

Creeklime Project

Geoff Robertson, President of 'Friends of Grasslands' (FOG) gave MOTH some useful advice for the forthcoming project 'Returning Life to Tuggeranong Creek', a planned revegetation of the eroded and weed-infested banks of the Tuggeranong Creek. The creek used to flow through the property until its waters were diverted. In 2008, through the efforts of Steve Welch, coordinator for the Southern ACT Catchment Group (SACTCG), the group obtained an ACT Environment grant of \$17,050 to regenerate the banks of the old Tuggeranong Creek, remove woody weeds and the encroaching regrowth from the adjacent orchard.

The creeklime project started in 2009. Through the auspices of the SACTCG, MOTH formed a partnership with Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) who provided volunteers for weeding and planting on a half day basis. PWC also committed money for an autumn planting in the area. Further cross-community involvement at the homestead involved Calwell High School students visiting the site, learning about its natural and indigenous history. They were involved in planting some local species along the creeklime. Other partners in the project included Greening Australia, Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) and Lanyon High School. The project was officially acknowledged with the launch of an interpretative sign at the front of the homestead in August 2009.

The spring rains of 2010 have seen abundant growth of both weeds and native grasses on the property. All the plantings along the creeklime flourished but MOTH faces the challenge of continuing to monitor the area and suppress the weeds, which may pose a fire hazard later in summer.