

Landcare awards to GCG people!

A short December 2019 Ginninderra Catch-Up



Winning landcarers from GCG

Congratulations to all the sterling landcarers whose work was recognised with awards at the ACT Landcare Awards in November.

And **special congratulations to these winners who are affiliated with GCG:**

John Brannan – Highly Commended – Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award (*John is on the left in the photo above, with Karissa Preuss and Wally Bell*)

Lyn Jenkins – Winner of the new ACT Local Hero Award

Frogwatch Climate Change Project – Commended – The ACT Citizen Science Award

Ginninderra Grassland Restoration Project – Highly Commended – Australian Government Partnerships Award

Parkcare – Winner of the Australian Government Partnerships Award.

The ACT Landcare Awards for 2019 were held at Lambrigg Station in Tharwa. The full list of award winners is at <https://landcareact.org.au/2019-landcare-act-awards-celebrate-outstanding-landcare-champions/>.

Christmas and New Year's closedown

The GCG office will be **closed from 24 December** and **reopen on Monday 6 January**.

GCG communicating widely in 2020

For 2020, GCG is currently planning a number of communication activities of varying types and in a range of places, reaching out to people in this catchment and wider. Currently we are thinking out themes and practical details. This note is a heads-up to mark your diaries for **12 January** and **1 February** and **22 February**.

On **Sunday 12 January**, the team at the Museum of Australian Democracy has invited GCG and others to display how we are promoting active citizenship and community building. GCG's display materials will focus on our member groups' landcare activities, Waterwatch and Frogwatch, based largely on photos and reports already on hand.

For Sunday 2 February, World Wetlands Day, we are planning to celebrate on the Saturday of that weekend (**1 February**) to draw attention to the role of wetlands in keeping GCG creek waters clean. There will be an opportunity to hear about the new infrastructure developed as part of the ACT Government Healthy Waterways Program.

We will be hoping to see GCG folk at both displays, as visitors rather than explainers, though anyone who would like to help the office staff on these days will be welcome! Please contact Fiona, Projects@ginninderralandcare.org.au, to be involved.

Then on **Saturday 22 February**, there will be a workshop on Bees, Butterflies and Birds: Maximising Biodiversity by Supporting Pollinators. This is a joint event by ACT for Bees, and Landcare ACT. It would be great if we can showcase some of the work landcarers do in supporting pollinators in the Ginninderra catchment.

What happened at the AGM and Christmas Party??

At the AGM on Monday 2 December, members of the landcare groups, Executive, staff, and others, heard about the strong achievements of GCG during 2019. The Convenors' and Staff Reports are available at the office. The Executive was appointed for another year: Sandy (Convenor), Ken (Deputy Convenor), John (Treasurer), Ann (Communication/Education Officer), Rajvi and Wally (Committee members). We are looking for a Secretary and a person to support Ann on the Newsletter – please contact the office if you are interested. We are expecting that 2020 will be another great year with our landcare groups and citizen science (Waterwatch/Frogwatch) volunteers, and that we can secure a strong sustainable funding base. The Christmas party afterwards (also 2 December) was an opportunity to thank staff and volunteers

for all their tireless passion and commitment to landcare during the year, and to be entertained by the young members of the North Belconnen Landcare Group.

Frogwatch in print, and other news!

ARTICLE: Anke Maria and others have produced an academic paper about the Frogphone, which is now in print. This is a brilliant story, which can be accessed at <https://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/dial-frog-researchers-develop-frogphone-remotely-call-frogs-wild/>,

and is outlined in an article by UNSW Canberra, at:

<https://www.unsw.adfa.edu.au/%E2%80%98frogphone%E2%80%99-provides-new-platform-environmental-studies>.

DINNERS: Anke Maria will be cooking dinner, as promised, for Frogwatchers who have reported the most surveys in the 2019 monitoring: **Mark Smith**, 66 surveys in 2019, of which 29 were done in October; **Jenny Clarke**, 38 surveys across all of 2019 and **Roger Hnatiuk**, 26 surveys across all of 2019. Other guests being thanked on the night (date to be announced) for their contributions to the October FrogCensus shall be: **Darcy and Nat O'Rourke**, 18 surveys; **Deb Kellock**, 18 surveys; and **Frances FitzGibbons**, 16 surveys.

AND: PLEASE REMEMBER TO **UPLOAD YOUR SURVEY DATA** IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO. To see how to do it, look online at <https://ginninderralandcare.org.au/frogs/> and <https://ginninderralandcare.org.au/category/news/>.

Snakes alive! is at ANBG: 13–19 January 2020

Step into the cool Crosbie Morrison Building at the Botanic Gardens during *Snakes Alive!*, 10 am–4 pm, to see frogs, turtles, lizards, snakes and crocodiles. Feeding times are at 11 am and 2 pm daily. This year, goannas are the stars of the show, including representatives of the local species: Rosenberg's Monitor and Lace Monitor. Tickets at <http://www.actha.org.au/tickets.html>, or at the door: \$6 (\$5) adults, \$4 children.

Happy Christmas and best hopes for a good new year (with rain)! from the GCG team at the office (Karissa, Fiona, Anke Maria, Bruno, Julian) and the Executive (Sandy, Ken, John, Rajvi, Wally and Ann)!

Ginninderra Catchment Group connects, supports and leads local communities to improve the health of Ginninderra Creek and

surrounding environments.

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

Email landcare@ginninderralandcare.org.au

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