



PROJECT UPDATE

CONGRATULATIONS!!

The hard work and achievements of the Sixth Creek Catchment Group in supporting landholders within Sixth Creek Catchment is recognised as very important.

How can we make this claim? Because the Board of the Mt Lofty Ranges Catchment Program have approved the maximum level of funding for their Major On-Ground



Works Program to the Sixth Creek Catchment Group for 2000/2001. So Congratulations! This means that we have \$150,000 available for onground works in 2000/2001.

To the Landholders that have made this such a successful project, Congratulations and keep up the great work!

What we have achieved!

From the inception of the Sixth Creek Catchment Group, the Group has worked hard to produce professional and detailed funding applications which would allow the Group to assist landholders with on-ground works. This has produced great results. In our first funding year, 1999/2000 we aimed to have 40 landholders across six pilot sites agreeing to undertake or commence on ground works. We have achieved this.

The Publicity and Training Working Group is working hard on producing an information kit for landholders. This will ensure that the information is relevant to the Sixth Creek. We will be working in conjunction with government agencies and groups like the CFS to ensure that the information is accurate and relevant.

Our Project Officer, Tania Norton has

been working closely with Basket Range Landcare Group member, Bob Pappin to develop a computer-based system to help manage the 6th Creek Project. This package is being shared with Landcare and Catchment groups who all have to report regularly to the Mt Lofty Ranges Catchment Program

The On Ground Working Group oversees the approval of funding for on ground works and keeps a close eye on how funds are allocated and how much is allocated for each property.

As funding from the Mt Lofty Ranges Catchment Program has been approved for next financial year, Expressions of Interest will be sent to some landholders inviting them to participate in the program as we extend the work out from our initial sites. However, this does not preclude anyone interested in some assistance in contacting us to see if we can help.

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Cudlee Creek Forest Project Update

ForestrySA Cudlee Creek Forest is located in the Mt Lofty Ranges 25 km North East of Adelaide and is managed by ForestrySA. The forest consists of 1467 hectares of land that forms a significant part of the north eastern section of the Sixth Creek Catchment area.

The Forest includes two Native Forest Reserves covering 683 hectares that contain significant areas of remnant native vegetation. The forest also contains 229 hectares of pine and trial hardwood plantation. The remaining 555 hectares of land is undergoing an extensive rehabilitation program with the aim of restoring native vegetation and improving the conservation value of these areas. This program includes the removal of pine regeneration that have become established since the 1983 Ash Wednesday Bushfire, pest plant and pest animal control programs and the establishment of native vegetation through natural regeneration or revegetation programs.

On-ground works for 1999/2000 are progressing well with the focus being the Sixth Creek Catchment (SCCG) - Fox Creek Project Site that has been partly funded by the SCCG. Work at the site has included revegetation of 12 hectares of flood plain and creek banks along a 1.3 km section of the creek. This has included the preparation of a site plan, direct seeding by machine and hand and seedling planting by contractors as well as seedling planting by Friends of the Forests volunteers. This site was chosen to complement willow removal and blackberry control undertaken in 1999 with funding assistance from the TWCMB. The site is also visible from Fox Creek Road and is a good location to promote SCCG and ForestrySA on-ground works programs.

In recent months there has been a concentrated effort to remove pine regeneration from the section of forest located on

the western side of Fox Creek Road. A total of 40 hectares of pine regeneration will be cleared by the end of June and will be followed up by weed control programs. Once weed control is completed in this area a site plan will be prepared and a revegetation program will commence.

Over the last seven months Native Forest Ranger, Trevor Ferguson and SCCG Project Officer Tania Norton have been hard at work undertaking weed mapping in the Forest. They are using this information to develop a GIS database that will improve the present planning and implementation of weed control programs.



Tania Norton and Trevor Ferguson working together revegetating the Fox Creek Project Site

Other works being undertaken in the forest include:

- On-going weed control and revegetation programs in the Mt Misery area located in the central part of the Forest
- Pine regeneration removal and weed control in the section of forest located on the eastern side of Fox Creek Road.
- A fox baiting program in March that was part of a coordinated program throughout the area by the MLRAPCB.
- A bird survey by Friends of the Forests volunteers, Andrew and Richard Tiver.

Andrew Moylan
Coordinator, Community Programs
ForestrySA

Torrens Catchment Water Management Board supports Sixth Creek Program

The Torrens Catchment Water Management Board has watched with interest the first year of operation of the Sixth Creek Catchment Group. The group has achieved a number of significant outcomes in terms of community commitment, on-ground actions, partnerships with agencies, organisations and industries, resources available to the community and developing skills of community members.

The Board is proud to be associated with this program. In this financial year the Board has invested dollars and staff resources that support the program as follows:

- Nineteen properties with works worth \$55,230.00

▪ Sixth Creek Project Officer	\$14,400.00
▪ Agency public land works	\$20,000.00
▪ Water Quality Monitoring	\$25,000.00
▪ Natural Resources Manager input	\$5,800.00

In recognition of the concerted effort of the Sixth Creek Catchment community, the Board, in a review of its Watercourse Rehabilitation program, is likely to commit additional resources for on-ground works in the catchment. The structure of how these resources will be allocated is yet to be confirmed but the success of the program is providing the Board with a degree of trust that can recognise further empowerment of the community.

Eye Catching Signs soon to appear throughout Sixth Creek

These eye catching signs have been developed by the Publicity & Training Working Group to acknowledge the hard work of landholders within the Sixth Creek On Ground Works Program and to draw attention to the extent of the Sixth Creek Program.

The signs are an important way for the Catchment Group to acknowledge the important role that its supporting groups and organisations play in the success of the Group.



The main section of the Property Signs which will soon be seen throughout Sixth Creek

On Ground Works Rehabilitation Site

Marble Hill Hall - An OPPORTUNITY!

Over the last couple of years, the hall has had major upgrades to the interior. The next phase of the Hall development will focus on the exterior!

The Sixth Creek Catchment Group are currently negotiating with members of the Hall Advisory Committee to see if the Hall can be a focus for information on environmental issues, and used as an example of landscaping using local species.

It would be wonderful to see a joint project focusing on:

- Ideas and energy from the local community,
- Involvement of young people who currently use the hall for school social and fundraising events and who will inherit the facilities for future use,
- Opportunities to display useful information for tourists,
- Opportunities to raise community awareness of environmental issues AND provide information and links to the help available.

Upcoming Events

August

There will be a morning walk looking at establishing a garden using local indigenous species.

When : Saturday 5th August 2000

Where: Corkscrew Road, Montacute

As numbers are limited please contact Tania Norton on ph 8408 0400 to register your interest.

September

A Free Chemical Use Workshop is offered to Sixth Creek landholders.

Where: Norton Summit Chambers

1 Crescent Drive, Norton Summit

When: Sunday 3rd September 2000 9:00am to 3:30pm.

As numbers are limited please phone Tania Norton on 8408 0400 to book your spot at this very important course.

November

In conjunction with the Mt Lofty Ranges Animal & Plant Control Board, there will be a Field Day at Cherryville. Watch this section for further information.

Other special events

- * Bushcare Workshop(s)
- * Land Management Course
- * Seed collection workshops through Basket Range Landcare Group
- * Walk through ForestrySA at Cudlee Creek.

In the near future, the Hall Committee will be meeting to discuss ideas for landscaping. This information will be discussed with the Adelaide Hills Council, who are responsible for the Hall. Some initial meetings were held in April to get the ball rolling. Autumn to early Spring are the best seasons for planting, if we are to avoid summer watering. A working bee will be held soon to prepare the site by removing weeds.

Do you have any ideas? Are you willing to be involved?

If so, please contact Pauline Hines on 83903165 after business hours.

Basket Range Primary School

Since receiving funding from the Natural Heritage Trust for the school's revegetation project, the school community and the Basket Range Landcare Group have worked together to realise an ambition to:

- a) Stimulate an appreciation of and a curiosity about local flora in the students;
- b) Provide an educational tool for teachers; and
- c) Rejuvenate a degraded area of community land.

The results so far are that:

- a) Paths have been made from the winning plan in a student competition. Students are covering the paths with pine bark.
- b) Weed spraying has been, and will be done at appropriate times.
- c) Some students have, with assistance from Margaret Crooks of the Landcare Group, collected and successfully propagated seed from plants growing in the school grounds during the summer holidays. Jenny Dillon, also from the Landcare Group has helped students in planting the seeds in tubes.
- d) Every student has planted a seedling in the area since the last heavy rain.
- e) Students are provided with information about individual plants, the concept of biodiversity, seed propagation and the need to care for the catchment area. This has been supported by educational programmes such as Kids Congress for Catchment Care, KESAB Water Monitoring and Greening Australia student forums and activities.
- f) Some students have, through the school environment club, participated in many environmental activities such as producing a play, competitions, making posters and bushcare work in the school area. Future plans include making a pond for frogs/native fish in the revegetation area and appropriate signage giving information about each different species of plant planted at the site.



To Contact the Catchment Group:
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 Chairman: Don Cranwell

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What is the Sixth Creek Catchment Group all about?

The Sixth Creek Catchment Group developed from the foundations of the Basket Range and Marble Hill Landcare Groups. The reason for the formation of the Sixth Creek Catchment Group was that the Landcare Groups knew that a broader catchment focus was necessary to extend their on ground works.

As a result, an initial meeting was held of interested parties in June 1998 and this resulted in the Sixth Creek Catchment Group being formed. A public meeting was held on 30 June 1998.

From input of interested parties and a survey of residents within the Sixth Creek Catchment area, the Sixth Creek Catchment Plan was written.

The aims of the Sixth Creek Catchment Group are to:

- Conserve, restore and expand existing areas of good quality habitat;
- Protect, manage and rehabilitate watercourses;
- Encourage and promote best practice land management techniques;
- Educate and inform the community to allow individuals to make best possible decisions in their property management; and
- Reduce the threat of bushfire through a management plan that includes vegetation management and bushfire reduction activities sympathetic to biodiversity conservation.

Birds - Your Experiences

Are birds your friend or foe?
 Do you know how to identify native and introduced birds?
 How do birds affect your business?
 Can birds be useful to growers?
 How do you encourage useful birds and discourage pest birds?
 Which species are endangered/threatened?
 What do you know about the legal responsibilities regarding bird control?



The Sixth Creek Project is interested in your views and experiences. Your input will help us to promote discussion of the issues, monitor the impact of environmental changes on birds and industry, and facilitate the development of environmental and industry-friendly programs. Watch out for more information soon. Please contact Tania Norton on 8408 0400 if you would like to share your experiences or are interested in this area.

Successful course leads to enjoyable days out

In conjunction with the Central Hills Soil Conservation Board, the Sixth Creek Catchment Group held its first six-week Land Management Course beginning in February. The feedback from the course participants was very positive and finished with a walk through Fernglen Estate back in April.



Participants at the Land Management Course are asked to identify plants.

Those that attended the Fernglen Walk enjoyed the morning so much that a second walk was recently held through the Cherryville Pilot Site.

The day dawned sunny and clear and the temperature was very comfortable for a stroll starting at the Hunters Road Bridge and ending at the creek on Wendy Willows' property at Cherryville for lunch. The aim of the day was to see what landholders were

doing on their property, what hardships they had faced, and what achievements they had made. For some that were just starting the often daunting challenge of cleaning up a property it was a great opportunity to learn from the mistakes of others and to realise there is light at the end of the tunnel, no matter how dim that light appears to be at the moment.

Another important benefit of courses such as the land management course, other than the many tips and hints that participants pick up, is the social network that is established. For some it is a chance to meet their neighbours, but for all it is a chance to share experiences and know that there are other people that you can contact for support or a bit of encouragement.



Everyone that attended the walk through Cherryville enjoyed the outing.

Any one interested in attending any of these walks, please contact Tania Norton on (ph) 84080400 to be