

## **Southern ACT Catchment Group Coordinators Report July 2010**

### **• 'The World of Tidbinbilla; a resource and memento for Tidbinbilla visitors':**

The 'Tales of Tidbinbilla' Heritage Grant project is progressing well. The book has been renamed '*The World of Tidbinbilla*' and a draft copy is now with the Heritage Unit for their comments/approval.

Jon Stanhope has agreed to put his name to the Forward and to launch the book, probably late October or early November. The Foreword for the *World of Tidbinbilla* has been drafted and is currently being reviewed by his adviser.

I am working with the editors and the Heritage Unit to progress the brief in relation to the launch.

### **Living with Lovegrass:**

Met with Anna Van Dugteren, Esther Duffy, Geoff Hyles, and Steve Taylor to discuss how we can promote recommendations out of the forum (David Shorthouse and Catherine Keirnan were late apologies. The decisions we came to where:

1. Steve Welch to start work on a Community Action Grant application (supported in kind and with some \$ from the NRM Council and Rural Landholders Association) to produce a map showing ALG infestation boundaries across southern ACT in 2000, 2010 and projections of a possible ALG scenario in 2020. The grant application would also have a small education component;
2. Steve Welch to talk to Sarah re mapping and projection;
3. Anna & Esther to organise a NRM Council tour for the politicians;
4. Anna & Esther to provide support and some \$ to run ALG field days with Rural Landholders Association & SACTCG.
5. Steve Welch to attend Conservation Council Biodiversity Committee meetings on 28<sup>th</sup> to input into agenda item on ACT Weeds budget;
6. Steve Welch to work with Drew English to draft a letter from the Catchment & Landcare Association to the Chief Minister protesting the cuts to the weeds budget;
7. Steve Welch to determine what interest there may be in starting a Roadside Care group as a pilot project.
8. Steve Taylor has already instigated new contract arrangements for roadside herbicide spraying that should ensure better outcomes.
9. Steve Taylor to investigate EPA position on imported soil into the Territory.

### **The Scrivener Hill Lookout project:**

- Isaacs Ridge/Mt Mugga Mugga Park Care Group is coordinating the Scrivener Hill project. The sign words have been sent to the relevant ACT Government person for approval.

### **Community Action Grants:**

- The Caring for Our Country Community Action Grant to assist with the restoring the remnant Yellow box / Redgum woodland at Tuggeranong Homestead is progressing. The first orders of plants has been placed with Greening Australia and Provincial Nurseries to enable a Spring planting. As well as understorey plantings the project also includes some weed control. The Patterson's Curse is thick but it is too late to boom spray the rosettes at this stage so it will occur next Spring. I have inspected the site with Gerry from Youth Haven, who will be contracted to spray herbicide for control of Patterson's Curse in early Spring and again later in the year.

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### **Canberra's Nature: NRM Council Small Grants project:**

- The Canberra's nature project to produce postcards and an associated banner is now progressing after having stalled for some time waiting for a final catchment map. A decision has been made to produce the banner without a map on it as originally proposed. The production of the banner is now with the GraphicArk who have completed design. We are now waiting on the NRM Council logo.

### **Website**

- Working with Rod Dickson and Martin to re-organise and update the website.

### **Office**

- All current accounts paid as of 28/07/10.

### **Other Activities**

- Continued production and distribution of fortnightly email news;
- Toured Youth Haven to examine tree guards and will nominate the 'Trees in Trouble' project with Youth Haven for the NSW/ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards 2010
- Met with Drew to formulate letter to the Chief Minister opposing reduction in weeds budget.
- Completed and submitted Catchment Coordination report for December to June
- Attended CLA
- Met with other coordinators to discuss future horse seminars
- Attended UMCCC
- Attended meeting with David Walker, executive officer of the Gould League, regarding possibilities of working with the Gould League in the ACT and region. The Gould League is an independent non-profit charity dedicated to environmental education and training in sustainability for schools and the community established in 1909. <http://www.gould.edu.au/>. This meeting arose as a result from a conversation that occurred in a Catchment and Landcare Association meeting regarding increasing community education in Canberra.
- Attended ACT Conservation Council Member Forum – 'Protecting Tidbinbilla'
- Completed on-line submission on Tidbinbilla Management Plan
- Attended ACT Conservation Council Biodiversity Committee meeting

### **Education Officer**

- Meetings with graphic over final lay-out and design of 'Our Water' education resource.
- Assisted in 'Green Club' students at Lanyon High School in cleaning up the school wetlands over two days.
- Met with teachers and students to plan launch day for 'Our Water'.
- Launch of 'Our Water' resource at Lanyon High School. 'Our Water' is a development of the Education Officer project. Launch opened by Ms Joy Burch, Minister for Children and Young People et al. The event was documented in the Canberra Times on Saturday the 26/6 and on the Chief Minister's web site.
- Meeting with Gilmore Primary School to discuss suitable education activities at Lion's YouthHaven.
- Wrote support letter for Gilmore Primary School to assist with special program grant application.
- Meeting with Lanyon High School's 'Trek' program to look at suitable education activities at Lion's YouthHaven.

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- Attended end of term display and celebration of student's work on 'Catchments' at Chisholm Junior Campus.
- Meeting with youth worker from Telopea school to look at suitable education activities at Lion's YouthHaven.