

SOUTHERN NEWS

ISSUE 2

APRIL / MAY WORKPARTY CALENDAR

9 April

Issaacs Ridge ParkCare

16 April

Coolleman Ridge ParkCare

8-9 April

Friends of Tidbinbilla
ParkCare

30 April

Friends of Featherstone
Gardens

7 May

Farrer Ridge ParkCare

19 April

Red Hill ParkCare

7 May

Red Hill ParkCare

Contact the SACTCG office for
further details

From the Office

Hi everyone. Welcome to our second newsletter. Remember our intention for this newsletter is to share your stories with others in the south, so your stories can be the feature. Working bee dates, stories, information of interest and photos can be sent to Fiona at projects@sactcg.org.au

Remember Radio Landcare, **Tuesdays from 9 am on 98.3FM.**

SACTCG and GCG Strategic Plans

The SACTCG Strategic plan is progressing well. Last week there was a project inception meeting with GCG, NGH Consulting and ACT Directorate staff to discuss the way forward. A key objective of this process is to develop a plan that the members fully own and that supports the organisation and members interests into the future. The intention is also to look at potential future revenue sources for the SACTCG. There will be a members' workshop in the coming months to discuss the plan. Please contact Martine or members of the SACTCG Executive if you would like to discuss.

Green Army Teams

The Aboriginal Green Army team began their training on the 20th March and Martine has been working with them on lots of great projects already. The team consists of 9 participants aged 17–24, most of who are Aboriginal people. The project will have a focus on restoring the cultural sites in the region as well as improving areas of national ecological significance. A local Aboriginal elder (Wally Bell) will provide cultural mentoring for the participants and the team will work closely with the Mulanggang Aboriginal Landcare Group.

Last week the team undertook their first day in the south helping to clean up the Theodore Grinding Grooves site and attracted the Canberra Times. See: <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/acts-first-aboriginal-green-army-a-success-but-no-ongoing-funding-20170329-gv8vz8.html>

This week the team did some erosion control at Amberly Farm with Cam Wilson and helped with the Carp removal at Isabella Ponds: <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/carp-caught-and-destroyed-as-government-drains-isabella-pond-precinct-20170404-gvdwam.html>

There are some days still available for this team. For bookings contact Martine info@sactcg.org.au or Fiona projects@sactcg.org.au.

Our other Green Army team continues to work hard with our member groups and is fully booked till the end of their program on the 22nd June.



The Green Army removing Briar Rose at Coleman Ridge.



The new Aboriginal Green Army Team at the Theodore Grinding Grooves

ACT Heritage Grants

ACT Heritage Grants are now open for submissions until the 5th May 2017. If you have any ideas for projects that you would like assistance with contact Martine to discuss. http://www.environment.act.gov.au/heritage/heritage-and-the-community/heritage_grants_program

ACT Environment Grants

SACTCG is here to help you with administration, project management and apply for grants on your behalf as our members. If you have any ideas for some on-ground work on your patch Environment Grants might fit the bill. Please call us to discuss how we may be able help.

Northern National Park feasibility

On the 27th March there was a forum for landcarers/ parkcarers to discuss the new northern Canberra Region National Park, which would focus on grassy woodlands and including existing nature reserves. Martine, and well as many SACTCG members attended a forum run by Landcare ACT to gain the views of the Landcare community. Karissa Preuss is representing us on the feasibility reference group for this proposal so has been carefully documenting all your comments and opinions and with Landcare ACT will be taking them to the next group meeting on the 5th April. If you would like to discuss the proposal contact Martine.

Icon Water

Icon Water have begun tending to their assets located in reserves around the city. They have been rolling out their vegetation management strategy to minimise bushfire and focusing on weed control. Icon water are using the same database that PCS staff, contractors and ParkCare volunteers use in Collector to record the weed work so that everyone can get a clear picture of the combined effort in each reserve.

Community consultation open now – Draft ACT Native Grasslands Conservation Strategy

Native grasslands are unique ecosystems that warrant our care and attention. The revised draft ACT Native Grasslands Conservation Strategy is now available for community comment.

The draft strategy guides the conservation of ACT native grasslands and their resident species with a vision of supporting a diverse flora and fauna for now and the future. It outlines an approach to conserving native grassland species through:

- managing threats and maintaining and improving ecological connectivity and biodiversity
- undertaking monitoring and research programs
- partnering with the community
- enhancing the resilience of grasslands to a changing climate.

The draft strategy includes action plans targeting the protection of seven individual species including: Grassland Earless Dragon, Golden Sun Moth, Striped Legless Lizard, Perunga Grasshopper, Button Wrinklewort, Ginninderra Peppergrass and Baeuerlen's Gentian and the Natural Temperate Grassland endangered ecological community.

See more at <https://www.yoursay.act.gov.au/nativegrasslandsstrategy>

Comments close on the 12 May 2017

MEMBER GROUP HAPPENINGS

Tuggeranong Lake Carers

Work is about to commence on the first project to improve water quality in Lake Tuggeranong. This will begin with the draining of Isabella Pond and Upper Stranger Pond to allow for the upgrade of the weir and the constructions of new wetlands. The project will be discussed at the Tuggeranong Community Council meeting on Tuesday the 4th April at the Vikings Southern Club. All are welcome.

Friends of Tidbinbilla

Sadly, we lost one of our own, and good friend, Anne Tandy who passed away earlier in the month.

Rangers Simon and Travis were nice enough to take the group on a drive up the fire trails to Camel Back: we then walked to the peak to have a look. Stunning views, and just a lovely way to spend the morning. It was also interesting to see a part of the reserve that many of the members don't see often.

The Tidbinbilla Open day was on Sunday 2nd April, and we, as always, had our stall, which 5 members looked after.



SACTCG WATERWATCH NEWS: APRIL 2017

Welcome to the first Waterwatch section of the SACTCG newsletter. This monthly communication will replace the 'seasonal updates' of old. For this first one though, I will give a brief wind up on how our 7 sub catchments have fared over the long dry summer we've just had.

Murrumbidgee River: The Murrumbidgee River was awash with mud around new year. Farming and ploughing activities upstream combined with heavy rain just after Christmas were considered the main culprits. The rain also saw a lot of mud in Westwood farm's dam. Dams on Cooleman Ridge's became acidic.

Cotter River & Paddy's River: The Cotter and Paddy's Rivers did not have any concerns over summer, other than being a bit deprived of water.



Cotter River in Feb (Photo: F. Horan)



Murray's Corner in Feb (Photo: F. Horan)

Gudgenby River; The hot, dry summer had negative impacts in Namadgi National Park as well with some small creeks becoming quite stagnant and/or high in nutrient pollution. Towards the end of summer many creeks began to completely dry up in the national park.

Naas River; Polluting levels of nutrients also affected the Naas Valley as a result of extremely low rainfall.

Lake Tuggeranong; Rubbish build up was a common theme of our Waterwatch reports over summer.



Luckily the 'Tuggeranong Lake Carers' were on hand for Clean Up Australia day in March.

Lack of any significant flushing also lead to a build-up of nutrient pollution in the north of the lake and a lot of mud came down Tuggeranong Creek at the same time as the Murrumbidgee.

Point Hut Pond; The bird inhabitants of Point Hut Ponds packed their bags late last year and left, causing a lot of consternation among the nearby human inhabitants! It is suspected they had flown off to wetlands replenished by the wet seasons of 2016. By the end of summer Point Hut Pond was looking low and thirsty.

Over the next few months Waterwatch will be running the Autumn Bug Blitz.

A huge thank you to all those groups and individuals involved in collecting data. To view Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch data go to <http://www.act.waterwatch.org.au>. For more information contact the SACTCG Waterwatch Coordinator on 62966400 or at waterwatch@sactcg.org.au.

Contact Us

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