



Finniss Catchment Group Inc.

Connecting people, plants and the environment

Finniss Catchment Group AGM - 11th August 2018

Chairperson's Report

I want to thank all our members - particularly Derek and Helen Fenton, Robyn and John Sutton and Bruce and Janette Brooks assisted in varying degrees by a number of other volunteers.

The last year has seen the Group proceed with catchment management tasks, tree propagation and watching and recording catchment statistics. This work has been undertaken by a dedicated yet dwindling group of local residents who are all getting older.

The Group continues to be well in funds and has useful assets. We need, however, for more younger people to become involved. At this AGM I recommend that the Group locate a PR person to improve the wider dissemination of our activities and the recruitment of more (and younger) volunteers – perhaps approaching schools in the area and other user groups for whom the catchment is important such as irrigators, recreation groups (such as the private schools who use the Finniss for rowing camps), environmental activists, wineries and local residents.

I think that we should prepare a background paper with statistical data about the catchment, the problems that we are facing and the work that the Group have undertaken over the years – this should be informative and able to be used to reach out to the above groups and be available to local schools as a resource paper.

David Grieve



On Ground Works Report

We have worked in three areas during the year and the most important learning point has been that we need to find younger members who are willing to spend some time getting down and dirty in a beautiful environment. Shouldn't be hard really. Anyway each month we have spent a Saturday morning at one of these places, and each time we go there it looks better than it did before.

The Road Reserve-Alexandrina Road

Considering the state of the ground and the sheer quantity of invasive weeds this is quite successful. Clematis is growing up the Sheoaks, the Kangaroo grass is going from strength to strength, the Pymelia patch continues to expand.

Giles Creek Reserve-Signal Flat Road

A grant of \$1500 from Alexandrina Council is being used to remove some of the woody weeds and the Aloe patch. The first attack was last year with enough funds in reserve to finish the job off this year. Once these are under control we will commence follow up and replanting

The Finnis River-Closing the Gap



Ten years ago, when we had a Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation, we received a grant of \$10,000 to start the huge task of removing woody weeds from a 10-kilometre section of the Finnis River. Our role was to maintain the progress gained by doing follow up weeding and replanting of native species.

Over the years we have received further grants from the State Government (\$50,000) plus Federal grants (\$50,000) through the GWLAP and NRM grants (\$10,000) and continued with the work. Over the past few years funding from both State and Federal levels have dried up and the Finnis Catchment Group has taken up the slack with funds earned from our Nursery (\$12,500).

This year \$4000 provided by the FCG, along with \$1,000 from the NRM board, plus \$2000 worth of work done by Greg Dalton of Creation Care, kept the momentum up and reduced the gap to the section in red. We have slightly modified our initial intent by reducing our target to 7 kilometres of the most remote and rich section.

As we age the number of people attending working bees is dwindling but we are keeping on top of maintenance and in the controlled area (in blue) it is looking good.

For next year the FCG has allocated \$3500 to work on reducing the Gap and maintaining the pressure on the remaining fruiting Ash Trees and will add to this with a \$1500 grant from NRM SAMDB. But wait there's more. It was with great pleasure that I was notified a couple of days back that the Federal Government had awarded us \$10,000 under their National Landcare Programme - thanks to Ben at the GWLAP for his professional input into the application. I am hopeful that this will close the Gap but the realist in me tells me that we will need more. It will certainly get us a long way, but more important is that it reaffirms that our activities are valued outside of our small group. So next time you are not really doing much on a Saturday morning come and join us. As the area to maintain increases the more we need help, even if its only once or twice a year.

There will be cake

Derek Fenton



Waterwatch Report

This last year has brought more changes to our water monitoring in the Finnis River. In addition to the Bioblitzes in autumn and spring, we have commenced monthly monitoring. As it is now considered that specialists are necessary for macroinvertebrate identification, the monthly monitoring omits this. The monthly sampling is timed to coincide with sampling done in other local rivers. It is hoped that more frequent monitoring will give us a more continuous picture of what is happening in the river throughout the year and will provide data that will allow comparison with data gained from other rivers.

Janette, Bruce, Sue Wiseman, Jon and I attended the last two Bioblitzes in spring 2017 and autumn 2018 and enjoyed the experience, finding them very informative.

All data collected is checked and made available at www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin

Robyn Sutton



Nursery Report

After completion of some structural restoration on the Cowshed, we recommenced full production at the end of 2017.

The FCG Cowshed Nursery has had a very successful year completing a propagation contract for over 13,000 plants for regeneration of 3 Goolwa sites by the GWLAP. Most of these plants have already gone out for planting.

Our manager, Helen, and her busy band of volunteers have once again done a wonderful job and most of the excess plants produced have already found homes.

Sadly, we are looking at mothballing the Nursery at the end of August as there are no current prospects for contracts in the coming year. We will, however, continue to look for any possible opportunities to use the Nursery again in the future.

Robyn Sutton



Treasurer's Report For year ended 30/6/2018

Although it is not shown in the statement for last financial year we have maintained our bank balance due to another contract for the plant nursery that has just been completed. The final payment for that contract (\$12,480.60) was not received until after June 30th. All the plant sales outside the contract are reflected in the amount of petty cash on hand and a few minor invoices have still to be issued.

No additional grants were available during the last year but, as mentioned by Derek, we have been advised of our success in achieving a \$10,000.00 Environment Small Grant under the National Landcare program. That amount should be received within a few weeks. As with last year we spent some of our own funds on paying a contractor to supplement our own on ground works. Other expenses outside the nursery contract were for additional tools for this program.

So, in summary, with the nursery contract payment already received, and the grant payment due, and a rebate of GST (\$1,307.07) the bank balance will be \$50,510.00 later this month.

The outlook for the current financial year will depend, as usual, on any environmental grants becoming available, and the amount we decide to contribute in cash to the weeds program. There seems little chance of any further contracts becoming available for the nursery.

Jon Sutton

FINNISS CATCHMENT GROUP INC.
Income and Expenditure Statement
for year to June 30th 2018

	\$	\$	\$
INCOME			
Grants			
DENWR Grant	1,650.00		
		1,650.00	
Other			
Bank Interest	42.59		
		42.59	
Total income:			1,692.59
EXPENSES			
Nursery			
Management	7,800.00		
Soil, fertilizer, sundries	666.87		
Insurance	130.00		
		8,596.87	
On Ground Works			
Weeding Tools	376.30		
Weeds contractor	6,600.00		
		7,111.00	
Other			
Advertising & Hire	134.70		
		134.70	
Total expenses:			15,842.57
Net Profit (Loss):			(14,149.98)
CASH BALANCE			
Opening balance	43,878.45		
Loss for year	(14,149.98)		
		29,728.47	
Cash at bank	29,322.47		
Petty cash	406.00		
Balance 30/6/18	29,728.47		
		29,728.47	