

Southern ACT Catchment Group Coordinators Report 21 March 2013

A Labour of Love

The book is being printed and will be launched by Simon Corbell at 11am on Friday 19th April 2013 at Tuggeranong Homestead. Agnes O'Shea has agreed to do the Welcome to Country and Darren Chong will invite the Aboriginal Community including the RAO's and UNEC and other local Aboriginal people. Events will run from 10-2. MacArthur Scouts will be providing a BBQ and the Regional Facilitator's Program will pay for catering. The flyer has been distributed and adverts will appear in the Heritage Festival Lift out of the Canberra Times. I will organise media for the event with the ministers Department next week and ordering promotional mugs. All Landcare groups are invited to set up stalls and the 3 Catchment Groups and Greening Australia will have stalls. MOTH will be doing tree planting and Daren will organise a Bush foods Table. There is still much to do but it is looking like it will be a great day.

'Spray Safe and Save' training and weed control training

The Regional Landcare Facilitators Program have helped to fund next course which I have arranged for 11 and 12 May. Registrations are open now. I have put an application for \$48000 into CFOC's competitive rounds for the agricultural stream: Community Landcare Grants for running 3 more courses over the next 18 months. This application also contains provisions for 3 courses on establishing native pastures to replace exotic pastures and there is also a component of grass identification. I will be seeking in-kind support from 3 ParkCare groups to run the identification courses (as field visits) if this is grant is successful.

Mobile QuikSpray Unit

Mobile QuikSpray Unit 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. I have taken over the booking system from Steve. I have also developed an information sheet/ checklist to facilitate the handover of the trailer to those who are new to borrowing it. The SWP Program have funding storage space for the unit at Lyons Youth Haven Westwood farm. I will be having conversations with the 2 other Catchment groups regarding purchasing a second trailer (\$24000). I have 3 quotes and am ready to purchase as soon as we can raise the funds. I will continue conversation with Palerang Council on managing and housing a second unit.

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. Equipment to be purchased included 1 tablet with GPS capability and 3 motorised high-pressure backpack sprayers. All groups have met with the NRM Investment Development Manager to discuss the choice of device/applications. We have also met with the Atlas of Living Australia regarding developing an application that can be used on any smart phone to collect information and send it to the ALA site. The groups had requested that the funds from this grant go toward the development of this app but NRM want to pay for it. As a result we are back to purchasing the 3 sprayers and 2-6 hand-held mobile devices and a tablet. We will continue to be involved in discussions about what the weed mapping app capabilities will be.

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 had training for website management on 20 March and would like to have further training so that group convenors can upload content about planned activities. There is now an ACT Landcare Facebook page for the 3 Catchment Groups managed by Molonglo but not yet used very much.

Office and Other Activities

- All current accounts paid as of 20/03/2013. A reminder that Authorises need to logon at least once a week to authorise payments or accounts can end up being overdue.
- Helped run the Canberra show stall- very successful.
- Appeared on radio landcare in March and plan to be trained to run program on our own once/month.
- Tussock pamphlet (UMCCC funding) has been written and we are doing final edits.
- Assisted grant writing for City farm CLG application.
- Plan to get Molonglo weed pamphlet updated to be relevant for whole region.