

**GINNINDERRA CATCHMENT GROUP connects, supports and leads local communities to improve the health of Ginninderra Creek & surrounding environments**



ACT and Region Frogwatch Program & the Ginninderra and Yass components of Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch operate from the GCG office

Web: [www.ginninderralandcare.org.au](http://www.ginninderralandcare.org.au); Office: Kippax Health Centre, Holt ACT; Phone: 02 6278 3309

## GINNINDERRA CATCHMENT GROUP NEWS

**APRIL 2018**

Please distribute this newsletter to others in your networks and groups, or refer them to the link at [www.ginninderralandcare.org.au](http://www.ginninderralandcare.org.au).

### *From the Convenor*

The Executive welcomes Elena and Raj to the Executive. Welcome also to Julian Low as the new GCG Finance Administrator and thanks to Belinda Pratt for her dedication while in this position. I also wish to congratulate Karissa and Chun who were recently married.

A Members' meeting and an Executive meeting were held in February and March respectively. At both meetings there was discussion on the budget bid (catchment management and the ACT and Region Frogwatch Program), and what more needed to be done to lobby the Government and individual MLAs. We also discussed the potential impacts to member groups, volunteers and the catchment in the event that we were not successful. GCG has worked closely with the Southern ACT Catchment Group in preparing a strong joint proposal and we are optimistic. I wish to express thanks for the strong commitment of our Landcare community in supporting us in this process. The Executive is focusing on strengthening our financial systems and will consider our future operational priorities under the strategic plan.

Finally, a reminder that the next GCG General Meeting will be held on **Monday 9 April from 5.30 pm**. Guy Barnett, from CSIRO, will be our Guest Speaker regarding the development at the CSIRO experiment station, in our Catchment. I look forward to seeing you there.

*Sandy Lolicato*

[Acknowledgement of funding](#)

[Summary list of events in this newsletter \(see last page\)](#)

## **GENERAL GCG & LANDCARE – news from GCG Office**

### **CLEAN UP EVENTS**

The Clean Up Australia Day turnouts in Ginninderra Catchment enthusiastically cleared several truckloads of litter, much of which otherwise would have travelled with runoff from the streets into the creeks. More details are in the Member Group happenings below. Without these efforts on 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March, some of those plastic bottles, wrappers and drink cans could have ended up in special wetlands along the Murrumbidgee or Murray.

A Clean Up Event was also held at the high conservation listed grasslands site in North Mitchell/Franklin. This event was organised by politicians Andrew Leigh and Suzanne Orr with GCG and Friends of Grasslands (FOG). Wally Bell, Ngunawal custodian, provided a Welcome to Country and Karissa provided information about the catchment and opportunities for involvement. Geoff Robertson from FOG gave a tour of the area highlighting the significant grassland species. This area contains Ginninderra Peppergrass, which is only found in two sites in the world – both in our Catchment!

These Clean-Up events are incredibly valuable not only to help reduce rubbish in the Catchment, but also to raise awareness about the value of our local environment.

## CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING

GCG has been working closely with Landcare Australia in organising Corporate Volunteers, from various businesses, to assist GCG member groups in their environmental work over the next year. See more about the recent KPMG volunteers in the Friends of Mount Painter section below.

## GRASSLAND RESTORATION ECOLOGICAL BURNS

Ecological burns were conducted at 14 sites across the Catchment as part of the Grassland Restoration Trial project (photo here). This project, building on a ten-year study, is examining best practice management regimes for native grasslands.

Thanks to ACT Government and Rural Fire Service for all their help. More details are in the Grassland Restoration Landcare Group section below.



## SAVE THE DATES

**ABORIGINAL AGRICULTURE SEMINAR:** Landcare ACT is organising an afternoon/evening seminar with guest speakers **Bill Gammage** and **Bruce Pascoe** (both eminent writers) on **Wednesday 9 May**. It will focus on Aboriginal land management and traditional agriculture. There will be cultural burns held in association with the seminar. Contact Karissa for more information.

**REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE SEMINAR:** Landcare ACT is also organising a regional evening seminar with guest speakers **Charlie Massy** (researcher and writer) and **Martin Royds** (regenerative farmer recently featured on ABC 4 Corners). It will be held from **5.30 to 8 pm on Thursday 24 May** and will focus on ways of integrating more regenerative practices into land management in the ACT. Contact Karissa for more info.

**CSIRO COMMUNITY PLANTING DAYS:** GCG is again collaborating with CSIRO on a number of community planting days at the CSIRO experimental station. These will be held on **Sundays 20 and 27 May** and will focus on increasing the shrub layer to bring birds back to the area. Save the date; more info to follow.

## REMINDER: ASOC/ACT REGION CATCHMENT GROUPS 2018 ART EXHIBITION APRIL 14–21, 2018

Ginninderra Catchment Group is a co-sponsor of the Catchment Groups Art Prize, for artworks that will be on display during **Saturday 14 April – Saturday 21 April**, between 10 am and 5 pm daily at the Fitters Workshop, Kingston Foreshore. The competition, '**Recording the Heritage Sites of the Region in Fine-Art**' was initiated by the Artists Society of Canberra (ASOC), open to all artists, and is sponsored by an ACT Heritage Grant and registered as a Canberra and Region Heritage Festival Event.

*Karissa Preuss, GCG Executive Officer*

## WATERWATCH

**1. WATERWATCH IS RUNNING EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES** with schools **until July**.

**Teachers in Belconnen, Gungahlin and Yass**, please contact Bruno at [waterwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au](mailto:waterwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au) to find out more, and to book in.

These are field-based education sessions with schools and youth groups. We have the personnel and equipment to make outdoor education about our waterways much easier! Classes can range from simply fishing for water bugs with the junior kids, through to older grades conducting water quality and habitat assessments that help to make linkages between our behaviours and river health.

Classes are **free but limited so book early** to avoid missing out. Schools demonstrating alignment with broader curriculum requirements will be prioritised.

If a coordinator is not able to join the class in person, some extra standalone education materials will shortly be available on the Waterwatch website. There are also water quality and

waterbug kits for loan. The older Waterwatch education guide, *Sustaining River Life*, is still available for use at: <http://www.act.waterwatch.org.au/Education%20SRL.html>

## 2. ALL ARE WELCOME TO VOLUNTEER FOR AUTUMN BUG BLITZ!

Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch is looking for **volunteers to help us on our Autumn Bug Blitz**.

Macro-invertebrates (water bugs) are an excellent indicator of stream health and we need to get an adequate set of data from across the region to feed into our catchment health report card.

It involves meeting Bruno at a GCG or Yass River site for a few hours, or travel with the Waterwatch team for the day to some less-explored areas of the Upper Murrumbidgee catchment. No previous experience necessary. For more information, please contact Bruno, via [waterwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au](mailto:waterwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au), or Woo O'Reilly at [woo.oreilly@act.gov.au](mailto:woo.oreilly@act.gov.au).

**3. WORLD WATER DAY 22 MARCH:** We ran an activity at Questacon with the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, to celebrate the World Water Day (see the photos here).



*Bruno Ferronato, Waterwatch Coordinator*

## FROGWATCH

### FIRST THE GOOD NEWS

First, great news that **Icon Water has decided to fund the Tadpole Kits project** for the next three years, 2018 to 2020 inclusive. This easy-for-teachers-to-run educational resource introduces hundreds of school students to nature, via tadpoles and ultimately frogs, each year. Hooray that Icon Water is supportive!

Next, during the **April school holidays** I will run a **Frogwatch program at Gunning**, funded by the Gunning District Landcare. The details are in the box (*right*).

And I will speak at the **Garran school STEM festival on 10 April**.

These are important opportunities to show kids that scientists work in a huge range of jobs (but none as fantastic as mine!!)

### NOW THE DEPRESSING but hopeful STUFF

You might all be aware of the fact that the Frogwatch program, of which a large part is the annual FrogCensus, will have **no funding after June 2018** (yes, yet again). (This is apart from the Tadpole Kits project.) Late last year GCG submitted an ACT budget bid for adequate Frogwatch funding over the next 4 years, but the decision on that request will not be known before May. That does not leave much time to gain traction for any financial support.

Frogwatch has relied on a large number of small grants over the past few years, due to a lack of any core funding for the program. In 2016–17 alone I was relying on over 15 grants from between \$100 to \$20,000 to run Frogwatch. This has created an unmanageable workload without adding any security and longer-term prospects. Over the past few months the GCG Executive have discussed

**ALL ABOUT FROGS! Friday 27 April**  
10.30 – 12.30, Gunning Library.  
Come and learn all you ever wanted to know about frogs.  
For ages 9 and above.  
This is a free event but bookings are essential.  
RSVP to mob. 0488 027 653, or email [coordinator@gunningdistrictlandcare.org.au](mailto:coordinator@gunningdistrictlandcare.org.au)

different scenarios and **it has become apparent that Frogwatch will need to wind down its operations after June 2018**, unless adequate core funding is sought.

While this would be very sad, not all is lost – ***we can still keep Frogwatch alive!!*** There are lots of easy ways that you can help Frogwatch be funded. To find out how you can help please contact me at [frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au](mailto:frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au) or 6278 3309.

### **BEAUTIFUL LOCAL PHOTOS OF WILDLIFE – DO GO AND SEE THEM!**

Do make time to go to ‘A Celebration of our Region’s Wildlife’, the **Wildlife Photo exhibition, until 15 May**, at CSIRO Discovery Centre, Clunies Ross St, Acton, **Mondays – Fridays 9 am – 4.30 pm**. ‘From platypus to Pixie Parasols, Clown Fish to Glowing Ghost Mushrooms, breaching whales to spiky beetles, the ACT and south-east NSW has an amazing array of stunning beautiful plants, animals and fungi. This wonder and beauty is spectacularly captured in the 52 winning images from the 2017 Wildeye and 2018 Canberra Nature Map (CNM) photographic competitions.’

*Anke Maria Hoefler, Frogwatch Coordinator*

## **Catchment member groups ‘happenings’**

### ***Grassland Restoration Landcare Group***

Here’s an update on the autumn burning experiments. All the ‘2-yearly autumn-burn-treatment’ plots within the Ginninderra Catchment have been burned in late March except one plot in NSW. This will be burned by Ken and the property owners in early April. We are extremely grateful to the RFS volunteers and their coordinators who did a superb job, sometimes late into the night.

Late in the spring, volunteer botanists from Friends of Grasslands, ANU, University of Canberra, Landcare Groups and other groups will assess the plant community changes under the four experimental treatments (6 mows a year, 2-yearly autumn burns, 4-yearly autumn burns, and no burning or mowing).

CSIRO has produced an excellent 4-minute video of the research, with Ken and Karissa speaking about it. This video will be placed on the CSIRO Ginninderra website next week. View it at <https://ginninderraproject.com.au>.

*Ken Hodgkinson, Convenor*

### ***North Belconnen Landcare (Evatt)***

*North Belconnen Landcare Group meets regularly on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 8.30 am unless advised otherwise. See Open Groups on Facebook for updates on our group.*

Junior Landcare continues to have a focus on keeping things alive in these dry times. Our current watering arrangements are working well, and plants were kept alive through the work of many different volunteers while Lenore was away, with Ken’s help.

Junior Landcare has had a fair number of adult helpers as well as littlies from the age of 1 year old and upwards. We continue to meet on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 8.30 am each week. The times will change back to 9 am and even later when the weather gets cold and frosty. For further information please check out Facebook Open Groups “North Belconnen Landcare Group” or email [hodgkinson12@bigpond.com](mailto:hodgkinson12@bigpond.com).

*Lenore Hodgkinson, Convenor*

### ***Sutton Landcare (just north of Mulligans Flat)***

Please join us on **Tuesday 10 April at 7.30 pm** at Sutton Primary School for an interesting talk (outlined below) on how technology and innovation can help identify bushfire risk. The presentation will be preceded by our (brief) Annual General Meeting and followed by time for questions and supper.

### 'INNOVATION AROUND ASSESSING FUEL LOADS AND FLAMMABILITY OF URBAN FRINGES'

Dr Marta Yebra will talk about fuel loads in a peri-urban environment, and how remote sensing can help. Dr Marta Yebra is a Senior Scientist at the Water and Landscape Dynamics Group in the Fenner School of Environment and Society. Marta told us: "In this presentation I will give a demonstration of the Australian Flammability Monitoring System (AFMS) web explorer (<http://wenfo.org/afms>) which provides easier and faster access to spatial information on live fuel and soil moisture and flammability at 500m pixel resolution every four days. The AFMS allows users to visualise and interpret national-scale information on Fuel Moisture Content, flammability and soil moisture as maps or graphs. Data can be compared to preceding years or downloaded for further analysis. I will also present some maps on fuel load and structure derived from LiDAR for the ACT. The overarching objective is to assist users in better resources allocation in fire protection and response and improved awareness of fire hazards to people and property."

As you can see the Sutton Landcare Group focuses on learning about our environment and sharing information. We meet every second month, on the second Tuesday at the Sutton School and each meeting is followed by a supper where we talk and have an opportunity to ask our speakers some more questions. The meetings are open to anyone.

*Arnold Dekker, President, Sutton Landcare Group*

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

News & observations from Mt Rogers are uploaded to our blog, [mtrogerslandcare.blogspot.com.au](http://mtrogerslandcare.blogspot.com.au).



At the working bee on Sunday 25 March, four of us tackled the resprouting Tree of Heaven infestation. (Three of our workers are in the photo here; and the other photo shows a nest found nearby on the day.)

Our next working bee is on **Sunday 22 April**. The meeting place will be posted on our blog nearer the time, and emailed to the usual list.

*Rosemary Blemings, Convenor*



### *Umbagog Landcare, Latham*

Please come along to this working bee, **Saturday 7 April**, as we have **many Casuarina saplings to plant** and many hands make light work, as they say. There are a number of spots where we have been given permission to plant and I think the best of them is close to the stepping stones in the river flat that was burnt last year. I don't have many

spades so please bring your own, and we will also need to water the plants in so if you have an old bucket you could bring that will be handy. We may need help taking the large Casuarina saplings from the car park at Florey Drive to the site. However, I will try and organise a closer place to unload them.

**Meeting place and time:** carpark off Florey Drive, Latham. People will need to sign on and off so they are covered for insurance purposes. **9 am Saturday 7 April**.

**Contact on the day:** Celina [0435574243](tel:0435574243)

**Please bring** spades, plastic buckets, sturdy boots, gloves, *your own drinking water*, and gaiters if you have them. Wear light protective clothing such as long sleeves, long pants, hat, sunscreen.

*On another note*, I find I can no longer continue as coordinator of Umbagog Landcare. At this stage GCG and other Umbagog landcare members are trying to work out the best way to continue. Watch this space. Nevertheless, I hope to see you on Saturday.

*Celina Smith, Convenor*

## ***Jarramlee Park Landcare, Dunlop***

The Urban Stormwater Research Program is ongoing at Jarramlee Pond, and at our last meeting we had Danwell Stars, from the research program, give us a talk on how it is being undertaken and how it is expected to give insights into how stormwater quality can be improved across the ACT.

It involves the lowering of the pond water to expose the banks and allow them to dry out before the water levels rise again by natural rainfall. The water level has now been reduced by at least 2 m, and the water in the gross pollutant trap and in the pond is being monitored every week. I will be sending an invitation to Associate Professor Fiona Dyer, University of Canberra, who is in charge of the research, to attend our next meeting on 16th April. I am hoping that our three patches of water primrose will survive the dry until it rains.

We are planning an infill planting in the floodway after taking out all the dead bushes and trees, and a list of plants has been submitted for approval. Until the plants are approved and ordered no date can be set.

A European Wasp nest was reported next to the footpath between the two ponds, and has been destroyed.

We have a **work bee planned for 14 April** to cut and dab a lot of feral saplings, no doubt given to us by birds dropping the seeds!

Our **next meeting** is on Monday 16 April at 7.30 pm.

*Pamela Fawke, Convenor*

## ***Macgregor Landcare Group, Macgregor***

Macgregor Landcare Group (MLG) participated in the annual Clean up Australia Day in March. We had a good turnout of happy helpers who managed to collect 22 bags of rubbish and recyclables (as the photos show) as well as some other large items.



MLG working bees continue to deal with the removal of poplar suckers and other woody weeds along the creek and to maintain the numerous plantings both instream and along the banks. We have also been in discussions with GCG looking at what can be done about the huge problem looming with the box elder incursion along stretches of Ginninderra Creek.

Our hardy group of volunteers is meeting again this **Sunday 8 April at 9 am** along the creek below the Macgregor Primary School. We welcome anyone to join in our planned activity. If you would like to know more please contact Lyn on mobile 0415 418 285.

*Lyn Jenkins, Convenor*

## ***Friends of Mulligans Flat***

*The Friends of Mulligans Flat has over 480 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.

*Monthly work parties are held on the second Wednesday of each month. Meet at the Woolshed at 9:30 am. Seasonal work parties are held on a Sunday morning once each season, actual dates being advised closer to the activity. We usually meet at the Woolshed at 10:00 am.*

### Clean Up Australia Day

The Friends of Mulligans Flat took part in Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday 4 March. It was great to notice a reduction in the amount of rubbish collected along the boundary between the Reserve and the suburb of Forde. With the extended sanctuary progressing we may have to include the new suburb of Throsby next year. Not looking forward to all the building rubbish!

**Fungi Foray** events at Mulligans Flat and Jerrabomberra Wetlands. These are free events and all are welcome! If you have any questions please contact Sonja at [canberrafungi@gmail.com](mailto:canberrafungi@gmail.com).

- **Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve, Sunday 6 May 2018, 9:30 am – 11:30 am.** Meet at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands Offices, Dairy Road, Fyshwick.
- **Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve, Sunday 17 June 2018, 9:30 am – 11:30 am.** Meet at the Woolshed.

**Mothers' Day Bird Walk: Sunday 13 May, 9:00 – 11:30 am.** Meet at the Amy Ackman St car park, Forde.

The next work party will be on Wednesday 11 April.

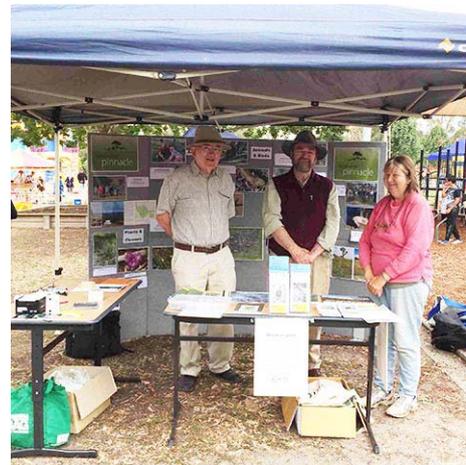
Mark Smith, Convenor

### Friends of the Pinnacle (FOTPIN), Weetangera/Hawker

FOTPIN now has a Facebook page up and running (<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofthepinnacle/>), and we'd love people to visit and let us know what you think.

We had a lovely time running a stall at the Hawker Primary School fete (see photo at right) at the end of March. Those people really know how to run a fete!

We are still **looking for more volunteers to help with the 'roo count** which is now to be on **Sunday 15 April**. If you want to help, you need to register via the ParkCare Hub (only) at <https://www.environment.act.gov.au/parks-conservation/parks-and-reserves/get-involved/the-ParkCare-initiative>. Click on the REGISTER link (unless you've already registered).



**GUIDED WALKS:** Previous newsletters have advertised an Aboriginal Heritage Walk on 22 April. That walk is now fully booked. However, you can still join in the Tree Week bird walk below (6 May). Please contact John Brannan for more detail, [convenor@fotpin.org.au](mailto:convenor@fotpin.org.au).

**TREE WEEK BIRD WALK AT THE PINNACLE** Sunday **6 May**, 9 to 11.30 am. Join John Brannan for a special bird walk for Canberra Tree Week 2018. All ages welcome.

*Meet:* at the Dungowan St entrance to the Reserve. *Wear:* sturdy footwear and a hat, and clothing suitable for the weather. Bring water and a camera and binoculars if you wish. \* FOTPIN would like to thank the Canberra Ornithologists Group (COG) for their help in organising this event.

John Brannan, Convenor

### Friends of Mount Painter (Cook)

Over the last two months, Mount Painter Nature Reserve has seen several happenings, and we look forward to others:

Seven members of our group helped with a **kangaroo count** organised by ACT Government Conservation Research in March. There were 319 kangaroos on the reserve and in surrounding

paddocks: a little fewer than last year. We were surprised to see several more Wallaroos than in previous years.

**Eight KPMG volunteers put in a day of hard work** alongside some Friends of Mount Painter with Fiona Spier (Projects Officer) from Ginninderra Catchment Group and Ranger Phil Selmes (see the two photos below). We removed woody and other weeds and bagged their berries and burrs, and took away and stored tree guards from plants that had outgrown them. Over our picnic lunch, we sat beside the canoe scar tree and listened to Wally Bell, Ngunawal elder, tell us of local Aboriginal culture and practices and the scar tree in particular.



**A small, cool hazard reduction burn** (photo at left) was carried out in the woodland and part of the grassland in the Wildflower Triangle. Friends of Mount Painter have been looking forward to this burn reducing the grass thatch among the Kangaroo Grass/Poa tussocks and freeing up space for smaller plants to grow. We hope those little fellows will be native grasses and forbs and not weeds! We also plan to take the opportunity provided by the burn to reduce

the amount of exotic grass in the grassland. We will spray the Phalaris and Fescue as they resprout.

Our **April work party**, cutting woody weeds on the west side of the hill, is on **Sunday, 15 April from 9 am till noon**. To get to the work site, park on the city-bound side of William Hovell Drive 1 km from the intersection with Coulter Drive and two light poles beyond the large overhead illuminated sign. Go through the gate onto the reserve and follow signs. Please wear sturdy footwear and long trousers and a long-sleeved shirt.

We have a **bird walk**, led by Nicki Taws, planned for **Sunday 6 May**. Meet at the noticeboard at the reserve entrance between 20 and 22 Booth Crescent, Cook at **8 am**. Last autumn we saw 28 species, including two rare species, the Scarlet Robin and Speckled Warbler. How many will we see this year?

*Sarah Hnatiuk, Convenor*

## ***Friends of Aranda Bushland, Aranda***

Our work parties are on the first Sunday of the month, between 9 am and 12 noon. See our website for details: <http://friendsofarandabushland.org.au>.



### **Saffron Thistle purge**

Our March work party was a departure from all five of our previous ones this year, in that we kept away from St John's Wort, and turned our attention to Saffron Thistle instead.

We had a large group of over 20 volunteers (see photo) and we filled six

wool bags with the incredibly prickly, dry plants, in which we hoped the seeds were still embedded. The other good thing about this work party was that more than half the participants were young!

*Jenny Andrews, Convenor*

## ***Hall Cemetery woodland weeding workparty***

Friends of Grasslands Inc. will be doing landcare-type work to support the native wildflower, grass and shrub biodiversity in the woodland surrounding Hall Cemetery on **Saturday 14 April, starting at 8.30 am**. Be sure to register with John Fitz Gerald, [john.fitzgerald@fog.org.au](mailto:john.fitzgerald@fog.org.au) so there is enough morning tea for all!

### **NOTE:**

To contact the Landcare or ParkCare Group Convenors, email or phone the GCG office, or check the groups' webpages on the GCG website at: [www.ginninderralandcare.org.au](http://www.ginninderralandcare.org.au) > Landcare > Landcare groups.

## **Around the region**

### ***Two Open Gardens – walks this weekend – 7, 8 April***

Mcleods Creek Nature Reserve is the site of a **guided walk on both Saturday 7 April and Sunday 8 April. Both walks are from 11 am to 12.30 pm**, and will be led by Rainer Rehwinkel (botanical expert in this region's vegetation) and Susannah Power (Ranger for Mcleods Creek). No need to register. *No cost* (but you may like to make a tax-deductible donation to Friends of Grasslands' projects fund). And you can leave the walk before 12.30 if you wish. The walk will show off restoration work, and native groundcover species. The entry is off Marked Tree Road, about 2.4 km east of Gundaroo (NSW 2620). Look for the signs.

ALSO, **Evalees, at 1494 Marked Tree Road, Gundaroo** is open for visitors, **10 am to 4 pm, both days**. This is an informal country garden with views of Lake George, designed to complement rather than compete with the landscape. The garden has extensive native grass areas with informal plantings of native and exotic trees. There are colourful beds of shrubs and flowers, and many quirky additions which will delight children. Non-members: \$8 for one garden. Children under 18 free if with an adult.

See <http://opengardenscanberra.org.au/events/list/> for other gardens open in April.

### ***Wild Pollinator Count starts this Sunday 8 April***

*Just watch any flowering plant for 10 minutes* during the week of **8–15 April**, count and record the fauna that visit it (even if you don't know what they are) with a description and a photo if possible, and send your record to <https://wildpollinatorcount.com>. You'll be contributing valuable data on plant pollinators, and you may find that the visitors are native insects rather than (non-native) honeybees.

A lot of research is still needed to identify and understand our pollinator insect species. So far, we know that Australia has around 2000 **native bee** species, all of which are important pollinators, along with a couple of thousand butterfly, wasp, fly, moth, beetle, thrip and ant species. This week and its counterpart in spring are your chance to contribute useful data.

For more information, see: <https://wildpollinatorcount.com>, or email [wildpollinatorcount@gmail.com](mailto:wildpollinatorcount@gmail.com). You can also tweet to #ozpollinators.

### ***About native water rats, Tuesday 10 April, 6 pm***

*What makes Rakali (the native water-rat) Australia's version of the otter?*

To learn more about this fascinating animal, and for tips on how to spot them in the wild, the Australian Platypus Conservancy (APC) is presenting a free talk on **Tuesday 10 April at 6 pm** at the Riverbank Cafe, [4 Trinculo Place, Queanbeyan](#).

This event is hosted by Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council and light refreshments will be provided. For information about the APC and our work, see <https://platypus.asn.au/>.

### ***Climate Change at Gunning, Saturday 14 April***

‘Local Climate Change: Impacts and Opportunities for Innovation’ is a day of talks and discussion at Gunning Showground hall on Saturday 14 April, 9 am – 2 pm.

*What does climate change mean for our local region?* This locally focused event is an opportunity to hear from leaders in the field, and openly discuss ways that we can ensure our farms, gardens and local communities are resilient in the years ahead. Speakers include: **Steven Crimp**, Climate Applications Scientist, Climate Change Institute, ANU; **Rebecca Darbyshire**, Research Scientist, Climate Unit, NSW DPI; **John Ive**, Yass district grazier, winner of 2017 United Nations Association of Australia ‘Protecting Biodiversity from Rapid Climate Change’ Award; **Nola Hancock**, Macquarie University, Lead author of the *Climate-ready Revegetation Guide*. Our host for the day will be Braidwood farmer **Martin Royds**, recently interviewed on the Four Corners Climate Change program.

Also, come and explore what tools, strategies and opportunities exist to help with your long-term planning and day-to-day activities, at the **Pop-Up Information Hub**. For more information, or to RSVP: phone mob. 0488 027 653 or email [coordinator@gunningdistrictlandcare.org.au](mailto:coordinator@gunningdistrictlandcare.org.au).

### ***New exhibition: ‘A Tale of Two Villages’ – launch 21 April 10 am***

Why Hall? Whatever happened to Ginninderra? All will be revealed at the Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre’s new permanent exhibition: ‘A Tale of Two Villages’. The exhibition will take you on the shortest tour over the longest time, from Aboriginal occupation to white settlement and the advent of the Commonwealth, exploring the forces that have shaped the Hall and Ginninderra district.

**All are invited to the launch:** Saturday 21 April, 10 am.

**Then the exhibition is open** on Sunday 22 April, 10 am – 4 pm as part of the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival, and thereafter every Thursday 10–12 noon, and on the first Sunday of each month (Hall Market day) 10 am – 4 pm. To make an appointment for a group visit, email [museum@hall.act.au](mailto:museum@hall.act.au).

### ***‘Spot that Tree Hollow’ in Tree Week, on Tuesday 1 May, 3–5 pm***

All are welcome to join in a walk through Campbell Park, ACT, looking for and recording trees with hollows and noting any birds we see. This is a Friends of Grasslands activity for ACT Tree Week. Bring binoculars, a camera (with GPS if you can), a pen and clipboard and drinking water, and wear bush-walking footwear and clothes. We will provide checklists and marking and measuring equipment, and some expertise on local fauna. At the end of the day, we hope you will know more about the kinds of trees that have hollows of various types, which some fauna might use, and that you will be inspired to watch out for hollow-bearing trees from then onwards.

Register with [ann.milligan@fog.org.au](mailto:ann.milligan@fog.org.au) by 30 April please.

### ***Grassland management forum, 18 May, Jerrabomberra, 9.30 am – 3 pm***

‘A Vision for Grassland Management & Restoration - recent achievements & next steps’ is a forum to be held on **Friday 18 May 9.30 am – 3 pm**, Jerrabomberra Community Centre, NSW (supported by ACT Parks and Conservation Service and FOG). This is advance notice to claim the date. More details will be available soon. For information or to offer a presentation, contact: Geoff Robertson [geoffrobertson@iprimus.com.au](mailto:geoffrobertson@iprimus.com.au), phones 6241 4065 or [0403 221 117](tel:0403221117) or Maree Gilbert [maree.gilbert@act.gov.au](mailto:maree.gilbert@act.gov.au), phones [02 6205 2842](tel:0262052842) or [0432 990 896](tel:0432990896).

### ***Rural communities making a difference: Join the Climate conversation***

This Climate conversation is a **forum on how land managers can contribute to limiting climate change and reap the benefits**. Help unlock the potential of rural communities and enable them to make a difference. The forum is on **Friday 25 May, 9 am – 4 pm**, in Yass Memorial Hall with

**Genevieve Jacobs** (MC), and guest speakers **Dr Bradley Opdyke**, **Dr Charles Massy**, **Dr Christine Jones** and **Dr Siwan Lovett**. The event is supported by a range of community and industry organisation stall holders and exhibitors, and by Yass Area Network of Landcare Groups, Hovells Creek and Boorowa Community Landcare Groups, supported by Local Land Services, Rivers of Carbon and others in SE NSW. For booking information and more details (available soon): contact your local landcare group or call Linda Cavanagh on mob. 0459 681018, email [landcare@boorowa.net](mailto:landcare@boorowa.net).

### ***Inquiry: the value of the natural environment to urbanising Canberra***

The Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services invites submissions to its inquiry into the value of the natural environment to an urbanising Canberra. "... This inquiry provides Canberrans with a great opportunity to have their say about nature in our city as our bush capital grows and I look forward to hearing people's thoughts" (Committee Chair Suzanne Orr MLA). The Committee's terms of reference and other materials are accessible via the ACT Legislative Assembly website: <https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/in-committees/standing-committees-current-assembly/standing-committee-on-environment-and-transport-and-city-services/inquiry-on-the-value-of-the-natural-environment-to-an-urbanising-canberra>

The Committee invites submissions from interested organisations and individuals to its inquiry. **Written submissions should be lodged with the Committee Secretary by close of business on Friday, 8 June 2018.**

### ***ACT second electricity project***

The *Draft Environmental Impact Statement* and the *Development Applications* for this major electricity infrastructure project for Stockdill Drive, Holt, are now **available for comment until 26 April**. The relevant websites are:

[http://www.planning.act.gov.au/topics/design\\_build/da\\_assessment/environmental\\_assessment/environmental\\_impact\\_statements/current-eis-projects/act-second-electrical-supply-project](http://www.planning.act.gov.au/topics/design_build/da_assessment/environmental_assessment/environmental_impact_statements/current-eis-projects/act-second-electrical-supply-project) and [http://www.planning.act.gov.au/development\\_applications/pubnote](http://www.planning.act.gov.au/development_applications/pubnote)

The Biodiversity Impact Assessment is also online, published in February. See [http://203.9.249.10/registerfiles/pubnote/pdf/EIS-201732500-EIS\\_VOL\\_2\\_TP2\\_BIODIVERSITY\\_IMPACT-01.pdf](http://203.9.249.10/registerfiles/pubnote/pdf/EIS-201732500-EIS_VOL_2_TP2_BIODIVERSITY_IMPACT-01.pdf)

#### ***Quoting from the TransGrid and Evoenergy newsletter:***

'The ACT Second Electrical Supply project will ensure a continued safe, reliable and secure electricity supply to the ACT. The project is an undertaking by TransGrid (the operator and manager of the NSW and ACT high voltage electricity transmission network) and Evoenergy, previously ActewAGL (ACT's electricity distribution utility) and the ACT Government.

'The project has been carried out in two phases. ... The second phase, currently under development, comprises a new substation at **Stockdill Drive** and associated 330kV and 132kV transmission lines.

'Please refer to the map for further details.'

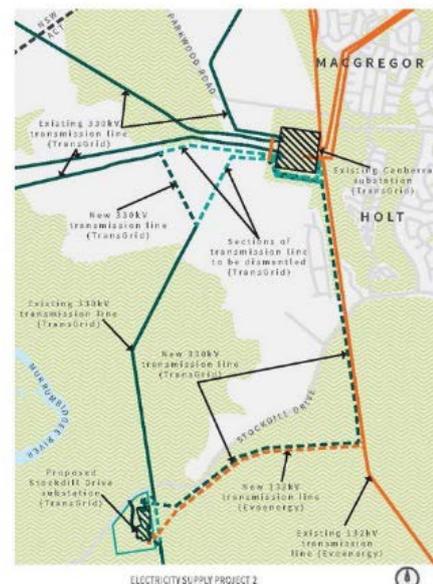
#### **ANTICIPATED KEY DATES**

ACT and Commonwealth environmental approval of the EIS, and Development Application approval: **Quarter 3** (July–September) **2018**

Start of works: **Quarter 4** (October–December) **2018**

Completion of works: **Quarter 2** (April–June) **2020**.

'The first phase was completed in 2013 and included:



- the construction of the Williamsdale substation south of Canberra;
- associated 330kV transmission line upgrades by TransGrid; and
- new 132kV transmission lines by Evoenergy.’ ...

‘PLANNING APPROVAL PHASE: The development of the project has been through several stages and has now progressed to the planning approval stage with the submission of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and two Development Applications (DAs) from TransGrid and Evoenergy. The draft EIS has been prepared to assess and document the potential environmental and social impacts of the construction and operation of the Project. The two DAs provide information relating to the works proposed. The component of the EIS assessing threatened species and communities is also subject to approval by the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy.

‘All interested parties are encouraged to read the draft EIS and provide comment.

‘Key impacts during construction and operation include:

- Landscape and visual
- Biodiversity
- Land use and property
- Traffic, transport and access
- Noise and vibration
- Electromagnetic fields
- Heritage

The above and other environmental issues are discussed in detail in the draft EIS.’ ...

‘USEFUL LINKS:

ACT MAPi <http://www.actmapi.act.gov.au/>;

ACT Government project website [https://www.planning.act.gov.au/topics/current\\_projects/roads-infrastructure-capital-works/act-second-electricity-supply-project](https://www.planning.act.gov.au/topics/current_projects/roads-infrastructure-capital-works/act-second-electricity-supply-project) ;

TransGrid project website <https://www.transgrid.com.au/what-we-do/projects/current-projects/ACT-second-supply> ‘

**If you have any concerns about this project, please contact Karissa at the GCG Office.**

### ***Alert about European Wasps. PLEASE READ AND ABSORB***

Please be aware that at this time of year European wasps are becoming more aggressive in defence of their nests. European wasp stings are very painful and they can sting multiple times which can become a serious threat to a person’s health.

Volunteers should be aware of the risk posed by wasps and be on the lookout for wasp activity which may indicate a hidden nest, such as a line of wasps coming and going from a certain location. If you find a nest do not disturb it, and report it immediately.

To report a European Wasp nest, phone **02 6258 5551** the Wasp hotline (*put it into your phone now!*). Reporting by phone app or website is detailed below.

#### **FIRST AID**

**One wasp sting** – apply an icepack. This is hard to do when you’re in the field. BUT instant ice packs can be purchased from the chemist. These are a small and light sealed bag that can be added to the first aid kit, that, when activated, become a cold pack.

**Multiple stings** and a feeling of being unwell – immediately go to hospital or call an ambulance. Emergency call service number is Triple Zero (000), which can be dialled from any fixed or mobile phone, pay phones and certain Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services. There are also two secondary emergency call service numbers—112 and 106

#### **REPORTING**

Report all nests on the ‘eWasp’. This is the most important thing to do after you ensure your safety, and this also means walking away and not disturbing the nest.

<http://ewasp.com.au/> is a link to the website for reporting European Wasps in the ACT. It also has

additional information such as photographs for identification and treated and untreated nests. There are links to E-Wasp apps for both Apple and Android phones that we encourage our staff and members of the public to load onto their phones. These apps are where you will report the nest, which will then alert the pest control operator to inspect and treat the nest. The app will record the location, date, time etc.

Please become familiar with identifying the European Wasp. Go to the website and have a look at the photos. Load the App on to your phone <http://ewasp.com.au/>.

*Rachel Tokley, Urban Volunteer Group Coordinator, TCCS*

### ***Tips to help your local bees drinking at your bird bath***

Put strong thin twigs into the water of your bird bath so when bees and other flying insects come there to drink and get into trouble, they can swim to the twigs. This helps stop them from drowning. This tip comes from Lucy Bastecky, via Anke Maria Hoefer. Lucy read it in a letter in the *Canberra Times*.

### ***Reminder: you can hold a 'Bat Night' during April-May***

Bat Nights are held in late summer and autumn by bat specialists and community/local government groups to raise informed awareness about bats. Remember that **in raising awareness, it is important that the public do not think they can handle bats**. Please promote this message: "No touch, No risk."

The Australian Bat Society can badge and promote your event and *help find speakers if needed*. The 'ABS Bat Facts' is sent to all registered events, to give out factual information on bats, and they have sample presentations and photographs to help you. Please contact Bat Night Coordinator Maree Kerr, at [batnight@ausbats.org.au](mailto:batnight@ausbats.org.au), for further information and to discuss and register an event.

### ***Summary list of events in this newsletter (\*indicates a group working bee)***

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**Weekly working bees:** \**Wednesdays & Saturdays*, North Belconnen Landcare. \**Thursdays*, FOTPIN

6 Apr–15 May	Wildlife photo exhibition, CSIRO Discovery, weekdays 9–4.30
*7 April	Umbagog Landcare: tree planting, 9 am
7 & 8 April	'Open Garden', Mcleods Ck NR, NSW, 11 am both days
7 & 8 Apr	'Open Garden', Evalees, NSW, 10–4 both days
*8 Apr	Macgregor Landcare Group, 9 am
*8 Apr	Friends of Aranda Bushland, 9 am
8–15 Apr	Wild Pollinator Count week
9 Apr	GCG general meeting, Kippax Health Centre bldg, 5.30 pm
10 Apr	Rakali (water rats) talk, 6 pm, Queanbeyan
10 Apr	Sutton LC talk: Fuel loads on urban fringe, 7.30 pm
*11 Apr	Friends of Mulligans Flat, 9.30 am
*14 Apr	Jarramlee Park Landcare,
*14 Apr	Hall Cemetery woodland (with FOG), 8.30 am
14 April	Gunning: Climate Change day of talks and discussion, with four speakers, 9–2
14–21 Apr	Artists Society exhibition, Kingston, 10–5 daily
*15 April	Friends of Mount Painter, 9 am
15 April	Kangaroo count on The Pinnacle
16 April	Jarramlee Park Landcare group meeting, 7.30 pm
21 Apr	Launch: 'Tale of Two Villages', Hall, 10 am
*22 Apr	Mount Rogers Landcare
26 Apr...	Last day for comments on electric substation
27 Apr	Frogs talk, Gunning, NSW, 10.30–12.30

1 May	'Spot that tree hollow' with FOG, 3–5 pm
6 May	Bird walk at Mount Painter, 8 am
6 May	Bird walk at The Pinnacle, 9 am
6 May	Fungi Foray, Jerrabomberra Wetlands, 9.30 am
9 May	Aboriginal agriculture seminar, Bill Gammage & Bruce Pascoe
13 May	Bird walk at Mulligans Flat, 9 am
18 May	Grassland forum, Jerrabomberra NSW, 9.30–3.00
20 May	CSIRO shrub-planting day
24 May	Regenerative agriculture seminar, Charles Massy & Martin Royds, 5.30–8 pm
25 May	Landholders in Climate Change, with four speakers, Yass, 9–4
27 May	CSIRO shrub-planting day
8 Jun	End of comments on urban environment
17 Jun	Fungi Foray @ Mulligans Flat, 9.30 am

## Ginninderra Catchment Group is grateful for support from

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