



PROJECT UPDATE

Funding Approval allows on ground works to continue

During January and February this year, this group, like all other groups seeking funding for on ground works, underwent the task of submitting funding applications for NHT (Natural Heritage Trust) funding.

A second application was submitted to the Mt Lofty Ranges Catchment Program to continue on ground works.

In July we received approval from the Mt Lofty Ranges Catchment Program Board for funding to the value of \$100,000.

In October, NHT advised that they have approved our on ground works program to the value of \$140,000.

This means that we can continue working with landholders already undertaking on ground works as well as working with residents in Cherryville to rehabilitate the burn area.

We also would like to hear from landholders who would like to be involved in this on ground works program.

National Parks & Wildlife SA and 6th Creek Catchment working together

National Parks and Wildlife (Lofty Barossa District) Parks in the 6th Creek Catchment Group are Burdetts Scrub, Marble Hill Conservation Park and Montacute Conservation Park.

NPWSA work in partnership with the 6th Creek Catchment board to achieve riparian amelioration in joint projects.

The funding for projects through the catchment enables NPWSA to achieve on-ground works that have not been previously achievable within normal budget allocations.

The projects include:

Marble Hill CP

Fuel reduction through fire management and Broom and Blackberry eradication in multiple zones.

Montacute CP

Blackberry and Broom eradication. The removal of these pest plant species will assist in the recovery of *Glycine latrobeana* population (Clover glysine is a legume from grassy woodlands with a deep purple

flower) which is listed nationally as vulnerable.

Burdetts Scrub

Contractors under supervision of a NPWSA Ranger complete Pest plant projects. In some instance Green Corps teams are used if they are available.

It is proposed that NPWSA Fire Brigade in association with local CFS Brigades completes fuel reduction burns, which also have a positive effect on weed control and the growth of native grasses, in 2002.

The Lofty Barossa District works in partnership in other catchment areas including:

Upper 4th Creek removing pest plants with follow up revegetation works; Torrens Gorge removing pines, Fountain grass, Rice millet, Ash, Broom, Olive and Bridal creeper; and 5th Creek Catchment for woody weed control.

Bryn Troath
Senior Ranger Lofty/Barossa District

ForestrySA - Cudlee Creek Forest Rehabilitation Program 2001/2002

On ground work for the Cudlee Creek Forest Rehabilitation Program has been progressing well during 2001. This is the third year of cooperative work with the SCCG and the fifth year with the Torrens Water Catchment Management Board.

This year's rehabilitation program includes \$110,000 allocated to wild pine removal and \$115,000 for

woody weed control. Revegetation work has included the planting of 10,500 seedlings over 30 hectares. There has also been \$4,500 allocated to fox and rabbit control.

Work on a weed mapping system for the forest is also progressing well with GIS development and support being provided by SCCG, Project Officer, Ms Tania Norton.

***Phytophthora* - causing root rot in a variety of plants.**

What is *Phytophthora*?

Phytophthora (pronounced FY-TOFF-THORA) is a fungus that lives in the soil and kills a wide variety of Australian native plant species, exotic fruits and vegetables. *Phytophthora* attacks the roots of plants and causes them to rot. This limits or stops the uptake of water and nutrients and the plant dies.

Where do we find *Phytophthora*?

The fungus is native to South-East Asia and has probably been introduced to Australia around 1900 by bringing in plants. In South Australia, it was first found in the Mount Lofty Ranges in early 1970's and on Kangaroo Island in 1993 possibly through transfer of plants or infested soil on earth moving equipment and other machinery. This deadly fungus is now known to exist in several Conservation Parks, National Parks, Forest Reserves and many Roadside Reserves in the Mount Lofty Ranges, Fleurieu Peninsula and on Kangaroo Island.

Which plants does *Phytophthora* kill?

More than 1,000 plant species are affected worldwide. The most susceptible native plant species in South Australia is the yacca or grass tree (*Xanthorrhoea* sp.). A group of dying or dead grass trees is generally a good indication of *Phytophthora* infection. Other susceptible native plant species are Banksia (*Banksia* sp.), Myrtle Wattle (*Acacia myrtifolia*), Cone-bush (*Isopogon ceratophyllus*), the Mount Lofty Bush-pea (*Pultenaea involucreta*) and many others. Numerous bird and animal species are at risk as these plants are their important food source or habitat.

Fruit and vegetables affected by *Phytophthora* are grapes, olives, apples, oranges, pears, peaches, apricots, tomatoes, avocados, almonds, walnuts, potatoes and others.

How does *Phytophthora* spread?

Phytophthora can spread from plant to plant through root contact. It is spread most rapidly when rainfall coincides with warm temperatures, generally in spring, summer and early autumn. The disease can spread very quickly with the help of 'artificial' factors such as human disturbance. The transport of infested soil and plant material by vehicles and heavy machinery (such as in fire fighting, logging and roadworks) is probably the single most important factor in the spread of this fungus. A bulldozer not cleaned after working in an infested area could easily spread the disease to an uninfested site many kilometres away. Bushwalkers, bike and horse riders can also spread the disease by transferring mud on their footwear, bike and hooves.

What can we do about it?

While we can't eradicate *Phytophthora* from an area once infested, we can modify our own behaviour to minimise the chance of transferring soil from one area to another.

Methods, which do not disturb the soil, such as mowing or slashing (rather than ploughing or grading) should be used in the construction of firebreaks. Firebreaks should be constructed or maintained in the uninfested part of the bushland first before moving into the infested area.

You can help by

- Planning your work during times when soils are dry.
- Avoid driving, riding or walking in areas when soils are wet and sticky.
- Stay on designated roads and tracks and obey road signs.
- Brush soil off vehicles, footwear, bikes and horse's hooves before and after each trip.
- Use wash down or hygiene stations where provided.
- Ensure that plants are free of *Phytophthora*
- Use your own hygiene kit.

What should be in a hygiene kit and what should you do?

A hygiene kit should contain:

- Hard brushes
- Bottle of disinfectant, such as methylated spirits (undiluted) or household bleach (dilute 10 times with water)
- Spray bottle

The cleaning procedure consists of simple 2 steps:

1. Dry brushing – remove all soil and plant material from footwear using the brushes.
2. Disinfection – spray the entire sole of your footwear with the spray bottle containing the disinfectant. Allow the sole of your shoe to dry for at least one minute. Don't forget to disinfect the brush used for cleaning your footwear. Avoid recontaminating your footwear.

Source: *Phytophthora* Newsletter, Dept Environment & Heritage, Sept 2001

Where has *Phytophthora* been found?

At present there are no reported infestations of *Phytophthora* within 6th Creek Catchment, however, Morialta Conservation Park, Cleland Wildlife Park, Mt Lofty Summit and Moores Road, Norton Summit are all known hotspots.

For more information please contact

Department of Environment and Heritage – Telephone 8552 0306

Or your local National Parks and Wildlife SA Office.

Black Hill Conservation Park

115 Maryvale Road

Athelstone SA 5076

Phone: 8336 0901



A yacca, killed by *Phytophthora*

Patawalonga and Torrens Watercourse Programs Aid Clean-up

A key strategy in improving water quality and protecting water-dependent ecosystems in the Patawalonga and Torrens catchments has been the work undertaken through the Boards' watercourse management assistance programs. These programs are one of the most visible and highly publicised of the Boards' initiatives in the rural and peri-urban parts of the catchments. The establishment of regional catchment management groups and land management programs throughout the hills is augmenting the works of these programs. The Sixth Creek Catchment Group was one of the first of these and there are now groups in the Upper Torrens, Mid Torrens, Sturt River/Minno Creek and Brownhill Creek. A group is just getting under way in Fourth Creek.

The long-term programs involve:

- developing a supportive relationship with the rural communities of their Catchment Board areas,
- offering funding incentives for a range of works such as exotic tree removal, fencing, woody weed control and revegetation,
- securing landholder commitment and investment in the program,
- maximising the effectiveness of Board and

landholder investments by developing partnerships with other relevant organisations, and

- ensuring an integrated program based upon a whole-of-catchment approach achieved through implementing holistic property management plans.

The programs for each Board have evolved differently and both programs are now being critically reviewed as the basis for developing Watercourse Management Assistance Programs in the 2002/2003 financial year and beyond.

The independent review will assess the performance of the programs, the type and level of landholder interest and commitment to the program. The audit will address three fundamental questions:

- are the Boards' investments achieving water quality improvements that are sustainable?
- can improvements be made to increase water quality, biodiversity and land management outcomes? and
- can the efficiency and effectiveness of program delivery be improved?

Consulting firm URS Pty Ltd has been appointed to undertake the audit and initial background investigations

Information Kits available for landholders

Ever wondered where to go to find the information that you need to help better manage your property or find the answers to your questions? FEAR NOT You are not alone. Many other people have the same problem so the Sixth Creek Catchment Group decided to try to provide many of these answers.

Over the past two years, with funding provided by the Mt Lofty Ranges Catchment Program and Natural Heritage Trust, the Publicity & Training Working Group have spent many hours visiting various government and industry agencies collecting available information relevant to land management, then sifting through the information to determine what is most relevant for landholders within the Catchment.

The final result is the Sixth Creek Catchment Group Information Kit. This kit is ready for distribution and will appear either in your hand or on your doorstep in the near future. The kits are also available for collection from the Norton Summit Office of the Adelaide Hills Council.

We hope that you will find this a very useful tool

Basket Range Environment Club (BREC's) Report

(as presented to the Basket Range Primary School AGM 2001)

When most of our club members left at the end of 2000, we wondered if our club would still exist. It does, with less members, but with plenty of the enthusiasm it has always had.

What have we done this year?

- Welcomed Tania Norton as our new coordinator
- Prepared a poster showing the 'Danny the Drip' story
- Did some fund raising for animal sponsorship
- We raised \$100 for animal sponsorship
- We raised almost \$100 for the Wildemess Society
- Worked with students from Cabra College in the revegetation area
- Planted more grasses, trees and bushes in the revegetation site
- Collected and pressed samples of native plants growing in the school area
- Did a folder of drawings for each class and the school library, showing plants growing in the revegetation site.
- Worked on the frog pond. Thanks to the Green Corp team for helping to finish the pond off for us.

Basket Range Recycling Centre is RE-OPENING!!

From Monday 19th November, 2001 the Centre will again recycle refundable cans and plastics, cardboard, newspaper, milk cartons, car batteries, bottles, tins, corks and aluminium foil etc.

The centre is run by volunteers from within the district. Any money raised will go to the upkeep of the Basket Range Community Hall and other local groups. It is planned to continue operating at this location until mid-2003 when the Adelaide Hills Council has completed its review of recycling in rural areas.

All recyclable material will be collected regularly by the Onkaparinga Waste & Recycling Management Pty Ltd. For information phone 8389 7561.

Contact for Recycling Centre: Lois Addison 8390 1935



**6TH CREEK
CATCHMENT GROUP**

To Contact the Catchment Group:
Project Officer: Tania Norton

C/- Norton Summit Office
Adelaide Hills Council
1 Crescent Drive
Norton Summit SA 5136

Phone: (08) 8408 0400
Fax: (08) 8390 1538
Email: tnorton@ahc.sa.gov.au

Who makes up the Sixth Creek Catchment Group?

The Sixth Creek Catchment Group developed from the foundations of the Basket Range and Marble Hill Landcare Groups as 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.

To this end, the group is served by a Project Management Committee and two working groups.

Project Management Committee: This committee consists of community members and agency staff and oversees the running of the Sixth Creek Catchment Group. This Committee has a dual role – to oversee the implementation of the funded project “Words into Action: On Ground Implementation of the Sixth Creek Catchment Plan” and Catchment Group matters, such as the AGM, and Membership.

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Chairperson: | Don Cranwell | 0407 728 878 |
| Vice Chairperson: | John Jessop | 8390 1176 |
| Secretary: | Bob Butler | 8390 1852 |
| Treasurer: | Margaret Crooks | 8390 3120 |
| Members: | Mike Bossley | 8390 3510 |
| | Sue Campbell | 8331 7127 |
| Agency Representatives: | Jane Tassie | NHT Adviser |
| | Liz Millington | Landcare Officer |
| | Andrew Moylan | ForestrySA |
| | Bryn Troath | National Parks |
| | John Wood | Torrens Board |

Members of this Committee were elected at the 2000 AGM:

There are also two working groups which oversee different aspects of the funded project – the On Ground Works Working Group and the Publicity & Training Working Group.

On Ground Works Working Group

Aims: This group is essentially responsible for overseeing the implementation of all aspects of on ground works which the group receives funding for. This includes the assessment of Detailed Works Plans prepared by/for landholders wishing to undertake on ground works and reporting to the Project Management Committee as to the allocation of funding.

Members:

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Don Cranwell | 0407 728 878 |
| Sue Campbell | 8331 7127 |
| Bob Butler | 8390 1852 |
| Trevor Ferguson (ForestrySA) | 8388 3761 |
| Bryn Troath (National Parks) | |

Publicity & Training Working Group

Aims: This group is responsible for publicising the activities of the Catchment Group and raising community awareness of land management issues, either through field days, information nights or workshops.

Members:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Margaret Crooks | 8390 3120 |
| John & Dieuwe Jessop | 8390 1176 |
| Don Cranwell | 0407 728 878 |
| Pauline Hines | 8390 3165 |
| Bill Spragg | 8390 2324 |
| Ian Henschke | 8390 2121 |
| (Andrew Moylan (ForestrySA) | |
| John Wood (Torrens Catchment Board)) | |

The Sixth Creek Catchment Group is supported by :

