

SOME MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- The removal of problem willows in Ginninderra Creek and its tributaries. Funded by the Natural Heritage Trust and ACT Environment Grants.
- The development and implementation of the ACT Frogwatch Census, involving over 200 volunteers in the monitoring of frogs at 140 sites across the ACT. Funded by the ACT environment grants.
- The restoration of the McKellar Wetlands, located on the corner of Owen Dixon Drive and William Slim Drive.
- Seven years of continuous collection of valuable water quality data from 16 sites across the catchment.

AWARDS AND PRIZES

- 2006 - sustainable cities highly commended award for frogwatch.
- 2001 Joint winner of the ACT Landcare Awards and the NHT Rivercare Award
- 2001 Winner of the ACT Landcare Awards and the BHP Landcare Research Award



HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

If you would like to be involved in any of the activities associated with the Ginninderra Catchment Group please contact our staff on the numbers listed below. We will then be able to keep you informed on up and coming working bees and events.

Ginninderra Catchment Group



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THE GINNINDERRA CATCHMENT GROUP

GINNINDERRA CATCHMENT GROUP IS SUPPORTED BY:



Australian Government



COVER PHOTO BY JOHN BAKER



FROGWATCH
ACT and Region



ABOUT THE CATCHMENT

Ginninderra Creek is of major importance in both a local and regional context. It carries approximately one quarter of the urban water runoff from Canberra directly into the Murrumbidgee River system and then the Murray. Hence there is considerable potential for Canberra, including the Ginninderra Creek catchment to degrade the already stressed aquatic ecosystems of the Murray-Darling Basin.

Ginninderra Creek itself begins in the upper reaches of Gungahlin within the Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve and enters the Murrumbidgee at Ginninderra Falls in Parkwood. The water catchment for the creek and its tributaries crosses the border between ACT and NSW and takes in some 32,000 hectares of land.

There are various land uses within the catchment including; urban, rural, rural residential, nature reserve and areas zoned for further development.

The named tributaries of the catchment are Ginninderra Creek, Gooromon Ponds Creek, Gold Creek, Gungahlin Creek, Cow Flat Creek, Halls Creek and Bedulluck Creek.

The area can be roughly broken down into three areas:

- 1) Land above 600m (steeper slopes). Major land uses include nature reserves and broad acre rural;
- 2) Mid creek basins 600-500m (undulating to flat slopes). Major land use includes suburbs, developing urban, rural residential, urban open space and some broad acre farming;
- 3) The Ginninderra Creek Gorge and the Murrumbidgee River Corridor. Major land uses include broad acre farming and a private nature park.



PHOTO BY PAUL RYAN

WHO ARE WE?

The Ginninderra Catchment Group Inc. (GCG) represents Landcarers and Parkcarers working in the water catchment of the Ginninderra Creek. The group receives funding from the Australian and ACT Governments for the employment of Landcare, Waterwatch and Frogwatch coordinators. These coordinators support individual Landcare activity as well as implementing catchment scale environmental improvement and monitoring programs.



HISTORY OF THE GROUP

The water quality of Ginninderra Creek has always been of importance to many of Canberra's residents. It is the major tributary for the Gungahlin Ponds and Lake Ginninderra. These two lakes form focal geographic, scenic, and recreational sites for the established town centre of Belconnen and the fast growing regional centre of Gungahlin.

This interest and concern led to the formation of a number of Landcare and Parkcare groups working to improve and protect their local patches. To many within these groups, it became increasingly obvious that most of the land and water degradation issues really needed to be dealt with on a catchment scale. This led to the formation of the Ginninderra Catchment Landcarer's Forum (GiCaLa) and in 1996, the Ginninderra Catchment Group Inc.

WHAT DO WE DO?

The long-term goals of the Ginninderra Catchment Group are to work with all catchment stakeholders to:

- create ecosystems that accommodate human settlement but reduce the impacts and their effects on environmental systems;
- restore and maintain as much of the natural setting as possible within an urban environment;
- ensure more systematic, catchment wide sustainable environmental outcomes from the activities of volunteers;
- develop and implement a catchment strategy to achieve the above goals.

OUR PROGRAMS

The catchment group has three main programs

1) Landcare / Parkcare

GCG members work in partnership with the ACT and Australian Governments to deal with issues including storm water management, wetlands development, weed control, revegetation, environmental education and collection of data. These activities are guided by the Ginninderra Catchment Group Strategy, the ACT Natural Resource Management Plan and the Murrumbidgee Catchment Blueprint.

2) Waterwatch

Waterwatch is a community water quality monitoring program that encourages active involvement in the protection and management of waterways and catchments. Volunteers are trained to undertake a range of Waterwatch activities such as regular testing of physical and chemical water quality, macro-invertebrate (bug) surveys and recording a range of other observations about the health of our waterways and catchments. Data collected by our Waterwatch volunteers forms the basis of the GCG Catchment Health Indicators Program, which is used to measure catchment health and direct future activities. This information contributes to regional environment reporting.

3) Frogwatch

The ACT and Region, National Water Week Community Frogwatch Census is implemented by the GCG in October each year. It involves over 200 volunteers monitoring frog species at close to 140 sites. The information collected is used to identify important frog breeding sites for protection and to guide recovery actions that will create a more frog friendly ACT and Region. This program contributes to the development of future protection programs.

MEMBERS AND MEETINGS

The GCG hold monthly meetings at the Kippax Health Centre. These meetings consider reports from the coordinators and deal with general GCG business. They also usually include a speaker talking about issues relevant to the Ginninderra Creek catchment and surrounding regions. There is also time for a social gathering and information swapping over a cup of tea or coffee. Anyone with an interest in the health of the Ginninderra Creek catchment is welcome to attend these meetings

Our current members come from a variety of backgrounds and their interests vary. Some members are motivated by improving the areas surrounding their homes, whilst others have specific interests in issues such as water quality, weed management, education or threatened flora and fauna. The GCG also recognises that many members are not interested or unable to participate in the more rigorous activities such as weed removal or revegetation but can provide invaluable support in other ways, often through our working groups or helping out with administrative tasks.

The GCG also provides an email update service that lets all interested parties know when various events and working bees are taking place throughout the catchment.

MAP OF THE GINNINDERRA CATCHMENT AREA

