

**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:** ([still being rebuilt](#)); **Office:** Kippax Health Centre, Holt ACT; **Phone:** 02 6278 3309

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## GINNINDERRA CATCHMENT GROUP NEWS

**JULY 2018**

*Please distribute this newsletter to others in your networks and groups.*

### ***From the Convenor***

As advised in last newsletter, \$352,000 has been allocated across the three catchment groups in 2018–19. A workshop on 12 July with the Directorate and Catchment Groups examined the value of catchment groups and potential future funding models. There is still further work to do in the coming months, and we will hope to provide an update shortly. Equally, with Frogwatch funding, we are waiting on an imminent announcement on funding. We hope to provide a positive outcome on funding at our next member's meeting on Monday 6 August. The newsletter again provides a description on the wide level of activities being conducted across the catchment. I wish you all well!

*Sandy Lolicato*

### **[Acknowledgement of funding](#)**

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

### **WELCOME BERNIE!**

Bernie Bugden has been selected as the Acting GCG Executive Officer, while Karissa is on maternity leave. Bernie has over 20 years' experience in NRM and Catchment Management. He previously worked with Molonglo Catchment Group as the Catchment Coordinator and Operations Manager. Prior to that he was the General Manager of Hawkesbury-Nepean CMA. Bernie is well-regarded within NRM circles in the ACT and will be an asset to the team. Bernie will start with GCG in early September (after taking a pre-planned holiday overseas). As such, there will be a few weeks when the Executive Officer position is vacant, we'll appreciate your patience during this transition.

### **NATIVE WATER RAT (RAKALI) PRESENTATION, 1 August evening**

GCG is hosting a talk by the Australian Platypus Conservancy about the fascinating native water-rat (rakali) in the ACT Region. As well as providing information about this species, the talk will outline how volunteers can get involved in looking for Rakali and provide basic training. The talks is at 7 pm on WEDNESDAY 1 AUGUST at the Old Kippax Health Centre Building (GCG office building), Kippax Place, Holt. ADMISSION FREE – ALL WELCOME.

Please RSVP by Monday 30 July to Bruno: [waterwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au](mailto:waterwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au); phone 6278 3309. For more details about surveys held as part of platypus month, see our *Waterwatch* section below. There is a full list of talks about Rakali-watching in Canberra and Cooma, in *Around the region*, farther below.

### **GCG AT THE NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS: VOTE NOW!**

The National Landcare Awards celebrate the achievements of Landcare volunteers around the country who dedicate their valuable time and energy into caring for the land and water that sustain us. GCG has been nominated for the National Fairfax Landcare Community Group Award. Lenore Hodgkinson, Convenor of the North Belconnen Landcare Group, has been nominated for the prestigious Individual Landcarer Award. GCG was also involved in the Green Army Partnership Program, which is nominated for the National Australian Government Partnerships for Landcare Award. 65 outstanding Landcare champions, across nine categories, make up the 2018 National

Landcare Awards finalists.

Vote now for the People's Choice Award! This award is presented to the finalist who receives the most votes from the general public in the lead-up to the awards. The winner will be announced on Thursday 11 October at the Awards gala dinner. *Voting is now open and closes on Wednesday 10 October 2018.* Votes placed by 30 July 2018 will go into the draw to win a ticket to the 2018 National Landcare Conference and Awards and one entrant per state will win. Follow the link at <http://nationallandcareconference.org.au/awards/>

See *Around the Region*, below, for conference registration details and discounts, and to see who is the awards dinner MC!

### GRASSLAND RESTORATION FUNDING UPDATE

GCG submitted an application into the 2018–19 ACT Environment Grants for a grassland restoration project in the Ginninderra Catchment. If successful, this project will reduce the shrinking of native grass patches and extend and increase connectivity of these patches through the urban landscape of Ginninderra Catchment.

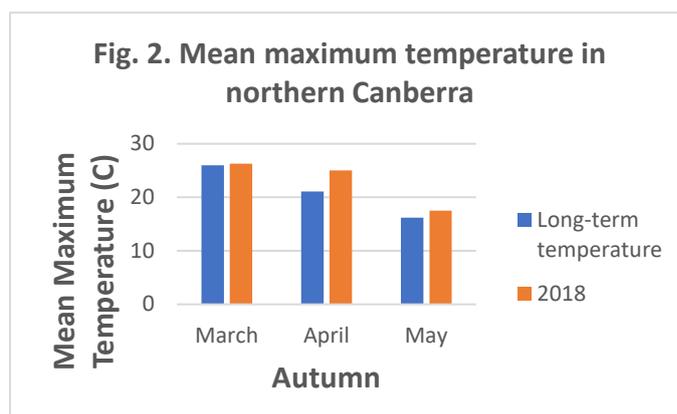
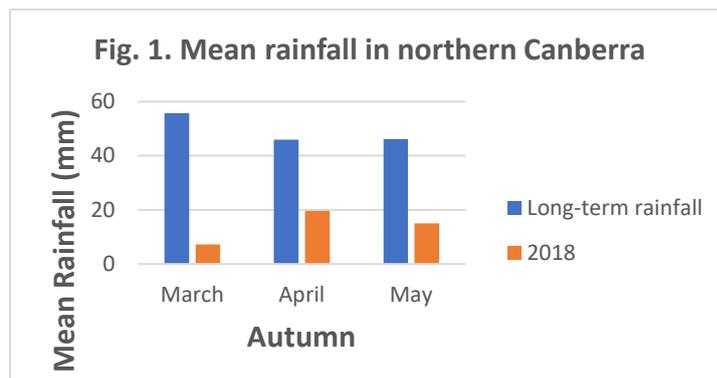
We have been informed that the tender that ACT NRM submitted to the National Landcare Program, with GCG as the lead organisation has been unsuccessful. We will be working with ACT NRM over the next few months to develop up another application.

*Karissa Preuss, GCG Executive Officer*

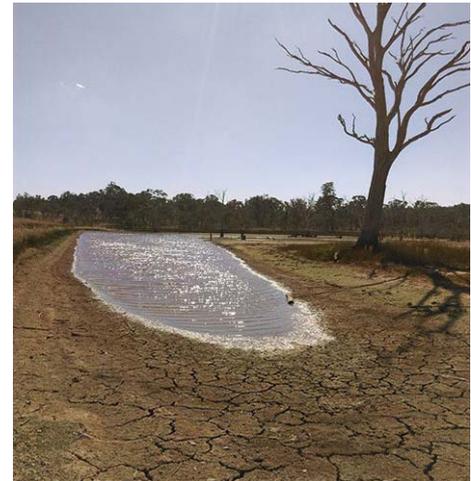
## WATERWATCH

### IN OUR CATCHMENT – MARCH TO MAY (AUTUMN) 2018

It has been a very dry autumn, with below average rainfall during March, April and May (Fig. 1). During April, maximum temperatures were also slightly higher than average (Fig. 2). Such weather conditions were reflected in our catchment by lower water levels, increased turbidity in some sites and low dissolved oxygen ratings. A site in Yass River (Macs Reef Road, YAS010) was completely dry in April and the large wetland in Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve, within the headwaters of Ginninderra Creek, had lowest levels recorded by our volunteer (Fig. 3).



There were some elevated readings of electrical conductivity relative to the sampling site, possibly due to lower water levels, in Yass River (YAS370, 570  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ ; YAS010, 830  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ ), Lake Ginninderra (GIN008, 300  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ ), and the usually high site at Gooromon Ponds Creek at Wallaroo (GOO007, 1620  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ ). Also, low dissolved oxygen readings in Ginninderra Creek at Umbagog District Park (GIN024, 38% saturation) and at GIN015 (15% saturation), and Yass River (YAS010, 47% saturation). In terms of nutrients (phosphorus and nitrate), results were relatively stable throughout the catchment, only with elevated readings for Murrumbidgee River (CMM050, 25 mg/L and CMM100, 30 mg/L), possibly from the Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre.



**Fig. 3. Low water levels at the southern dam in Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve (Photo: Bruno Ferronato)**



**Fig. 4. Water rat, Rakali**

#### **PLATYPUS MONTH**

Next month (August) is Platypus Month. Waterwatch will be doing platypus/rakali (water rat) surveys at various sites around Canberra and we'd love to have you along. Please email Woo on [waterwatch@act.gov.au](mailto:waterwatch@act.gov.au) to find out details of surveys, which are generally done early morning and take a bit over an hour.

#### **GOOD NEWS FOR PLATYPUS, TURTLES AND WATER RATS**

Opera house traps or yabby traps are set to be banned from Victoria from 1 July 2019. This is a great win for Australian native wildlife and conservationists, as there is an enormous amount of wildlife that end up drowning as a result of bycatch. It is interesting to note that major retailers such as K-Mart, Big W, BCF, Anaconda, eBay will discontinue stocking opera house traps as of 1 July this year. More in here: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-05-19/retailers-withdraw-yabby-nets-that-kill-platypuses-ahead-of-ban/9775924>

It is illegal to use opera house traps in NSW and ACT in all public lakes and rivers east of the Newell Highway. If you see an illegal trap in lakes and rivers anywhere in the ACT and Upper Murrumbidgee region, please report immediately. Reports can be made by calling Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000 (NSW) or Access Canberra 13 22 81 (ACT). Please be prepared to provide exact location details (GPS coordinates would be ideal), a description of the trap and your contact details in case further information is required

#### **WATERWATCH EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Our Waterwatch educational activities will continue throughout 2018 and 2019 ☺. If you are interested in educational activities for your kids' school, just contact Bruno at [waterwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au](mailto:waterwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au)

#### **RIPARIAN CONDITION ASSESSMENTS**

Bruno has started riparian vegetation surveys in Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve and within the next months he will conduct several surveys in the Ginninderra catchment. Riparian condition is one of the parameters used to measure catchment health, together with water quality and water bugs. If you are interested in joining, please contact Bruno at [waterwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au](mailto:waterwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au)

*Bruno Ferronato, Waterwatch Coordinator*

## **FROGWATCH**

### **NATIONAL ARTICLE ABOUT FROGWATCH IN *THE CONVERSATION***

Did you see this super article by a Frogwatcher of north Canberra? *The Conversation* is a national/international news website. What great exposure!

<https://theconversation.com/friday-essay-frogwatching-charting-climate-changes-impact-in-the-here-and-now-98161?>

### **FROGWATCH – TADPOLE KITS BOOKINGS ARE NOW CLOSED**

The tadpole kits are fully booked out. There has been huge demand on this program, which is unfortunately limited to 120 kits!! Congratulations to the 120 lucky classrooms that will be able to observe tadpoles growing into frogs in Term 4 this year!!

### **FUNDING**

Despite all our efforts Frogwatch has not been successful in securing funding for its core activities for the 2018–19 financial year. As of today, we will therefore not be able to run a fully-fledged FrogCensus this year, which will result in a disruption in our long-term data set (since 2002) and quite possibly the loss of lots of dedicated volunteers. It shows that Frogwatch, more than ever, needs ongoing support. EVERY SURVEY COUNTS. I will not be able to manage the surveys in as timely a way as in previous years – though, who knows, we might get some funding from somewhere sometime that would ensure people’s surveys are verified and added to the full data base!!

**On a brighter note:** Frogwatch has been successful in securing project specific funding for:

- The climate change project – year 4 (funded through ACT Government),
- The tadpole kits for schools program (funded through Icon Water),
- A wetland habitat quality assessment project (funded through ACT Government),
- Some school education sessions (funded through Belconnen Rotary),
- Frog-habitat workshops (funded through ACTHA).

We are also still working on:

- The frog phone project (funded through an ACT Environment Grant), and
- The upgrade of the Frogwatch data portal (partly funded through an ACT smart communities grant).

So we are definitely busy as!!!

A big thank you to all our volunteers, especially the bravest of all – the Climate Change warriors. They have been facing icy cold nights and howling winds over the past weeks!!!

### **SPECIALIST VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

We are currently revamping our ‘tadpole kits for schools’ instruction book and **would love the input of a graphic designer or** anyone with a keen interest and skills in printing media layout!! Most of the text is ready to go, we just need someone to pretty it up big time

*Anke Maria Hoefler*

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

### ***ParkCare and Landcare display, Jamison Centre, 7–9 September***

Jean Geue has once again arranged permission for our member groups and other environment-caring colleagues to hold an open display of photos and easy-read information in Jamison Centre mall, between Cassidy’s and Coles. We shall set up the display at 8 am on Friday morning 7 September, staff it for ~8 hours each day until around 4.30 pm on Sunday 9 September. Please contact John Brannan ([convenor@fotpin.org.au](mailto:convenor@fotpin.org.au)) to add your name to the roster of volunteers explaining our landcaring work to the shoppers. They are always *very interested* in what we do.

## Giralang Pond Landcare

### GIRALANG POND WINTER



The group is in hibernation at the moment but the pond, as always, is the hub of our focus. This year the pond froze during the minus temperatures recently, at least 5 mornings in a row (see photo).

The depth of the pond shrinks yearly so it is always with awe that it supports and hosts such a variety of birds especially at this time of year. My bird count for the pond so far this winter include a pair of Pelicans, a pair of Swans, Yellow-Tailed Black Cockatoos 50-60, Golden Whistlers, butcher birds and kingfishers. The Nankeen Night Heron is still a regular visitor until lunch time and the pair of White Faced Herons are already looking for a nest site. The Water Rat is in constant attendance.

On a more Giralang-in-general note, the Wildflower Hill has been dethatched and sown with wildflower seeds by Greening Australia. It would be good if it rains.

*Denise Kay, Convenor*

## Sutton Landcare (just north of Mulligans Flat)

### 1. CONSERVING MATURE TREES AND THEIR ASSOCIATED HABITAT STRUCTURES FOR WILDLIFE IN A CHANGING WORLD.

**Tuesday 14 August, 7.30 pm, Sutton School.**

Our speaker on 14 August will be Darren Le Roux. Darren currently works as an Environmental Project Officer with the ACT Parks and Conservation Service. His PhD focused on investigating the biodiversity sensitivity of the urban greenspace. He has found that relative to adjacent nature reserves, urban greenspace supports far fewer mature native trees, tree hollows, dead trees, logs, litter, shrubs and regenerating seedlings.

Le Roux argues: "we can't expect wildlife to persist in our urban landscapes without first ensuring that the necessary habitat structures they depend upon for survival are retained and protected." Darren's ongoing research aims to formulate innovative management strategies that will inform habitat protection policies, assist on-the-ground wildlife conservation efforts and help mitigate ongoing urban development impacts in the urban landscape, making the concrete jungle more sustainable and habitable for future generations of wildlife.

### 2. SUTTON LANDCARE TURNS 21!

Sutton Landcare Group (SLG) started 21 years ago. Some of the original members are still actively involved. Over the 21 years we have:

- Received a grant that allowed planting of thousands of native trees, shrubs and grasses, thereby increasing biodiversity and soil carbon and the presence of our native insects, birds and mammals.
- Held workshops so landholders (including gardeners) could better identify plants and animals to improve environmental function; and workshops on understanding your soils, how to combat erosion, how to maintain agricultural function such as grazing whilst improving the environment and soil condition and having happier stock.
- Held excursions to see what innovative farmers were able to accomplish by following their intuition about nature rather than old fashioned European practices. Adding 15% of native trees and shrubs to your pastures increases biodiversity and resilience, and the land has effectively the same carrying capacity as 100%-cleared land.



- Held over 100 meetings where experts from the conventional to the controversial presented their ideas of how to manage our land. Inspiring many landholders to refrain from doing things that have an adverse effect to doing the things that have positive effects.
- Helped improve the native vegetation in Sutton village by combining forces with SDCAI and the RFS.
- Had controversial speakers: for example, advocating that we should let weeds grow as they are a natural response to our wayward European farming ways, and that ultimately native vegetation will take over once the effects of over grazing and artificial fertiliser application are gone.
- Enthusiastically participated in the recent Great Gorooyarroo Project. SLG pioneered the evening walks at Mulligans Flat Sanctuary to view Bettongs and subsequently included these animals in our logo.
- Joined forces with the Ginninderra Catchment Group to share experiences and learn from each other.

**WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?** Sutton and surrounds will be under increasing development pressure and SLG can help define what we as a community want this future to look like. Climate change is happening and how do we prepare for it? We will have to prepare for more extreme weather and climate events: heavier downpours, more extreme winds, droughts and floods, etc.

**WHAT IS OUR PHILOSOPHY?** To provide information to everyone, to let each land and garden holder decide for themselves which bit of knowledge is suitable for implementation. SLG will do work on public lands but as a rule avoids getting involved with private land and landholders. This means that everyone can feel safe joining our meetings and joining SLG because we do not judge and we do not do private land visits. We inform and leave it to individual land and garden holders to apply what they have learnt. SLG provides a gateway to grants for caring for our land, such as when Landcare gets a boost in its federal funding.

You can contact us via [Sutton.landcare@gmail.com](mailto:Sutton.landcare@gmail.com) if you are interested in our activities.

*Arnold Dekker, Sutton Landcare Group President*

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

At our last three working bees, Angharad, Anne, Ivan, Jemima, Phil and Ted have tackled three separate expanses of Honeysuckle (see first 3 photos). We know that the intertwined plants will regrow, but by then we'll be ready to spray the new leaves or return to dig out the roots. Several Ivy infestations will be more intractable because of their roots that cling to trunks or grow wherever they touch ground ... and because the birds spread the dark bluey-black ivy berries.

Thanks to Rachel Tokley (Urban Volunteer Group Coordinator), the resulting three large piles of plant debris have now been removed by TCCS workers (see the clear areas in the other 2 photos). I'll be scattering some native grass seed into these areas and the landcare group will dig out any original honeysuckle plants.





*Rosemary Blemings, Convenor*

## **Macgregor Landcare Group**

Macgregor Landcare Group is still in winter recess. We have nothing to report other than the lovely calls of the black cockatoos flying through the casuarinas along the creek. The calls make up for the mess the cockatoos make discarding chewed off branches.

*Lyn Jenkins, Convenor*

## **Friends of Mount Painter (Cook)**

Over the last three months, Friends of Mount Painter have been busy with:

\* **Planting daisies and vines.** We added another species of daisy to the area on the north-east slope where we planted Yellow Burr-daisies last year. This year we planted clumps of Narrow-leaved New Holland Daisies, as well as some Native Raspberries and Hardenbergia.

\* **Enjoying another great bird walk with Nicki Taws.**

\* **Removing ivy from around the trees near the water tanks.** We have started on the first stage in our attempt to eliminate a large patch of ivy near the water tanks. We have dug out as much as we can and will follow up by whipper-snipping and spraying when new young leaves appear in spring.



\* **Participating in the ACT Government's Woodland Forum.** Sarah Hnatiuk told the meeting about our experience with planting shrub and tree tubestock on Mount Painter (see separate item below).

\* **Accompanying Macquarie Primary School's Kindergarten classes to the summit.** It was their first school excursion, a great one for the kids who love exploring and climbing the rocks, and good for the teachers who know it is not easy to lose a kid on the hill and there is no need to keep telling them to keep quiet, as may happen on excursions elsewhere.



\* **Securing tree guards round the Drooping Sheoaks planted in 2016.** It was a cold and frosty morning for our July work party: some special views to begin with, followed by clear skies and warm sun. 75% of the seedlings planted are still alive.



Friends of Mount Painter's **next work party** is at **10 am on Sunday, 19 August** when we will be planting grasses and lilies in the Wildflower Triangle. To join us, park on Bindubi Street where the bike path passes under the road. This is between William Hovell Drive and the intersection of Bandjalong Street and Lyttleton Crescent, and walk up the bike path to find us.

*Sarah Hnatiuk, Convenor*

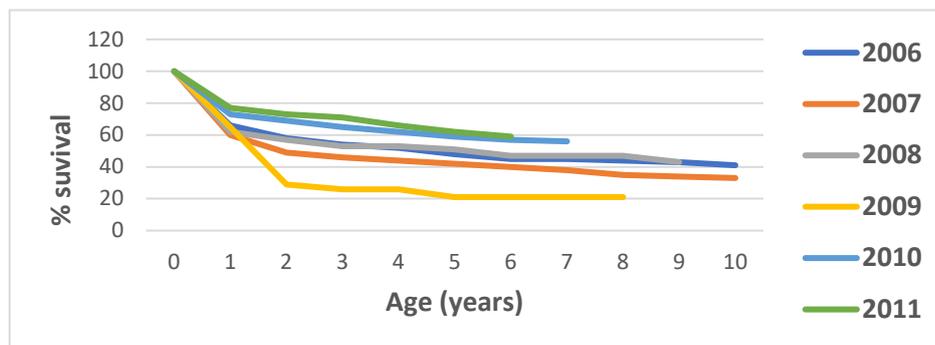
**SARAH MADE THESE POINTS ABOUT FOMP'S OBSERVATIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS, IN HER TALK AT THE ACT WOODLAND FORUM (in late June)**

**Less than a quarter (23%) of the tubestock planted in 2005 survived over the following summer.** By contrast, 82% of the tubestock planted by Greening Australia volunteers that same year on Mt Macdonald near the Cotter Dam survived to 2006. These very different survival rates stimulated us to change how we planted and cared for the tubestock.

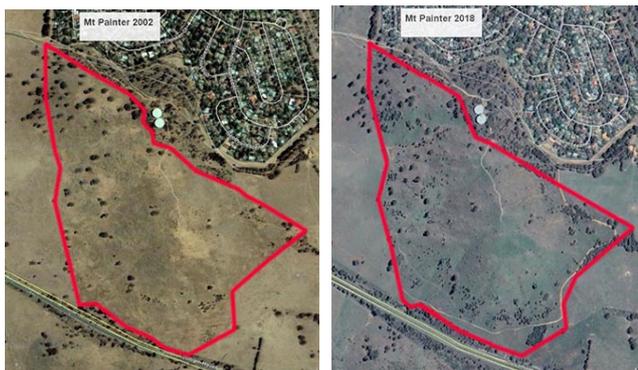
**The result during the drought years, 2006–09, was two to three times better survival** to one year of age (56–66%) with the improvements we introduced.

In 2010, the drought broke, the rabbit population was reduced by 94%, and kangaroos were culled for the first time. **With good rain and less pressure from herbivores, around 80% survived** from the 2010 and 2011 plantings.

Mortality continues over the years after planting for each planting, but at a lesser rate than over the first year of life. The extent of these losses gives some idea of the number of tubestock we need to plant for the number we want in the long run.



**The photos show there are many more trees and shrubs on Mount Painter now (right) than 16 years ago (left).**



*Sarah Hnatiuk, FOMP Convenor*

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

See Open Groups on Facebook (under North Belconnen Landcare Group) for our start times, and for updates on our group.

Rain would be very welcome at the moment. There is no germination of sown seed at the Greening Australia 'Scrape and Sow' project, to be known as the Betty Davis Wildflower Patch. The area, near the Evatt footbridge, was scraped and sown at the end of May.

Weeding has been high on our agenda with removal of more African Lovegrass as well as St John's Wort and Chilean Needlegrass.

We now have a Monday afternoon group at 1.30 pm for about one hour. This group is helping older folk with health issues and gives them a diversion from their ongoing health concerns and endless medical appointments. They are really enjoying the landcaring which has mainly been digging up St Johns Wort. We take home our 'spoils' and burn them in the open fireplace in our lounge room to destroy the seeds. The weed burns well even with green shoots amongst it.

Our Wednesday morning group had a nice time during the school holidays with extra helpers who are usually at school during the week. One week when the ground was too frosty to start at 9.30 am we spent time building two small insect 'hotels' which the children and adults enjoyed making. We put them in the forks of Banksia trees and anchored them firmly. We used various bits of bamboo and other hollow sticks and miscellaneous things the insects may find attractive to encourage new insect residents in our little 'hotels'.

Currently we are meeting Mondays 1.30 pm, Wednesdays 10 am and Saturdays 10 am. New helpers are always welcome.

*Lenore Hodgkinson, Convenor*

### **NOTE:**

To contact the Landcare or ParkCare Group Convenors, email or phone the GCG office. The groups' webpages will be up again on the GCG website **when it has been rebuilt**: [www.ginninderralandcare.org.au](http://www.ginninderralandcare.org.au) > Landcare > Landcare groups

## **Around the region**

### ***Avoiding needle-stick injuries when landcaring***

Rachel Tokley, the TCCS Urban Volunteer Group Coordinator, has sent safety information, 'Preventing and Responding to Needlestick Injuries', to the GCG office for landcarers working in Urban Open Space Areas. **If you find a syringe** while landcaring, be aware you should **mark the location and call Access Canberra 13 22 81 to report the syringe**. You should NOT attempt to pick up or remove the syringe. A TCCS-trained staff member will remove the syringe from site once notified. To obtain the pdf file about this, please contact Fiona, [projects@ginninderralandcare.org.au](mailto:projects@ginninderralandcare.org.au), at the office.

### ***Learn about the Rakali (native water rat), 29 July – 3 August***

The Australian Platypus Conservancy (APC) will present a series of free public talks about the Rakali on Sunday 29 July – Friday 3 August, as listed below. The presentations will outline the biology and key conservation requirements of the species. They will also give tips on how to go about spotting this fascinating mammal in the wild, with the aim of encouraging more people to look out for and report sightings. The launch of the APC's survey of Rakali in the ACT region will take place during the presentation hosted by the Field Naturalists Association of Canberra and the National Parks Association ACT on Thursday 2 August, 7 pm.

- Sunday 29 July, Namadgi NP Visitor Centre, 10.30 am.
- Tuesday 31 July, Southern ACT Catchment Group offices, Wanniasa, 7 pm.

- **Wednesday 1 August**, BCS Training Room (Old Kippax Health Centre, i.e. **GCG office building**), Kippax Place, Holt, **7 pm**.
- Thursday 2 August, Jerrabomberra Wetlands, 11 am.
- Thursday 2 August, Field Nats and NPA meeting, Slatyer Seminar Rm, Building 46 Robertson, ANU, 7 pm.
- Friday 3 August, Cooma Ex-Services Club, 6 pm.

### ***Learn about Trail cameras, Murrumbateman, 7 pm Thursday 2 August***

Dr Heather McGinness, Senior Research Scientist at CSIRO Land and Water, is an ecologist who has been using wildlife monitoring cameras regularly for the last 7 years. She has used cameras in her scientific research to document and analyse: water level changes; vegetation changes; wildlife presence and numbers, including native and feral mammals, birds and reptiles; and most recently waterbird behaviour, chick development, nest success and predation. She has also used her own trail camera at home to document that feral rats rather than possums are eating her home-grown vegetables! Between work and home, Heather has experience with five brands of remote monitoring camera.

Dr McGinness will give a general overview of trail camera features and options, with some video clips and photos for illustration. Then our Treasurer, Sheridan Roberts, will briefly outline the capabilities of Murrumbateman Landcare Group's (MLG's) three Browning trail cameras and show some video clips taken by them. MLG's trail cameras are available to lend to financial members, and all three cameras will be available at the end of our meeting.

**All are welcome, even if you are not a member of MLG.** The talk will be in the back room at the Murrumbateman pub. If coming earlier for a pub dinner, please be there by 6:30 pm.

### ***'Chasing Australia's most elusive bird', Friday 10 August, U. Canberra***

**Dr Penny Olsen** (based at ANU) will speak about the hunt for **the Night Parrot**, on Friday 10 August, 11.30–12.30, at the **lecture theatre at University of Canberra Building 6 Floor C room 12**.

The first museum specimen of the Night Parrot was collected in 1845 but lay unnoticed and unrecognised until well into the 20th century. Since then the parrot has continued to elude seekers, revealing itself only intermittently and often sparking tensions over the reliability of sightings. The recent discoveries of small populations in south-east Queensland and the heart of Western Australia have only heightened interest in the bird and the mysteries of its biology.

### ***'Getting to know your native grasses' at Braidwood, Saturday 11 August***

Geoff Robertson (President of Friends of Grasslands) will talk about native grasses and grasslands and their management in the Braidwood area at this workshop, **9.30 – 12.30**, run by Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council, FOG and K2C.

*Bring along your own mystery grasses for possible identification.*

Free, with morning tea provided.

**Register** by phoning 02 4842 2594, or by email to: [upper.shoalhaven@gmail.com](mailto:upper.shoalhaven@gmail.com)

Nearer the date, the organiser will send details of the venue (in or near Braidwood) to those who have registered.

### ***Black Mountain symposium, 24 & 25 August***

**'The past 50 years informing the next 50':** **Friday 24 August, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm:** symposium program at CSIRO Discovery Centre Theatre followed by drinks and nibbles. **Saturday 25 August, 9:30 am – 12 noon:** themed walks at various locations on Black Mountain.

The symposium will follow three main themes: People and place; Black Mountain, the biophysical place; Natural history and values (covering plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates and fire ecology). The talks are underpinned by more than 20 background papers

written specially for the symposium by 15 local experts. **Register for the symposium via the website** <http://www.friendsofblackmountain.org.au/SymposiumRegister>

## ***21st Australasian Weeds Conference, 9–12 September, Sydney***

The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc., on behalf of the Council of Australasian Weed Societies Inc., is hosting the 21st Australasian Weeds Conference at Manly, in Sydney from 9 to 12 September 2018. To discuss new developments, go on field trips, and share information about cutting-edge and best weed management practices, register via <http://www.21awc.org.au>. Earlybird rego closes on 13 August.

## ***'Striving for Restoration Excellence', 25–28 September, Brisbane***

This is the conference of the Society for Ecological Restoration Australia, for people who care about the bush, sea & waterways: scientists, managers, practitioners, policy makers & planners. Earlybird rego is available until 'til 27 July. Details: <https://www.sera2018.org/>

## ***National Landcare Conference 2018, 10–12 October, Brisbane***

'Landcare – Building a Better Tomorrow' is the title of this year's conference. Registrations are now open for the conference and awards. Details are at <http://www.nationallandcareconference.org.au>. Earlybird rego (extended) ends on **12 August** (11.59 pm!), and there is a huge discount to register if you are a volunteer landcarer, i.e. not paid to do it. GCG and one of our group convenors are nominated in the national awards, so it would be great to have lots of GCG landcarers at the conference! **The organisers have just announced that Pip Courtney, host of Landline on ABC TV, will MC the conference and awards gala dinner.**

## ***Biodiversity and Climate Change Roadshow – 31 October Queanbeyan***

The Biodiversity Node of the NSW Adaptation Research Hub is running a series of free roadshows, on the theme 'How can we conserve species from the impacts of climate change?'. This is a day of tailored training with leading climate adaptation researchers and practitioners, which will suit conservation practitioners at all levels. Explore interactive adaptation web tools; ask questions, engage in discussion & connect with other adaptation researchers & practitioners. More information: Victoria Graham, phone 02 9850 6298 or email [Victoria.graham@mq.edu.au](mailto:Victoria.graham@mq.edu.au)

**To register:** <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/biodiversity-climate-change-roadshow-queanbeyan-tickets-47943605615>

## ***12<sup>th</sup> Australasian Plant Conservation, Conference, 11–15 November***

'Moving house – a new age for plant translocation and restoration' is the title of this week-long conference at CSIRO Canberra ACT. Abstracts are due by **Friday 27 July**, and earlybird registrations close on **Friday 31 August**. If you join the ANPC you receive a discount on the registration fees. Find out more about APCC12, and register, at <http://anpc.asn.au/conferences/2018>.

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