

**Southern ACT Catchment Group Coordinators Report
27 May 2014**

**We will be moving to our new offices at Erindale Business Centre on the 16th June and packing the
10th -13th.**

All helping hands are welcome!

‘Spray Safe and Save’ training and weed control training

The next course is booked for the 14th and 15th of June with funding from the Regional Facilitators Program. The target audience will be ACT farmers but remaining spots will be available for ParkCare and Landcare volunteers. There are many places still available.

Mobile QuikSpray Unit

The Mobile QuikSpray Unit is available to assist landholders and managers across the ACT and region to undertake weed control. Bookings are available through the winter. It is also available to ParkCare /Land Care groups with some negotiation with the land manger.

Regional Investment

The March 2014 installment has been paid. Next installment is due 21 August 2014. A yearly progress report is due 15th July. I have attended more meetings regarding monitoring requirements under this program. Photo-points for on-ground works are the minimum monitoring that SACTCG has agreed to as resources to undertake on ground monitoring are not provided. The coordinators are on track in achieving capacity building outputs (these include communication activities / workshops and field days). The coordinators are working on on-ground outputs including plantings and erosion control activities with members groups. For example a planting event was organised on Farrer Ridge with the FR Group, and POSM were supported to undertake a planting in Barneys gully as an erosion control activity. Many of these activities are unfunded and resources are sourced through plants from Greening Australia, equipment and coordination from the catchment group and volunteer labor. Weed outputs have been achieved through the Paddy’s River Grant and the spray trailer.

New groups and Urambi Hills Planting Event

Interested volunteers for a new Urambi Hills Group met on the 8th of May. There is a lot of interest and enthusiasm in forming this new group. We have also visited a planting site with Woodlands Restorations Officer Kristy Gould and are arranging a **planting event** on the **29th June** where we are hoping to get 500 plants in the ground! This event will be supported by CROWK.

TAMS have advised that at this stage they do not have enough rangers to support a new group but will do so when they have a promise of more ranger time. In the meantime activities can occur if organised under SACTCG (and this will also cover insurance).

Friends of Tuggeranong Hill are also wishing to reestablish and are first in line for ranger support.

ACT Environment Grants 2012-2013

I have acquitted the catchment wide pest mapping coordination and control project. SACTCG have purchased 4 phablets (large smart phones) and 2 mini tablets with this grant as well as 5 motorised high-pressure backpack sprayers for lending by groups and a one year GIS licence. A lending agreement has been written up for the equipment and devises 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.

The Weed Spotter portal is up and running and is still being tested by groups across the ACT. A user manual is being developed.

ACT Environment Grant 2013-14

Paddy’s River lessees weed control grant has had all monies expended. I have visited all 5 properties funded to undertake weed control with this grant and photographed treated areas. This has been a good opportunity to engage with landholders about their properties. I will acquit this grant before 30 June 2014.

ACT Environment Grant 2014-2015

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We have submitted 4 grant applications under this program:

1. Revegetation and Erosion control for Barney's Gully (fencing and revegetation):~ \$13,000
2. Cypress Springs waterways (erosion control structures): ~\$15,000
3. Revegetation of the MRC at Castle Hill: ~\$8,000
4. ACT Wildlife (infrastructure/equipment support): ~13,000

ACT Heritage Grants

The 2013-2014 grant for \$12474 for signage at Nil Desperandum at Tidbinbilla is still in progress. Content has been written by Friends of Tidbinbilla volunteers and is currently being edited. We are hoping to erect the signs soon.

We have submitted a 2014-2015 grant application for \$9000 for 6 indigenous interpretive walks in Tuggeranong.

ACT Rural Grants

We have submitted one rural Grant "Cypress Springs rabbit control and native grassland restoration" for ~\$11 600.

Green Army Projects

We have submitted an application as a green army sponsor in partnership with Greening Australia, the other 2 catchment groups, Bush Heritage and Lyons Youth Haven. This is for one team, full time over 6 months and will give us a taste of how the project may work. There are no funds that come with this grant and we are yet to see who will be the Service Provide who manages the projects. Once we know the outcome of application we will contact our member groups to arrange any work parties.

GVESHO

We have received funding of \$2750 for administration support for the year 2013-2014. We have received notification that there will no longer be any GVESHO Grants in the coming years.

Website and IT

Training has been undertaken by some group conveyors to upload content onto the SACTCG website and information about groups and activities has improved. Ongoing maintenance of the website is required. We are now using ArcGIS to map and plan our projects and are beginning to develop a spatial database. 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. We had 6 people from SACTCG attend ArcGIS training and are keen to keep this interest up. Any more interested and experienced hands are welcome.

Office and Other Activities

- ≡ All current accounts paid as of 27/05/2014. A reminder that Authorises need to logon **twice** a week to authorise payments or accounts can end up being overdue.
- ≡ Insurance policies have been renewed and all groups with fewer than 10 members now come under SACTCG as a subgroup. There is no change to the policy. We will be developing an MOU with TAMS.
- ≡ Both coordinators now have current first aid certificates.
- ≡ Radio Landcare monthly shows are running very well. Volunteers are welcome to join the show as guest speakers.
- ≡ I have a quote for the design of a SACTCG brochure. This still needs to be rewritten.