

## Southern ACT Catchment Group Coordinators Report 15<sup>th</sup> August 2016

### Peak Body Development

Landcare ACT (LACT) has a board of Directors which includes our Chair Glenys Patulny, is registered as Company Limited by Guarantee. I have been officially accepted on the Members Council. I will also be seeking member group views on various matters from time to time to help inform the peak body of the issues in our catchment areas. Landcare ACT will be working further on a good system of representation through the Members Council.

### National Landcare Program regional Stream (NLP) funding

The installment of \$26,060.60 is due on the 30<sup>th</sup> August following the acceptance of our 2015-2016 yearly report which has been submitted and has been accepted. \$52,121.20 is due in October after our financial report is accepted. The National Landcare Program contract is until 2018. With the 2016-2017 budget Fiona will continue to assist me for 1 day a week in planning and delivery of this year's milestones including GIS mapping project delivery and reporting. Martin works 1 day a week to manage the spray trailer and backpacks to assist with weeds outputs. Our funding and amounts remain guaranteed until 30 June 2018 as stipulated in our contracts (ie. \$130,303 for 2016-2017 and \$127,778 for 2017-2018).

The Regional body / ACT Government in the ACT continue to develop up an 'investment prospectus' to start forming projects for the 2018 round of NLP Regional Stream funding. Historically much of this stream of funding has gone to the Catchment Groups (ie. core funds) and Greening Australia to undertake community based work. The Catchment Groups continue to be in consultation with the ACT Government regarding priorities for this funding.

### Strategic Planning

We continue to seek a consultant to start developing our Strategic and Operational Plans along with Ginninderra with the support of the Water Policy Unit and NRM in the ACT Government. This is due to be developed over the next 6 months.

### Collaborative Projects

#### *Green Army*

The catchment groups continue to run Green Army Teams to support our work and the work of our member groups.

I have sent an info sheet out to all our members on these teams. Conservation Volunteers is the Service Provider for all our teams. The current team will be finished on the 25<sup>th</sup> August with Kacey-Lee Fairall as their supervisor. Team 4a has Lizabeth Collier as their team leader and started work on the 11<sup>th</sup> July. Team 3c with a new supervisor commenced on the 25<sup>th</sup> July.

These teams are available for free to undertake conservation work for ParkCare and Landcare Groups and rural Landholders. They work under Catchment Group direction **and their work schedule can only be booked by the Catchments Groups**. All work on reserves needs approval as usual through TAMS unless it is part of a normal work program. I am continuing to take requests for Green Army Team days by our members and landholders. Please contact me regarding any questions.

We have begun planning around an indigenous Land Management Team with local elder Wally Bell.

#### *Sustainable Agriculture Grant*

LACT have been successful in a \$55k project to support rural landholders with capacity building workshops and to conduct a region wide survey on what farmers want in terms of workshops and support. SACTCG will conduct 5 local workshops in our region and participate in delivering 2 regional scale workshops in this project. Planning has begun on this project and is establishing good processes which should form the basis for future collaborative regional projects. The rural landholder survey will be the first output to be worked on.

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### *AMP Employment Boost Grant*

LACT have submitted a grant application for additional mentoring support for the Aboriginal Green Army Team and to start a training program for Aboriginal people working on country in our region. This is the beginning of collaborative planning for future regional projects to support aboriginal land management.

### *ACT Heritage Grant*

LACT have submitted an application for a Heritage project "Caring on country - protecting local Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the natural environment".

### **25th Anniversary Landcare Grant**

The grant for fencing for rehabilitating an area of Strangers Paddock near point hut crossing for POSM through the commonwealth completed. Planting and transplanting of wetland plants has taken place and a Green Army team has been used for weeding the site. Additional Sentree will be applied this month with a Green Army Team. This will be acquitted shortly.

### **ACT Environment Grants**

#### **2014-2015**

1. Revegetation of the MRC at Castle Hill: ~\$8,000. 2400 trees have now been planted. Pine Island has also received planting from leftover funds. This will be acquitted shortly.

#### **2015-2016**

1. \$14750 for connecting revegetation works along the Murrumbidgee River Corridor (a continuation of the Castle Hill Project). Planning and site visits have been undertaken for this project with burning occurring by Geoff to reduce the bulk of the weeds on the river before planting. Planting occurred in the end on May. The 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the project is almost complete with burning of weeds complete along the corridor and planting to commence from the 31<sup>st</sup> August with CVA teams.
2. \$17 900 for rehabilitation for the former construction site of the ECD in partnership with Icon and PCS. Work for this project is complete. Planting of 7500 was undertaken with the Green Army and CVA. A community planting day on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April had limited attendance but a lot of ranger support. The Uriarra ParkCare Group was also involved. I will acquit this grant shortly.
3. \$48 000 for Gudgenby Woody Weeds Works in partnership with PCS and 3 Gudgenby Catchment rural lessees. I am working with Ben Stevenson, rural landholders and the weeds contractor in planning for this project. Work frilling weeds along the River is complete. We have halted work on Hawthorn Hill as it is currently infested with a bug which has put the plants into dormancy. We plan to commence treatment when they are expected to recover in Sept 2016. The slashbuster is due to start work when the bank dry up soon, with the approval of the EPA. I have also received the \$3,000 support for weeding from the Million Trees Program with an additional \$7,000 to come with follow up plantings.

#### **2016-2017**

#### **We have applied for the following grants which we have not been advised of yet:**

1. Protecting Threatened Ecosystems on Kerrabee, The National Equestrian Centre \$20,000. This is to treat Blackberry, Serrated Tussock and ALG on a property with a 116 ha patch of rare woodland on the MRC.
2. Re-establishment of Wetland Ecosystems at Amberly Farm: \$9,050. This is to undertake erosion control on 4 dams whose overflows feed into the MRC.
3. Spring Creek erosion and sediment movement control works: \$50,000.
4. African Lovegrass control in threatened ecosystem of West Kambah: \$10,480. This is a project across Amberly and Westwood Farms to treat landscape scale ALG infestations.

### **ACT Rural Grants**

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“Cypress Springs rabbit control and native grassland restoration” for ~\$11 600. Work is completed with an area being ripped to destroy burrows. Due to be acquitted shortly.

I did not apply for funding under the 2015-2016 grant rounds. The 2016-17 rounds will be released soon.

### **ACT Heritage Grants 2016-2017**

I have submitted one grant for \$6000 signage for the Theodore Grinding Grooves site which will contain additional information of aboriginal cultural Heritage in the south.

### **Volunteer Grants**

We have been successful on behalf of Hughes Garran Woodland Group for \$3500 for equipment.

### **Landcare Australia Small Grants**

We have been successful on behalf of Hughes Garran Woodland Group for \$770.

### **SACTCG equipment and tools**

A lending agreement has been written up for the digital devices and these are available for use by members. We are keen to use the GPS function on the Samsung Galaxy notes for groups to map rabbit warrens and weed infestations in order to provide this information directly to PCS digitally. This will be using the Collector App for ArcGis online. There are 2 logins (one for TAMS) and one for Catchment Groups). Tools including photo boards and a marquee are also available for groups to use.

### **Website and IT**

We continue to use ArcGIS to map and our help of Fiona. We are now using Collector to enter mapping information on the EPD Arc GIS account for reporting.

### **Office and Other Activities**

- Oi will be coming in every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday to manage our accounts. All current accounts paid as of 19/07/2016. A reminder that Authorises need to logon **twice** a week to authorise payments or accounts can end up being overdue.
- I attended the first LACT members council meeting and provided input into governance and other document drafting.
- I attended the UMCCC meeting.
- I attended a Website Management meeting to discuss ongoing maintenance of our website as part of a consortium of 8 other organisations.
- I have been administering the Green Army projects, meetings and working with our partners including CVA.
- I have been in ongoing discussions with EPD concerning output reporting and guidelines.
- Radio Landcare monthly shows are running very well. We can now post interviews as mp3's on our website. Volunteers are welcome to join the show as guest speakers. Please call us to schedule in a day to join us.
- I will be attending the National Landcare Conference from the 20<sup>th</sup> September and following this will be taking 2 weeks leave and returning on the 10<sup>th</sup> October.