

Southern ACT Catchment Group Coordinators Report 19th April 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.

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

I attended a Strategic Planning meeting with the both the Water Policy unit and NRM in the ACT Government. They will be supporting the development of our next Strategic Plan along with Ginninderra. We will be holding meetings to further our Strategic Planning starting tomorrow.

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 and Rebecca Smith is their supervisor. This team is heavily booked.

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.

The next team will be an indigenous Land Management Team and we have begun planning around this team with local elder Wally Bell. LACT have submitted a grant application with AMP for additional mentoring support for this group and to start a training program for Aboriginal people working on country in our region.

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 will be undertaken by June 2016 with a Green Army Team. We are working closely with Parks rangers and POSM.

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 31st May was postponed due to lack of interest but will be replaced with an article submission in the Land News.
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.

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2015-2016

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 of over 7500 is currently underway 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.
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. 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 in May and I am awaiting approval of the EPA for the use of the slashbuster. 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.

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

This grant round is open till 22nd April. 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.

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.

The SACTCG small grants program granted \$750 to successful groups. Please contact Martine or Fiona regarding this program.

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 and I have recently updated information on the SACTCG website. Groups have been asked to provide updates on their group profiles.

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 and working with our partners.
- I attended the ParkCare fringe forum on weeds.
- I attended the second Southern ACT Biosecurity workshop.
- Radio Landcare monthly shows are running very well. 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.