchment Group, Frogwatch and Waterwatch (Ginninderra Ck & Yass R) are grateful for support from the ACT Government, Landcare ACT and ACT Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch



