



Reports from Community Groups in the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning area 2015-16



Local People | Local Issues | Local Action

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**ANGAS RIVER
CATCHMENT GROUP**

Angas River Catchment Group

Firstly, a big thank you (from me, Sherie) to the Angas River Catchment Group committee for their support in assisting me in my first year as ARCG Project Officer and to all the members of the group for their support and enthusiasm in our projects and events. The group has once again been supported through the Strathalbyn Natural Resource Centre (SNRC), the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association, the South Australian Murray Darling Basin Natural Resource Management Board, the Alexandrina Council and the District Council of Mt Barker.

The Angas River Catchment Group has been successful in managing a 25th Anniversary Community Landcare Grant, an SGIC Grant and a small NRM volunteer grant in the last 12 months as well as obtaining additional funding through Alexandrina Council and Landcare Australia. The SNRC Project has had the capacity to assist with the implementation of these grants.

Our group has been successful in obtaining some on-going support to assist with the management of urban reserves in the Strathalbyn township this year through the Alexandrina Council and have had some continued support for Macclesfield urban biodiversity reserves through the District Council of Mt Barker.

25th Anniversary Landcare grant – Community Restoration of Significant Eucalyptus Woodlands in Macclesfield.

This project has enabled the group to continue to work with Macclesfield Bushcare Group with pest plant management at seven urban biodiversity reserves in the Macclesfield region. The project incorporated the development of a management plan for the Macclesfield Effluent Reserve and further plans will be written to include individual chapters for each of the other six reserves to highlight connectivity and on-going work.

Betty Westwood Reserve Burnside Track

An SGIC Grant of \$4,936.00 for the Restoration of Peppermint Box Woodland along Burnside Track, has seen significant changes to this recently closed off road reserve. The grant has assisted bush carers who have been working at this site for the last 15 years to have some contractor support to carry out weed management. A successful group planting day saw over 400 seedlings planted into the site in June.

Strathalbyn Reserves

Alexandrina Council has assisted with funding to continue management works through reserves in and around Strathalbyn. Weed control has been undertaken by contractors through Burnside Creek, Dawson Creek, Wylie Avenue and Lockaba reserve, including

selective grass control, revegetation maintenance and follow up WONS control in areas of the creek line. 250 sedges have been planted into North Creek at Wylie Ave, by a volunteer planting day. Funding assistance has also enabled the continued management and maintenance of the North Parade Wetland.

The group has continued on with work previously carried out through the Community Action Grant and NRM Grant which commenced the removal of Aleppo Pines in the Strathalbyn Archery/ Cemetery Site in 2010. This has involved continuation of the bridal creeper and scabiousus weed removal program. Bush care has continued in the Cemetery which is making some excellent progress within this site. Thanks to the volunteers, both Bush for Life and the ARCG, involved there. In the Cemetery area of the reserve, we have create signs which portray the important relationship between the Sour Bush, Sugar Ant, Small Bronze Azure Butterfly and the Possum. This was made possible through a small NRM grant.

Website Redevelopment

This year we have worked with a University of South Australia student, to have our website redeveloped. It is still a work in progress as we are experimenting with how to change things but hopefully it will become a valuable contact point for the group and with lots of useful local information available. Website address: <http://communitywebs.org/angasrivercg/>

BioBlitz

In April this year Department of Environment and Natural Resources conducted an experimental BioBlitz in the Angas River looking at water quality, macroinvertebrates and vegetation throughout the Angas River Catchment. Volunteers were engaged to assist with all monitoring aspects undertaken on the day and now have a useful baseline data set that hopefully we can add to over coming years.

Our Place Program

Jodie Sommerville, GWLAP, and Eastern Fleurieu School Strathalbyn have been working with ARCG on an 'Our Place' program aimed at connecting school students with a community group and local place, in our case the Angas River. Three outings have occurred with the first a walk along the river to the cemetery, looking at Peppermint Box Woodland habitat, a second being a tour of the catchment from Flaxley to Milang and a third looking at 'Who Lives Here' – fish, bats and riparian habitat as well as the development and role of the North Parade Wetland.





Clayton Bay Nursery and Environment Group

The Clayton Bay Nursery has become a hub for propagation and plant management, a base for on-ground works & equipment, and a welcome cuppa and a chat are guaranteed.

Volunteers

Tuesdays - up to 10 volunteers Thursdays 2-3 volunteers

Volunteers also 'check' the nursery daily, especially during the summer growing period.

Volunteer hours 2015 – 2016 – **4047.5 hrs**

The Green Army through GWLAP has also assisted with propagation & foreshore maintenance.

Propagation

160 species were propagated at the nursery this year. The majority of plants were contracted for through the CLLMM project for revegetation sites at Clayton, Langhorne Creek & Hindmarsh Island, and a fair number were sold through planned sale events as well as weekend and mid-week open days at the nursery.

Contracted works

Alexandrina contracted CBNEG to design & plant the caravan park following the installation of the new septic system. Over 700 plants were put in by volunteers, with contracted maintenance to be done by our group. The space will take 12 months to grow on, and will become an attractive entry into the town.

Around the trail - maintenance

With the end of the CLLMM maintenance period in September, Alexandrina Council is now responsible for the weed control around the trail. GWLAP & Council staffs have met with CBNEG reps to discuss weed control & maintenance of the foreshore. CBNEG volunteers have done a vast amount of work to remove weeds and encourage native grasses through regular mowing, brush cutting and hand pulling. Mulching around plants (Dunn's Lagoon side) has also reduced the growth of weeds to date, and should greatly reduce the germination of caltrop at that site.

Several residents have taken on maintenance of a patch of the trail with planting & weed control through hand pulling & mowing weeds, therefore encouraging native grasses germination and survival.

Planting

Clayton Bay community groups CBNEG, CBCAI & CFS joined forces to plant 3000 seedlings at Clayton. 3 other community groups from the district were also contracted to plant at Clayton a total of 7450. CBNEG volunteers also planted an additional 350 plants round the trail.

Grants

CBNEG were successful with applications for 2 grants this year (\$3679 total) to purchase tools and equipment required for ongoing maintenance of the trail, and health & safety equipment for volunteers.

Big day out

CBNEG volunteers were treated to the annual 'big day out'. This year we drove in the MOSHCC bus to Barossa Bush Gardens where ideas for our nursery were discussed, then on to visit Barossa Venom Supplies – another successful 'Big Day Out'..

New members & volunteers are always welcome

There is a variety of jobs that are required for management of the nursery and foreshore trail. These include: propagation by seed & cuttings, seed collection, seed cleaning, record keeping, mowing, brush-cutting, hand weeding, infrastructure maintenance, construction, weeding pots, washing pots, photo point vegetation monitoring, water monitoring, frog monitoring & administration to assist with all of the above.

The nursery is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 am – 4 pm, & monthly on Sunday mornings during the planting period. Plants also available at Sails on weekends



Doctors Creek Landcare Group

Doctors Creek is a significant tributary to the Angas River; you cross over it when travelling between Strathalbyn and Macclesfield.

For more than 15 years, Landcare Group members have been involved in efforts to enhance land and water management within the Doctors Creek catchment to promote biodiversity, sustainable primary production and a healthy environment.

Over the past 12 months, members have continued to maintain and extend previous work to manage their properties as time and resources allow. This has included and been supported by:

- Managing weeds in existing native vegetation, regeneration and revegetation areas while eradicating weeds in new sites in preparation for further revegetation generally accounts for the major amount of effort. It is exciting to see small understory plants, grasses and native lilies and orchids continuing to spread in some areas as a result of weed and stock management, while native terrestrial and water plants continue to spread when given some relief from weedy species.
- Growing and planting tube stock, some of which has been propagated from local seed and cuttings by members. Potting soil, tubes and guards from previous bulk purchases have supported this.
- Revegetation of riparian and dryland sites to extend corridors, increase diversity of species, reduce erosion, and generally expand existing plantings for natural and production benefits, with variable success and learnings. Even visitors get involved in planting activities – an initiative that generates lasting effects, for both the property and the visitors.
- Connecting members with resources, access to advice and practical assistance, much of which has been provided through the Goolwa-Wellington LAP.
- Capacity building through member participation in various free workshops and sessions made available through the LAP, Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin and others including Cornerstone College Purtinga Environment Centre and Macclesfield Bushcare Group. Topics have included St Johns Ambulance First Aid Training, Chemical Handling Workshop, Feral Cat Management, and Native Bees. One member also participated in the SA Landcare Conference with LAP funding support.
- Informal monitoring of birds, animal and plant species (native and exotic), to track changes and identify implications for ongoing Group efforts. This is increasingly undertaken within the context and discussion of more dramatic weather and climate pattern variability.

The Landcare Group welcomes new members.

Doctors Creek Landcare Group acknowledges the Goolwa-Wellington LAP and Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin for their continued support of community groups and property managers in our area.



Canadian visitors learning how to plant trees



Common Donkey Orchid reappearing on old farm land.



Finniss Catchment Group

The Finniss Catchment Group (FCG) has continued to enjoy its work caring for the environment and monitoring changes throughout the area. As in previous years, the main practical activities have focussed on propagation of plants at the nursery, weed control and restoration along approximately 9 km of the banks of the lower reaches of the Finniss and monitoring water quality at the seven sites from Yundi through to Winery Road.

We are grateful to the support we have received from the South Australian Murray Darling Basin Natural Resource Management, the Department of Water and Natural Resources and the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning.

Events of the year started in August 2015 when the Finniss Catchment Group was honoured to receive the inaugural Natural Resources SAMDB Citizen Science Award for Outstanding Achievement. A Field Day was held by the River in October. Many thanks to the Suttons for hosting this successful event and to Kerri Muller for interesting historical details and information about inter-relationships between some of the native plants along the river banks and the effects of weeds. Helen Fenton has done an amazing job as Manager of the Nursery.

We are sad to see work there suspended from the end of August 2016, but happy with what has been achieved.

Changes are also expected in Water Watch where there is a re-examination of the relationship between information gathered by community members and what is required by scientists and others for water management decisions. The exact outcome of this process is as yet unclear.

Derek has been tireless in his pursuit of weeds, cooking cakes and keeping us busy. Results of removing weeds from some areas of the riparian zones are very rewarding. Throughout the year, we have been very happy to welcome a number of new volunteers who have joined us in activities and enjoyment of the beautiful Finniss River and its environs.

Sally Richards

Flaxley Landcare Group

During the last twelve months the main activity in Flaxley has been tackling the weeds along Strathalbyn Road, in particular the area where the ivy that had become very invasive and was impacting the native vegetation in the area.

We obtained a grant of \$19,250 as part of the 25th Anniversary Landcare Grants and contracted Creation Care to spray the ivy, pittosporum, bridal creeper, broom, blackberry and any other weeds impacting our native vegetation. Further follow-up will be undertaken over the coming years, but already there has been a dramatic improvement and a source of seed removed from being spread by the birds and wind.

The Group will continue to monitor, in particularly the area near the Bushcare site.

Margaret Wilksch

Kanmantoo-Callington Landcare Group

The Kanmantoo-Callington Landcare Group continues to be active and take on new projects. The main activities this year were 1) continuing the establishment of the Callington Nature Garden, 2) planting at the Kanmantoo Bike Track and 3) lobbying the Murray Bridge Council for a reserve at corner of East Tce and Steele Road. Once again the GWLAP Green Army was enlisted to help weed and plant on three occasions which was a great support. In all, over 900 hours of volunteer work were completed.

Callington Hall Nature Garden

We were successful in getting a grant from SAMDBNRM to put in irrigation pipes & taps.

There were 5 working bees, with up to 32 people coming to help, including many non-Landcare people. The Garden is being very well-used by locals. An official opening is planned for August 2016.

Kanmantoo Bike Track

This is the first time the Landcare group has planted around the bike track on Mine Road. Feedback on the design of planting was provided by local children who use the track. Hillgrove Resources gave us \$500 for plants. The Mount Barker Council supported the project. One community working bee was held with 27 people helping.

Steele Road Reserve, Callington

The Landcare Group was made aware by Councillor Airlie Keen of the end of a lease arrangement for the 120m x 60m plot at the corner of East Tce and Steele Road. A sausage sizzle was held in May to inform and get ideas from the community, attended by 27 locals. Two Landcare members spoke to a Murray Bridge Council meeting in June with a request to pass the 'care and control' over to us. We look forward to a successful result.

Callington Show

The topic for the KCLG stall at the Callington Show 2015 was soil. Harry Beauchamp from SAMDB NRM had activities for children, Jo Clark from Eastern Hills & Murray Plains LAP and Sherie Bain from GWLAP came to answer questions from the public and give away some plants. All were kept busy. Landcare members also were busy discussing local issues and our activities, and we gained several new members.

There were activities every month which included our usual meetings, working bees to plant, guard, weed or remove guards, field trips and social occasions. We greatly appreciate the support of GWLAP, SAMDBNRM, EH&MP and Hillgrove Resources.

Rose Ashton



Planting at Kanmantoo Bike Track, 5th June 2016



Community Sausage Sizzle at Steele Road, Callington, 22nd May 2016

Macclesfield Bushcare Group

The Macclesfield Bushcare Group is a small group that cares for and is continuing to protect and enhance remnant vegetation and encourage bush regeneration in six Council reserves in Macclesfield. The volunteers continue to enhance the remnant vegetation and encourage natural regeneration by removing threats in some of the reserves and increase biodiversity in others by planting local indigenous species.

Funding through a Federal government 25th Anniversary of Landcare grant obtained by the Angas River Catchment Group has significantly assisted the work of the group by enabling contract weed control to be undertaken. This grant enabled weed control to be carried out in The Day Paddock, The Night Paddock, the Cemetery Reserve, Lord Robinson Park / Crystal Lake, the Stone Reserve and The Gummy Track, and for a management plan and guided walk to be undertaken for the Sewage Ponds reserve which is another important area of native vegetation in our area.

The Day Paddock

The Bushcare group holds a working bee in The Day Paddock Park once a month on the first Sunday of the month, to undertake bush regeneration focussing on the removal of Gorse, Sparaxis, Pussy-tail Grass, Monadenia, Bridal Creeper and other weeds. An annual Monadenia (South African orchid) patrol is also undertaken with children from the Macclesfield Primary School. The Grant funding also enabled some contract work to be undertaken by a couple of different contractors who removed more Gorse and carefully sprayed Sparaxis. This bushland reserve has a high diversity of species and the areas cleared of weeds are regenerating well.

The Night Paddock

This watercourse in this reserve has been fenced off for water quality protection and biodiversity improvement. Some planting along the creek and some weed control has been undertaken with the assistance of a Green Army team.

Lord Robinson / Crystal Lake Park

The focus over the last year was on the riparian area along the Angas River. The grant funding has provided contract assistance for weed control and further planting in the park. Sparaxis control was undertaken again on another section on the eastern side of the river. The Green Army team assisted with removal of gorse and some planting. The rare species planted in the park are growing well. Members attended the Bioblitz training by the SAMDB NRM and DEWNR officers and monitoring points have been established in the park.

The Stone Reserve

Volunteers who live around the park and volunteers with the Trees For Life, Bush For Life Bush Action Team programme have continued to care for this park. Grant funding has enabled work to continue on control of gorse and other weeds to encourage regeneration of the native species.

The Gummy Track

Further work continued along the track to control Blackberry, Wild Rose and Watsonia with the assistance of grant funding. Contractors and the Green Army have assisted with this

work. The Green Army included mapping training and produced a map of the track indicating where weeds are and where there is good vegetation.

The Cemetery Reserve

Grant funding enabled further control of woody weeds in the native vegetation surrounding the burial grounds. Bridal Creeper throughout the reserve was also treated for the first time with this funding. The contractors who did this work were amazed at the number of orchids already flowering there this season after the good winter rains we have had.

We would like to thank the Angas River Catchment Group and the Federal Government for the grant, and the Goolwa to Wellington LAP and Mt Barker Council for their assistance over the years.

We can see the results of our continuous dedication to many hours of primary clearance and then follow-up removal of weeds over 20 years, allowing the native plants to bounce back in areas of good vegetation and the growth of the many seedlings planted and nurtured in areas which were more degraded, that are improving diversity and habitat.

The reserves are an important part of the Macclesfield community providing some of the natural spaces so crucial to human health but more importantly we hope that by caring for them we are improving the health of the plants and animals that live there.

Come and join us if you would like to assist.

Sue Bradstreet



Crystal Lake Plantings

POINT STURT AND DISTRICTS LANDCARE GROUP INC.

Point Sturt and Districts Landcare Group

Point Sturt and Districts Landcare Group is looking for a replacement Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and committee members to refresh the group, and this has been discussed briefly at a number of committee meetings.

In spite of this the business of the Landcare Group has continued.

- Members who have placed orders have been provided with trees for planting on their properties.
- Bruce Allnutt and Alan King have spent many hours progressing the Hundred of Alexandrina history book first researched by Terry Sim, and Wendy Gumpl has commenced researching women's stories for inclusion.
- Anne and Bruce met with Terry Sim to discuss copyright usage of Terry's original research. The copyright to that material now resides with the Landcare Group, and in addition Terry also has the right to use that material.
- The Landcare Reserve has been the focus of a number of meetings with planners of the Goolwa to Wellington LAP CLLMM Community Revegetation Project and Alexandrina Council staff. Discussions have included dolomite for the winter wet areas of the access track, boundary fencing, the private provision of two thank you seats, and the erection of the Landcare Reserve sign. Discussions have also included the planning of the official opening of the Landcare Reserve by Mayor Keith Parkes, and combining it with a Goolwa to Wellington LAP function to thank all the staff and volunteers who have worked on the CLLMM Community Revegetation Project.
- In addition a small Alexandrina Council Community Environment Grant has been submitted to provide ongoing weed control, and to fund some educative plant identification signs for the Reserve.

The Landcare Group thanks, and is particularly appreciative of the support provided by LAP staff members Kerri Bartley and Leah Hunter throughout this year.

Anne Hartnett



Signal Point Riverine Environment Group Inc.

The group has remained active again this year with 13 members contributing approximately 350 volunteer hours over the past twelve months, we would like to acknowledge the Natural History Centre at Goolwa for the use of their meeting room for our meetings and also extend our thanks to the GWLAP for sponsoring our Volunteer small grants to purchase an Anabat Express bat monitoring unit also for their continued support with the annual Community Acid Sulfate Soil monitoring which SPREG members have been involved with since August 2009, printing and for providing valuable workshops throughout the year through Natural Resources SA MDB funding.

Community Surface Water Monitoring – Natural Resources SA MDB

The group has continued with our seasonal water quality monitoring on our five Currency Creek catchment sites, Tookayerta creek, Wally's landing and Lovejoy Swamp on the Finniss, in total 32 surveys were carried out by seven volunteers.

In winter 2015 department staff installed water level gauge boards at our 5 Currency Creek sites, however in summer 2016 two of the five sites were reading below the gauge board levels.

Regina also attended a department Waterwatch meeting representing SPREG due to the group's long term water quality monitoring in the region, we are awaiting to hear what changes may take place to this project.

Frog monitoring – Natural Resources SA MDB/GWLAP

Group members participated in the Community Frog Monitoring project in the Coorong, Lower Lakes & Murray Mouth (CLLMM) region conducting 77 surveys between September 2015 and January 2016 across 30 sites, in total seven species were recorded including the EPBC Vulnerable listed Southern Bell frog. We would like to thank the following landholders for allowing us to survey on their properties; Alexandrina Station, Watkins, Brian Griffin, Jon Lovejoy, Clem Mason, Nature Foundation, Salty, Pam Warneke and Kevin Wells.

Revegetation

This year the group was contracted to plant 990 plants for the GWLAP CLLMM Community revegetation project at Tolderol Game Reserve, we partnered with Fleurieu Birdwatchers for this seasons planting with funds raised to be donated for on ground works at Tolderol Game Reserve, also assisting with the planting on the day was Bob Whinnen from the Conservation & Hunting Alliance of South Australia (CHASA) with Tolderol Working Group members assisting to help plant the final 271 plants.

Guest speakers

Ben Simon from GWLAP was our guest speaker at our 2015 AGM presenting on on ground works in the Hills region and also on the work with Goolwa Coastcare – SPREG donated

\$500 to Goolwa Coastcare to assist with the valuable works this group provides in our region.

We also had the pleasure of Rena Robinson from Wildlife Welfare present at one of our general meetings on their new Rescue & Rehabilitation centre at Goolwa and the rehabilitation they provide our injured native fauna – SPREG donated \$500 to assist the group with this valued service.

We look forward to another busy year ahead and are excited to include bat monitoring to our suite of monitoring activities.

Regina Durbridge
SPREG Chair

