



Lower Cotter Catchment Annual Project Report

Project objectives:

- 40 000 native plant equivalents per year on average to be established in the Lower Cotter Catchment
- Coordination of community volunteers and events in relation to revegetation actions

Project Highlights for 2010-11:

- 40,419 known provenance native plant equivalents established in the Lower Cotter Catchment
- 1,380 volunteer days in 69 revegetation and weed control events
- 53 tubestock and seedball sites monitored

Project Name:

**Community based
revegetation in the Lower
Cotter Catchment**

Project manager:

Ian Rayner

Project Partner:

ACT Government

Agency:

**ACT Parks and Conservation
Service**



Greening Australia Capital Region

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On-ground

2010-11 was another fantastic year for on-ground activities in the Lower Cotter Catchment.

The majority of the revegetation and weed removal actions during the 2010-11 year occurred in the Pierces Creek subcatchment of the Lower Cotter Catchment. 65% of the work was carried out in Pierces Creek Forest, with 23% of the work occurring in Uriarra Forest near Bullock Paddock Road. Other areas where work occurred included Mt McDonald and Reid's Pinch.

The 22,629 provenance seedlings planted by volunteers represented 50 species from a variety of genera. The following table presents the proportion of plants sown from the main genera.

<i>% of genera planted</i>	
Genus	% planted
Eucalyptus	27.8
Acacia	20
Poa	7.9
Dodonaea	5.6
Lomandra	5.5
Daviesia	4.9
Hardenbergia	4.4
Leptospermum	4.3
Derwentia	4.3
Indigofera	3
Bursaria	2.1

Community

Community involvement is key to our partnership in the Lower Cotter Catchment.

During the 2010-11 financial year there were 1,533 volunteer days, involving more than 5,100 hours of volunteer work

41% of volunteers were involved in mass planting events, 31% of volunteers were school students, 17% were regular Greening Australia volunteers and 12% were from business groups or government departments or other special interest groups. The relative contributions of the various groups are shown (see table).

The schools that were involved included Canberra Girls Grammar School, Orana School, Dickson College and Daramalan College.

Other tours and community education events included:

- A tour of the Lower Cotter Catchment for any interested members of the public. Brian Summers from ACT Parks and Conservation Service spoke about their role in the catchment, Tom Bath from Bulk Water Alliance spoke about the environmental outcomes of the Enlarged Cotter Dam project and attendees went for a flora identification walk through a community revegetation site from 2007.
- Separate tours of parts of the catchment were also organised for the Australian Landcare Council, a group of ABARES scientists and a group from Friends of Grasslands.

<i>Breakdown of outputs by type of group</i>	
Group	% of total
Regular volunteers	63
Community events	25
Corporate and other groups	6
Schools	7

Monitoring

Monitoring is conducted by Greening Australia staff and volunteers to assess whether our revegetation actions in the Lower Cotter Catchment are delivering the desired outcomes. This data allows us to adapt the way we do our work as new knowledge arises.

51 tubestock plots planted by community volunteers were monitored in 2010-11:

- 43 of the plots monitored had been monitored previously
- 8 plots were new monitoring sites
- Average survival after 1 year for the five years of plantings 2005-2009 is 77.8%

2 new seedball monitoring sites were set up in spring 2010 to complement the 5 sites set up in autumn 2009.

The second round of data for these seedball sites will be collected in spring 2011

Future opportunities

The next year holds more exciting opportunities for our partnership in the Lower Cotter Catchment, including:

- A range of interesting volunteer events, to continue to engage the local community in this important revegetation project
- Maintaining and building relationships with departments and businesses with similar values e.g. Centenary of Canberra and Cafe Brindabella
- Involving more corporate and government workplace groups
- Continuing our innovative approach to revegetation, including new trials of revegetation techniques with a view to confronting future issues in the Lower Cotter Catchment
- Monitoring and evaluation – potential to expand on our current monitoring program to include our expertise in Landscape Function Analysis, Biometrics or other monitoring methodologies across the Lower Cotter Catchment
- Interpretive opportunities around the Cotter precinct for informing more people of the massive community revegetation effort in the Lower Cotter Catchment



It has been encouraging to see the success of our planting efforts, the return of a range of wildlife to the area and the knowledge that we are contributing towards improving the environment and the water quality entering our dams.

**Kolin Toivonen,
long-term volunteer**

Details of project outputs

On-ground

Native plant equivalents established	40,419
Seedlings planted	22,629
Seedballs distributed	2416
Area revegetated (ha)	45.3
Pine wildings removed	8593

Community

Number of volunteers days	1533
Number of volunteer hours	5106
Weekend community events	6
Seed collection events	4
Weekly volunteer events	50
School groups	5
Tours and community education events	4

Monitoring

Tubestock plots monitored	51
Seedball sites established	2

