

Southern ACT Catchment Group Coordinators Report 30 July 2013

A Labour of Love

I have completed the Acquittal for the heritage grant and Final payment has been received. Requests for books continue to come in and it is now being distributed through the Arboretum, Botanical Gardens, Tidbinbilla Visitors Centre , Sustainable Schools, ANPC and others. When we have time we will look at further distribution.

'Spray Safe and Save' training and weed control training

The course on the 15th and 16th of June drew 11 enrolments and was very successful. I received positive venue about the venue (Birrigai at Tidbinbilla in the Conference Centre) and will use it again. We currently not planning another course but will look into it once budgets are settled as we may be able to run one from existing funds.

Mobile QuikSpray Unit

The Mobile QuikSpray Unit is available to assist landholders and managers across the ACT or in the Googong or Upper Murrumbidgee catchments (within 50 km south of the ACT border) to undertake weed control. Bookings are available through the winter but the end of the year is starting to fill. Preliminary conversations have been had with the 2 other Catchment groups regarding purchasing a second trailer (\$24000) but negotiations have stalled with the groups needing to function on limited budgets. I have 3 quotes and am ready to purchase as soon as we can raise the funds. I have had discussions with Palerang Council on managing and housing a second unit but they believe that it will be too difficult to manage. I have also had a conversation with the weeds officer at Queanbeyan who believes it may be a future possibility.

Regional Investment

I am currently completing the final reporting for this 6 month period and the reporting for the full 2 years of funding. All funds have been expended. We are awaiting approval of funding for 5 years of funding through the ACT Regional body to CFOC. This is our base funding for 1.6 FTE positions. We understand there is some reduction in the allocations.

ACT Environment Grants and Weed Applications for Smart Phones

Along with the other 2 catchment groups we were successful in our Environment grant application for funding to purchase equipment for SACTCG member groups and the money has finally been delivered. We have now purchased 4 phablets (large smart phones) and 2 mini tablets and are awaiting their delivery. I will be purchasing 3 motorised high-pressure backpack sprayers for lending by groups soon.

Atlas of Living Australia are developing an application that can be used on any smart phone to collect information and send it to the ALA site. NRM are paying and managing this process. The portal will have list from Parks of weed species. The app is still developing and we will continue to be involved in discussions about what the weed mapping app capabilities will be.

I have assisted the Hughes – Garran ParkCare group in variation to their Environment Grant which now will purchase a GPS unit and purchase nesting boxes in place of arbory services in the Park. It now has a due date of October 2013. We are awaiting to hear of the success of a Environment Grant for weed assistance for Paddy's leasees and one for revegetation of floating beds on Lake Tuggeranong.

ACT Environment Grant 2013-14

We will be submitting a grant this week for a group of Tharwa and region Landholders to undertake weed removal and grant for some in Lake plantings for Lake Tuggeranong

ACT Heritage Grant 2013-2014

We submitted a grant for \$12000 for signage at Nil Desperandum at Tidbinbilla. This is looking promising and we will be advised of the success by October.

Volunteering ACT Grant 2013-2014

I have submitted a \$2500 grant application for a printer and money for petrol for volunteers and awaiting to hear if we are successful.

GVESHO

I have applied for 5 years of administration support of 4000/year and awaiting to hear if we are successful.

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Website and IT

We would like to pay for 2 hours a week for someone to maintain www.sactcg.org.au and have interest from a volunteer. We would like to have further training so that group conveyors can upload content about planned activities but have not the funds at this time. There is now an ACT Landcare Facebook page for the 3 Catchment Groups managed by Molonglo but not yet used very much. I will look further into social media opportunities for SACTCG.

Office and Other Activities

- All current accounts paid as of 31/06/2013. A reminder that Authorises need to logon **twice** a week to authorise payments or accounts can end up being overdue.
- Have agreed to run a stall at Canberra Uni Sustainability festival on August 21.
- Plan to be trained to run Radio Landcare program with Martin on our own once/month.
- Tussock pamphlet (UMCCC funding) has been written and final edits are still being negotiated.
- Plan to get Molonglo weed pamphlet updated to be relevant for whole region.
- CROWK . I will investigate how we can use these unexpended funds.
- Discussions with Environmental Science teacher at Namadgi who would like to do some garden planting/apply for grants. I will visit and see how we can be involved.
- I would like to go ahead with the quote for design of SACTCG brochures. This still needs to be rewritten and I will chase Linton to prepare an updated map to use.