

Southern ACT Catchment Group Coordinators Report 18th July 2016

Peak Body Development

Landcare ACT (LACT) has a board of Directors which includes our Chair Glenys Patulny, and are now 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 30th August following the acceptance of our 2015-2016 yearly report which has been submitted. \$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 are seeking 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 25th August with Kacey-Lee Fairall as their supervisor. Team 4a has Lizabeth Collier as their team leader and started work on the 11th July. Team 3c with a new supervisor will commence on the 25th 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.

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.

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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 is near completion. Planting and transplanting of wetland plants has taken place and a Green Army team has been used for weeding the site. Further planting and weeding has been undertaken this month with a Green Army Team and lots of rangers. This will be acquitted in August.

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 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 on 30th May to 3rd of and 2nd part will occur around August.
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 30th of April had limited attendance but a lot of ranger support. The Uriarra ParkCare Group were 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 has started work with the approval of the EPA for the use of the slashbuster. 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.

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

"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 round.

ACT Heritage Grants 2016-2017

I have submitted one grant for \$10000 signage for the Theodore Grinding Grooves site which will contain additional information of aboriginal cultural Heritage in the south.

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SUEZ Grant

I have submitted a grant for \$8500 to conduct 3 plant identification workshops including training for tools and equipment for volunteers but this was not successful.

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

- I have been on TOIL for the last 2 weeks. My TOIL balance is now down to 37 hours. I have an AL balance 3 weeks.
- Oi will be coming in every 2nd 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 a meeting with Dr Kate Auty the new Commissioner for Sustainability with Glenys.
- I attended a climate adaptation workshop for our Strategic Planning process.
- I attended a briefing regarding the Lower Cotter Catchment Plan of Management.
- I have been very busy administering the Green Army projects, meetings and working with our partners.
- Radio Landcare monthly shows are running very well. I am now posting interviews of interesting interviews as mp3's on our website. Volunteers are welcome to join the show as guest speakers.