

Southern ACT Catchment Group Coordinators Report 16th May 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 continue to be involved in an advisory capacity. 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 which will include a Members Council. I am on the Event Planning committee for an event in late July that will be a consultation with our members about the direction on the new Peak Body and a Bushdance to celebrate!

National Landcare Program regional Stream (NLP) funding

The installment of \$56,934.24 due on the 7th March was deposited on the 14th April. The National Landcare Program contract is until 2018. With the 2015-2016 budget Fiona will continue to assist me for 1 day a week in planning and delivery of this year's milestones including GIS mapping, workshops and project delivery. Martin works 1 day a week to achieve weeds outputs. Our funding and amounts remain guaranteed until 30 June 2018 as stipulated in our contracts (ie. \$129,396, \$130,303, \$127,778 consecutively).

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 will soon be 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.

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 started on the 19th March. Rebecca Smith their supervisor has found permanent work and we will meet the new supervisor soon.

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 Catchment 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.

The next team will be an indigenous Land Management Team and we have begun planning around this team with local elder Wally Bell.

We are discussing the option of submitting a 3-6 projects under Round 5 of the Green Army open now.

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. Cypress Springs waterways (erosion control structures): ~\$15,000. This project is acquitted.
2. 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 will occur 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 has begun with soil ameliorants being applied late last year. Planting of over 7500 was undertaken with the Green Army and CVA will be undertaking 4 days of work next week with the support of PCS. I have organised a community planting day on the 30th of April (10-12) to get the final trees in the ground and celebrate the end of the project. The Uriarra ParkCare Group will be involved on this day and all are welcome.
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 on June 10th and I am awaiting 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.

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.

SUEZ Grant

I have submitted a grant for \$8500 to conduct 3 plant identification workshops including training for tools and equipment for volunteers.

Volunteer Grants

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

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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 projects are beginning to be added to a spatial database with the help of Fiona. We are now using Collector to enter mapping information on our Arc GIS account for reporting.

Office and Other Activities

- Oi will be coming in every 2nd Wednesday to manage our accounts. All current accounts paid as of 19/04/2016. A reminder that Authorises need to logon **twice** a week to authorise payments or accounts can end up being overdue.
- I have been very busy administering the Green Army projects, meetings and working with our partners.
- I attended the UMCCC integrated Catchment Management Draft Strategic Plan consultation
- I attended a website planning meeting regarding future SACTCG website maintenance with partner organisation
- Fiona and I both attended an Arc GIS and Story map session with NRM.
- 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. We did a great interview with Ian Falconer this morning about the Draft ACT Catchment Management Strategy.