

## Southern ACT Catchment Group Coordinators Report 16<sup>th</sup> February 2016

### Peak Body Development

I continue to be involved with the other 2 catchment groups in developing a Landcare ACT to represent community Landcare in the ACT Region and I will continue on the interim steering committee. The constitution for a Company Limited by Guarantee is in Draft and we will be looking to formalize this in the next few months. Our contract with the Commonwealth has provided further funds for 2015-2016 for the consultant (Anne Duncan) as well as secretary support which is being undertaken by Fiona Spier. Landcare ACT very successfully hosted the National Landcare Network AGM and ran a field trip around areas of the ACT for the delegates on Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. Thank you to Red Hill Regenerators for the site visit and showing the delegates around.

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

The installment due 30<sup>th</sup> October for \$51,758.40 has been paid in December. The next installment of \$51,758.40 is due on the 7<sup>th</sup> March and I have submitted the interim report. The National Landcare Program contract has been signed with no changes to the budget from 2015 to 2018. With the 2015-2016 budget Fiona will be assisting me for 1 day a week in planning and delivery of this year's milestones including GIS mapping, workshops and project delivery. \$9000 has been approved to be rolled over to further support this year's activity. Martin works 1 day a week under CFOC to achieve weeds outputs. Our funding and amounts remain guaranteed for the next three years as stipulated in our contracts (ie. \$129,396, \$130,303, \$127,778 consecutively).

The Regional body / ACT Government in the ACT has released a discussion paper on their '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 projects. The Commonwealth intend that the regional delivery funding supports community Landcare. The Catchment Groups, as before, are in a good position to undertake projects at a catchment scale with the community.

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> SACTCG the Regional Body will be meeting with the Landcare ACT (the new Peak Body which we are all part of) and all the Catchment Groups to discuss this Prospectus.

### Green Army

I presented with CVA on the Green Army Projects at the National Landcare Network AGM and received very positive feedback about the model we are using in the ACT.

Landcare ACT has been successful with an additional 2 teams under the next round of the program. This means that the catchment groups will use 7 teams up until Dec 2017 to support our work. 2 teams will run concurrently throughout 2017, one of which will be an Aboriginal Land Management Team. Conservation Volunteers is the Service Provider for all our teams. The first of these teams started work on the 21<sup>st</sup> September and will be finished on the 25<sup>th</sup> Feb. The next team starts on the 21<sup>st</sup> March and Rebecca Smith will also be their supervisor.

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 will continue to be booked by the Catchments Groups only. 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 materials and equipment questions.

### 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. We are working closely with Parks rangers and POSM. 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 will be undertaken by June 2016.

### ACT Environment Grants

#### 2014-2015

1. Cypress Springs waterways (erosion control structures): ~\$15,000. This project is complete and will be acquitted shortly. The field visit planned for the Sunday the 31<sup>st</sup> May was postponed due to lack of interest but will be replaced with an article submission in the Land News.

## **Southern ACT Catchment Group Coordinators Report 16<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

2. Revegetation of the MRC at Castle Hill: ~\$8,000. Additional planting will take place to expend funds saved from less than expected CVA teams being required to plant the initial 2400 trees. A variation has been accepted for this deed.

### **2015-2016**

We have been successful grant for:

1. \$17 900 for rehabilitation for the former construction site of the ECD in partnership with Icon and PCS. Work for this project has begun with soil ameliorants being applied late last year. Planting is due to occur when the weather cools.
2. \$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 and hawthorn hill is currently being treated. The slashbuster is due to start work in April. I have also secured the \$3,000 support for weeding from the Million Trees Program with an additional \$7,000 to come with follow up plantings.
3. \$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.. Green Army Teams will be used as labour for planting and potentially fencing.

### **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.

### **SACTCG equipment and tools**

A lending agreement has been written up for the digital devises 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. Tools including photo boards and a marquee are also available for groups to use.

The small grants have been assessed and 5 applicants were successful with \$750 each. Successful groups can invoice the catchment groups for this grant or SACTCG can pay a contractor directly.

### **Website and IT**

We continue to use ArcGIS to map and our projects are beginning to be added to a spatial database with the help of Fiona. We would like to map our member group planned and completed activities on the ArcGIS program to assist with the strategic planning process, for communicating with PCS, for SACTCG reporting and to be useful for groups when looking at future works planning. Fiona has been adding material to the SACTCG website.

### **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 16/02/2016. A reminder that Authorises need to logon **twice** a week to authorise payments or accounts can end up being overdue.
- I was on leave for 6 weeks from the end of Dec 2015.
- Radio Landcare monthly shows are running very well. Volunteers are welcome to join the show as guest speakers.