

GINNINDERRA CATCHMENT GROUP connects, supports and leads local communities to improve the health of Ginninderra Creek & its Catchment
(from Mulligans Flat & Gooromon Ponds to the Murrumbidgee River)



**& Yass River (from Bywong to Burrinjuck Dam)
& all Capital Region frogs!**

Web: www.ginninderralandcare.org.au;
Office: Kippax Health Centre, Holt ACT
Phone: 02 6278 3309

ACT Frogwatch & Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch
operate from the GCG office

GINNINDERRA CATCHMENT GROUP NEWS **OCTOBER 2017**

From the Convenor

Preparation of the new 10-year strategic plan for the Ginninderra Catchment Group is progressing well. A snapshot of the plan (diagram on one page) was sent to member-group convenors on 22 September, for comments to landcare@ginninderralandcare.org.au **by this coming Monday 9 October**. There will be another opportunity to comment prior to the plan's final release to the broader community and our partners.

Sandy Lolicato

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NOTE: The list of [Upcoming Dates](#) is now on the last page of the newsletter.

From the GCG office, Frogwatch and Waterwatch

General group and landcare matters

ANNUAL ALL-GROUPS MEETING, Monday 9 October, 5.30 pm onwards

At this annual 'All Groups Meeting', each group is asked to share highlights from the previous year and plans for the year ahead (2–3 minutes each). Please include any issues that are outstanding, and resourcing needs. This meeting will also discuss the strategic plan (see Sandy's note above) to ensure that the plan is based on what members want. Please come with comments.

WORKSHOPS: Pasture ID & management, and Erosion control

For rural landholders in the Hall/Wallaroo area, Ginninderra Catchment Group is facilitating two workshops. **1. 'Pasture identification and management'**, 1–4 pm **Friday 3 November** at a rural property in the Hall area (to be advised).

Topics:

- Main species present, how to identify them and what they indicate about soil and management;
- Grazing management for production and persistence;
- Feed quality (digestibility and crude protein).

2.Erosion Control and Water Movement in the Landscape', 9–12 Saturday 3 December, at a location to be advised.

Topics:

- Gully and riparian erosion – how, why and when should we fix it?
- The movement and storage of water within a functional local landscape
- A range of low-cost, human-scale techniques, using locally available materials to tackle a variety of erosion issues.

With a hands-on component to:

- Demonstrate the application of principles for low cost erosion control
- Provide skills in interpreting the landscape
- Allow the opportunity for hands-on experience in addressing erosion

For more information on any of these, contact me on landcare@ginninderralandcare.org.au or phone 6278 3309.

LANDCARE SURVEY

The National Landcare Network is running a very short, anonymous survey to help paint a better picture of how long people have been involved in Landcare (both as professionals and/or as volunteers). We are asked to complete it here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FKYGRBD> and also to circulate the link and request to others as widely as possible (they appreciate Facebook posts). Data collected will be of potential use in a number of NLN projects.

Karissa Preuss, Catchment Coordinator

Frogwatch Census 15 October – 21 October, and other froggy news

Need to refresh your memory on how to spy on frogs??

Know someone that would like to join the ever-increasing club of frogwatchers??

Like to meet other likeminded people??

Then come along to one of our training events:

10.10.2017 @ Jerrabomberra Wetlands **6 – 8.30 pm**

(book your spot via <https://jerrabomberrawetlands.org.au/events/list/>);

12.10.2017 in Cooma (book your spot via email to frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au, or coomawaterwatch@gmail.com).

Due to popular demand, we are again running the Introduction Seminar and the Field Trip on the same night. Bring warm clothes, a torch, sturdy shoes. We will provide a warm soup dinner (Jerrabomberra Wetlands) and light refreshments (Cooma).

Are you a member of a Landcare or Parkcare group??

Frogwatch heavily relies on support from your group to ensure existing Frogwatch sites in your priority area will get monitored during Census week. Please let me know if you have any difficulties with monitoring the FW sites in your plot during Census week. I'm also happy to refresh your memory about the whereabouts of the sites!!!! Email me on frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au

'Urban frogs' feature in Canberra Short Film festival

Congratulations to Liana Fowler (a high-school student) on her documentary called 'Urban frogs', which was shown recently at the Tuggeranong Arts Centre during the Canberra Short Film Festival. The video is at <https://vimeo.com/225655656>.

Anke Maria Hoefler, Frogwatch Convenor

Waterwatching for turtles and Platypus and general river health

You can be a waterwatcher!

Waterwatch is looking for **volunteers to monitor water quality**. We currently have 3 sites that are vacant (listed below), so if anyone is interested in doing the monitoring in these areas, please either phone me at the office (02 6278 3309) or email me at waterwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au:

- Gooromon Ponds Creek, at Wallaroo Road,
- Ginninderra Creek, close to the Kilby Homestead,
- Ginninderra Creek, close to the Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club.

Tell us if you see a turtle or a platypus!

So we can better understand turtle distribution in the Upper Murrumbidgee catchment and beyond(!), Waterwatch is looking for **turtle** sightings throughout Canberra and region including Yass, Queanbeyan, Cooma and even as far as Adaminaby, Jindabyne and the alpine areas beyond.

More information is below, under 'Around the Region', to see what you are looking for.

Also, records of **platypus** sightings at any time of the year, anywhere in the catchment, are of interest to us. It is sometimes surprising just where a platypus can be found!

Frogwatch and Waterwatch were part of Outdoor Classroom Day

Australia's first Outdoor Classroom Day early in September at the National Arboretum (see: https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/open_government/inform/act_government_media_releases/yvette-berry-mla-media-releases/2017/canberra-kids-trade-books-for-bugs) is described as not only 'a fun day out for kids' but also 'a professional development opportunity for teachers', with 'lessons run by local community organisations'. Bruno and Anke Maria were part of that, representing Frogwatch and Waterwatch (with waterbugs and turtles). Jerrabomberra Wetlands, Molonglo Catchment Group, the Tree Detectives and ACT for Bees were also there. Resources related to the day are at Nature Play CBR (www.natureplaycbr.org.au).

Bruno Ferronato, Waterwatch Convenor

Within Ginninderra Creek catchment

Friends of Mt Painter, Cook

Friends of Mount Painter's October work party will be held on **Sunday 15 October** from 9am until noon. We will be removing woody weeds from the southern slopes of the hill. We will start from the bottom of the gully running from the summit east towards the horse paddocks. Enter the reserve between 20 and 22 Booth Crescent, Cook, and follow the dirt road half left from there and through the gate.

We suggest you wear **sturdy footwear**, a long-sleeved shirt and trousers to protect you from the sun and prickly weeds, and **bring** some drinking water, a mug and some food to share for morning tea. Other drinks will be provided.

There's been lots happening during the last three months: the Indigenous Green Army (photo at right) installed many mesh guards round Drooping Sheoak seedlings, including on some foggy days. Wally Bell, Ngunawal elder, visited the group on one of the occasions when they were working on the hill and spoke to them about the local Aboriginal culture and specifically about the canoe scar tree.

Friends of Mount Painter have also been installing large





guards round Drooping Sheoaks, in our case pink corflute ones that are visible from Bindubi Street. And in August a couple of dozen people got together for the annual Friends of Aranda Bush – Friends of Mount Painter work party, planting Yellow Burr Daisies and removing Verbascum rosettes (see photos).



On **Sunday 26 November**, we will hold a butterfly walk on Mount Painter, led by Suzi Bond, author of the 'Field Guide to the Butterflies of the Australian Capital Territory', published last year. The three photos below, of butterflies of Mt Painter, are by Debbie Saunders.

Sarah Hnatiuk, Convenor



North Belconnen Landcare

Current meeting times for North Belconnen Landcare Group (Junior Landcare) are **Wednesdays and Saturdays**, starting at **9.30 am**. All welcome.

Ken Hodgkinson's experimental sites that were planted with 5 different species are currently being assessed for survival.

Lenore Hodgkinson, Convenor

Jaramlee Park Landcare, Dunlop

Our group is still clearing the dead bushes and trees in the floodway leading to Jarramlee Pond. So far, we have had six working bees since May. *The last seven piles of wood have not yet been removed, two on the Ginninderra end and four at the pond end.*

There is a lot of cutting and daubing needed now that some deciduous feral bushes/trees (Chinese Elm, privet, some fruit trees) have leaves on. They will be attended to after we have organised the work-dates at our next meeting which is on **Monday 23 October**, and when some of our members are back home again from trips away. We will probably need two more sessions to clear everything.

Pamela Fawke, Convenor

Crace Landcare Group

The next dates for Crace Landcare working bees are this coming **Sunday 8 October**, and then **Saturday 4 November** (location to be advised) and **Sunday 3 December** at Crace Recreation Park.

Fleur Leary, Convenor

Friends of the Pinnacle (FOTPIN) Wildflower walk, 15 October

On **Sunday October 15th**, FOTPIN invites walkers to meet at 9.00 am at the car park on Springvale Drive, opposite De Salis St, Weetangera, to walk to the new reserved area which looks out over the neighbouring Kama Nature Reserve and the Molonglo Valley. Join our specialist plant guides to check out the gorgeous native wildflowers and see at the work being done by the PCS rangers to

turn this promising patch back into grassy box-gum woodland and native grassland.

Dress for the weather and wear sensible footwear as we'll be going off the track for some of the walk. Bring along some water and a bit of morning tea if you like, and don't forget your camera — some of the views are stunning! The round trip will be about 4 km in all and we expect to be back at the car park by around 11.30.

John Brannan, Convenor

Mt Rogers Landcare (Spence, Melba, Flynn, Fraser)

The next working bee at Mt Rogers is on **Sunday 22 October**, meeting at Wickens Place ready to re-attack the Tree of Heaven. For more news, see <http://mtrogerslandcare.blogspot.com.au/>

Rosemary Blemings, Convenor

National Trust award to Hall Heritage Centre

<http://museum.hall.act.au/read/2879/national-trust-award-hall-heritage-centre.html>

The link describes how a special exhibition at the Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre has been recognised in the 2017 Heritage Awards of the National Trust of Australia (ACT).

The Stones that Speak Exhibition-Display at the Hall Museum offers a fascinating glimpse at the artefacts collected and catalogued by Lyall Gillespie. Lyall meticulously noted the details of what he had found in the Canberra region “into the 1970's with a view to protecting the information they held, in the days before sites were protected by legislation”. The Hall School complex also shows many tools, implements, household items, cooking utensils and farming essentials from the days of early settlement until the recent past. There's a room devoted to relating the stories, farm and family histories behind the original Ginninderra village including models of the early dwellings. The schoolroom is a delight and very popular with visiting school children.

The Museum is open on Thursdays from 10am to Noon and on Hall Market days 10am to 4pm.

The volunteers will welcome you with background histories and tales from earlier times.

The website is at: <http://museum.hall.act.au>

Rosemary Blemings

Friends of Mulligans Flat

The Friends of Mulligans Flat has over 400 members who have registered on our MyVolunteer database. It is through this database, supported by the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust, and FaceBook that we communicate news updates about the Mulligans Flat Wildlife Sanctuary, upcoming events and activities. Apart from the 'standard' park care activities (weeding and rubbish) the Friends can get involved in turtle relocation, Echidna counts, Bettong monitoring, Bush-stone Curlew feeding and assisting in a range of ANU projects.

Our **monthly work party** is held on the **second Wednesday of each month**. Meet at the Woolshed at 9:30am. We also have **seasonal work parties** held on a **Sunday morning once each season**, actual dates are advised closer to the activity. We usually meet at the Woolshed at 10:00am.

Spring Bird Walk

Once again our favourite 'birdos' from Canberra Ornithologists Group led two groups of budding birdos for a delightful walk through the varied landscapes of Mulligans Flat, describing the habitat and pointing out the birds that inhabit a particular environment. There was plenty to see on such a lovely day! (see photo).

Spring Work Party

The Spring Work Party was held on Sunday 24 September. Under the guidance of our resident Ranger we tagged



Serrated Tussock so it could be sprayed at a later date. With 10 eagle-eyed people we covered quite a bit of area! (see photo).

Monthly Work Party for September

A hundred and fifty-odd years ago, the area that is now Mulligans Flat was settled and farmed to various levels. Some areas were heavily cleared and cropped, some areas were grazed, and even where trees remained firewood was still collected. But throughout there were plenty of stock fences. Today most of these have collapsed and the wire forms a hazard to our wildlife and the people who come to visit and of course to those who work there. We removed about 300 m of old fencing wire and mesh. But as Ranger Dave reminded us all the uses of Mulligans Flat are a part of the heritage and deserve a story. We left all the standing fence posts as they were, as a reminder of where we have come from and where we are going (see photo).



The next work party will be on Wednesday 11 October.

Mark Smith, Convenor

NOTE:

Group Convenors can be contacted via the GCG office, though several of the groups have contact details on their webpage at www.ginninderralandcare.org.au > Landcare > Landcare groups.

Weed Swap

The next Weed Swap is on the weekend of 4 & 5 November, from **08.30am to 4.30pm** each day at Parkwood green waste tip, West Belconnen (and also at Mugga Lane).

Volunteers are welcome: the task is to facilitate rewarding (with a free native plant) members of the public who dump loads of environmental weeds. Landcarers/ParkCarers are ideal as volunteers for this. Volunteering involves being at the green waste site for a couple of hours. Please contact me (via GCG office) to volunteer. And do make sure your neighbours and colleagues are aware that dumping environmental weeds gains a reward those days.

Rosemary Blemings

Around the region

Turtle sightings needed

As noted above, we are inviting you to report turtle sightings throughout Canberra and region including Yass, Queanbeyan, Cooma and even as far as Aaminaby, Jindabyne and the alpine areas. The aim is to improve our understanding of turtle distribution in the Upper Murrumbidgee catchment and beyond, and to help to mitigate the impacts of urbanization – such as road fatalities!

The most common species in the region is the Eastern Long-necked turtle (*Chelodina longicollis*), which inhabits rivers, urban wetlands and farm ponds. It is usually found on 'walkabout' during Spring and Summer, especially after rain. This behaviour is partly related to reproduction, and partly because they are also in search of different wetlands to take advantage of food abundance, as they



have been in dormancy during Winter. You are probably going to encounter males, females and juveniles on the move. Our Eastern Long-necked Turtles are also affectionately called 'Stinkers', as they tend to release a smelly fluid if they feel threatened. The photo shows the underneath side of an Eastern Long-necked Turtle.

Another species we would like to hear about is the Murray River Turtle (*Emydura macquarii*), which is a short-necked turtle mainly found in rivers (photo shows front and side-view). The Murray River turtles do not 'walkabout', so they can mainly be seen along the river channels.



Please help us with any turtle sightings this year (live or dead). You can upload your records and photos to either or both of two websites: Canberra Nature Map

(<http://canberra.naturemapr.org/>) or Turtle Sat (<https://www.turtlesat.org.au>), or email waterwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au and tell me about your sighting.

If you find any turtle injured, you can contact ACT Wildlife (<http://actwildlife.net/>) in the ACT, or Wildcare (ph 6299 1966) in the Queanbeyan Region, or LAOKO (ph 6456 1313) south of Bredbo.

Bruno Ferronato, Waterwatch Convenor

Healthy Land, Healthy Pasture, Healthy Horse: a free equiculture talk

Saturday 28 October, 9:00am – 3:15pm, Pegasus (119 Drake Brockman Drive, Holt ACT)

Stuart Myers and Jane Myers MSc (equine) are international speakers on the subject of sustainable horse property management and were awarded a Winston Churchill Fellowship in 2012.

In this session they will tell you how to use the natural and domesticated behaviour of horses, combined with good land management practices, to create a healthy and sustainable environment for your horses *and* your property. You will learn about horse health and welfare, the relationship between horses and pasture, pasture management systems, worm/manure management, how to save time and money on your horse property, latest research on managing overweight horses and much more!

There will also be an optional paddock walk at Pine Ridge Horse Agistment at the end of the session during which Stuart Myers will talk through how to implement some of the Equiculture principles covered on the day!

RSVP by 26 October by searching 'equiculture' at www.eventbrite.com.au

For more information: actlandcare@act.gov.au and www.equiculture.com.au

Walk the ACT Border, with the Conservation Council

Walk the Border ACT is a fundraising walk, led by Rod Griffiths (President of the Conservation Council ACT Region) aiming to complete a full circuit of the ACT's border over 21 days starting on **Saturday 7 October**. This 306 km walk, crossing ancient pathways and defining the Australian Capital Territory, is to raise funds for the Conservation Council ACT Region (see <https://walktheborderact.wordpress.com/about/>). The walk also offers a rare opportunity to raise community awareness about the breadth of the ACT's ecosystems and the many cultural aspects associated with the landscape.

To support and/or be involved in the walk, you can register to be a border walker, or sponsor a walker, or add yourself to the mailing list to stay informed, at this link:

<https://conservationcouncil.org.au/civicrm/?page=CiviCRM&q=civicrm/event/info&id=85&reset=1>

On the last day, **Friday 27 October**, the final stage – Murrumbidgee River to Centenary Trail Head, Hall (4 hours, 11 km) – is in **Ginninderra Creek catchment**. The route crosses open rural lands and

passes through the Dunlop Grasslands Reserve, as well as the Ginninderry area and land once owned by explorer Charles Sturt. Access to the route is through West Belconnen.

Conservation Council Environment Exchange: Biodiversity offsets

The next Environment Exchange event is on **Biodiversity Offsets**, on **Tuesday 31 October**. Environment Exchanges are held monthly to provide for informed, in-depth discussions on environmental issues in the region. They are at the Renewable Energy Hub, 19-23 Moore Street, Turner (just off Barry Drive), starting at 12 with a light lunch (donations welcome) and ending at 2 pm. The full title of this discussion is [Biodiversity Offsets - are they working in the ACT?](#)

Phone [\(02\) 6229 3200](tel:0262293200) for more information and to **book**, or see

<https://conservationcouncil.org.au/civicrm/?page=CiviCRM&q=civicrm/event/info&reset=1&id=89>

Open native garden, Spring Range Road, 28–29 October, 10 am – 4 pm

The native garden at ‘Yellow Box’, 447 Spring Range Road, Spring Range, NSW 2618, comprises about a hectare of a great variety of densely planted native plants on an elevated rocky knoll. The garden, started in 1997, includes many meandering, pleasant paths taking visitors to many garden sections, including vegetable beds and an orchard. The 19 ha property, featuring some native pastures, also includes landcare shelter belts on its perimeter. Refreshments available.

‘Call of the Reed Warbler’, a new book by Charlie Massy

This new book is about regenerative agriculture. It covers holistic grazing to regenerate grasslands, biodiversity, etc. The press release says: ‘For farmer, backyard gardener, food buyer, health worker, policy maker and public leaders alike, *Call of the Reed Warbler* offers a tangible path forward for the future of our food supply, our Australian landscape and our earth. It comprises a powerful and moving paean of hope.’ It is available at the National Library Bookshop.

National Park feasibility

The ACT Minister for the Environment and Heritage, the Hon Mick Gentleman MLA, has accepted the report recommendations provided to him by the National Park Feasibility Reference Group, which Karissa attended on behalf of Landcare ACT. A copy of the NPFRG report can be found at <http://www.environment.act.gov.au/cpr/feasibility-study-new-national-park>.

It is envisaged that Landcare ACT will be involved with forwarding Recommendation 3: ‘That the ACT Government considers an ongoing role for the National Park Feasibility Reference Group (or similar representative group) to support conservation outcomes for the ACT’s lowland grassy woodlands.’

‘Willows, weeds and waterways’ field day, near Bredbo, 28 October

Landholders are invited to a field day to gain an understanding of best management practices in riparian zones. Keeping our waterways free of weeds, protecting and enhancing vegetation, and responsible use of herbicides around waterways – these actions all help promote a landscape that is healthy, diverse and resilient. Morning tea provided. At the field day you will find out:

- How to identify different willow species including seeding willows
- What methods can be used to effectively treat woody weeds along waterways
- What chemicals can be used along waterways to assist weed control
- What are best practices for chemical use and record keeping
- How we can best restore our riparian zones - a revegetation case study.

Speakers: Leon Miners – Senior Natural Resource Management Advisor, South East LLS, Antia Brademann – Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach Facilitator, Jo Powells – Senior Agricultural Adviser, South East LLS, Brett Jones – Snowy Monaro Regional Council.

Please RSVP to: Antia 0429 778 633, facilitator@upperbidgeereach.org.au, or Leon: 0427 212

428, leon.miners@lts.nsw.gov.au. Details of exact location in Bumbalong will be given upon RSVP.

Native plant sale, Saturday 21 October, ANBG

The Australian Native Plant Society's Spring Plant Sale is on Saturday 21 October, 8.30 – 1.30 or until sold out, at the Australian National Botanic Gardens carpark. Many local species. Ideal for new or established gardens. Suitable for Canberra's climate and soils. \$6 - \$10 each.

Murrumbateman Field Days, 21-22 October

Just a reminder.

Urban Landcarer seeks like-minded group

Mary Ormay, Urban Landcarer of the ACT in 1997, is looking for a like-minded group of people to share housing in the Hall or Wallaroo areas. She is an experienced WWOOFer and houseminder. For more information, and references, please contact Mary on phone 0415 629 924.

UPCOMING DATES (**indicates working bee*)

- 7 October Start of 'Walk the ACT Border' (Conservation Council)
- *8 October Crace Landcare
- 9 October All groups meeting (Kippax)
- 10 October Frogwatch training (Jerrabomberra Wetlands)
- *11 October Mulligans Flat
- 12 October Frogwatch training (Cooma)
- *15 October Mt Painter
- 15 October Wildflower walk at The Pinnacle
- 15–21 Oct Frogwatch Census
- 21 October ANPS Native Plant Sale, ANBG
- 21–22 Oct Murrumbateman Field days
- *22 October Mt Rogers
- 23 October Jaramlee Park group meeting
- 26 October Butterfly walk at Mt Painter
- 27 October Walk through Ginninderra catchment for 'Walk the ACT Border' final day
- 28 October Healthy land, pasture and horses – free workshop
- 28 October Willows, weeds & waterways field day
- 28 & 29 Oct Open Garden, 'Yellow Box', Spring Range
- 31 October Environment Exchange: 'Biodiversity Offsets in ACT'
- 3 November Pasture ID and management workshop
- *4 November Crace Landcare
- 4 & 5 Nov Weed Swap at Parkwood green waste tip (& Mugga Lane)
- 3 December Erosion control workshop
- *3 December Crace Landcare
- *Every Wednesday and Saturday, North Belconnen Landcare*
- *Thursdays, Friends of the Pinnacle (FOTPIN)*

Ginninderra Catchment Group is grateful for support from

