

Southern ACT Catchment Group Coordinators Report 8 May 2013

A Labour of Love

The launch at Tuggeranong Homestead was very successful with over 100 people present on an icy windy morning. It was covered by local ABC radio who interviewed Wendy on the day. Wendy was also interviewed on 666 by Genevieve Jacob, the Mornings Presenter on 666 ABC Canberra and appeared in the Landcare in Focus as well as nearly all other Landcare/Parkcare network circulars, newsletters and websites, the Heritage Festival publications, a media release by Simon Corbell and in the ESDD newsletter. I am currently distributing books and completing the final grant acquittal.

'Spray Safe and Save' training and weed control training

We were not successful in the application for CFOC's Community Landcare Grants in the agricultural stream. This was for running 3 more courses over the next 18 months and other courses for establishing native pastures to replace exotic pastures and grass identification. I will be seeking funding for more courses elsewhere if possible. The next course on the 15th and 16th of June still has some room left and has a change of location to Birrigai at Tidbinbilla in the Conference Centre.

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) and we will investigate this in the next few months. 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 will have further discussions with the other Catchment Groups about options for managing another trailer.

Regional Investment

We completed a funding application for 5 years of funding through the ACT Regional body to CFOC. This is our base funding for 1.6 FTE positions. We at this stage have no notice of how much was actually requested and if it will be successful.

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. Equipment to be purchased included 1-3 tablets with GPS capability and 3 motorised high-pressure backpack sprayers for lending by groups. I plan to buy these in the next month.

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 a tab for each ParkCare group to have a list of weeds that are important to them (for mapping and otherwise) as well as list from Parks. I will be circulating a request for to member groups shortly to submit their weed lists. We will continue to be involved in discussions about what the weed mapping app capabilities will be.

I will also be working with Hughes – Garran to aquit their Environment Grant.

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.

Volunteering ACT Grant 2013-2014

I have submitted a \$2500 grant application for a printer and money for petrol for volunteers.

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

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conveyors 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 28/05/2013. A reminder that Authorises need to logon **twice** a week to authorise payments or accounts can end up being overdue.
- Appeared on radio landcare in May and plan to be trained to run program 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 – Geoff has contacted and CROWK will be disbanding. 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 have received a quote for design of SACTCG brochures. This needs to be rewritten and I will chase Linton to prepare an updated map to use.