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1. Don't be a Drifter Herbicide spraying workshops

On the 18/19 February Southern ACT Catchment Group conducted another 'Don't Be A Drifter' herbicide use training course run by Craig Day from 'Spray Safe and Save' at Westwood Farm near Kambah. The course was open to urban landcarers, Park Carers and landholders and managers across the ACT or in the Googong or Upper Murrumbidgee catchments (within 50 km south of the ACT border). Costs were covered through funding to the catchment group from ActewAGL and the ACT NRM Council. 17 people had enrolled for the course but only 13 actually attended. Another course will be organised for the rural community in several months time.

2. ACT landcare book

Following the success of 'The World of Tidbinbilla' book published by the Southern ACT Catchment Group with the aid of ACT Heritage grants, Southern ACT Catchment Group has successfully applied for further Heritage funding to produce a book telling the story of ACT landcare with high quality photographs, profiles of landcarers and short descriptions of landcare groups. The book entitled '*A Labour of Love' – landcare in the ACT* is a Catchment and Landcare Association (CLA) project. An editorial team comprising Wendy Rainbird, Kathy Eyles and Steve Welch has been formed and has met on several occasions. New members of the editorial team will be recruited as needed. A call for contributions to the book went out in November with the deadline for submission since extended to March 1st. To date 14 groups have provided their stories, with several other groups promising to meet the March 1st deadline. Other groups will be contacted again by the Editorial Team and assisted with their contribution. The Southern ACT Catchment Group Executive committee has agreed to provide any additional funds to produce the book. For further information or to send your contributions contact Steve Welch 6296 6400 or email info@sactcg.org.au

3. Radio Landcare

For an interesting update on local landcare listen to Radio Landcare: **2XX FM** 98.3 Tuesdays 9 - 10am and **QBN FM** 96.7 Sundays 8 - 9am Southern ACT Catchment Group has a regular spot on 2XX every third Tuesday of the month. Contact Steve or Martin if you have a desire to be involved.

4. Catchment Group meeting

Our next Executive meeting will be 27 March, Urambi office, 4.30 pm.

5. Festival of the Forests

SACTCG will again share a stall at the Festival of the Forests – the Arboretum's public open day to be held on Sunday 1st April 2012. In previous years the festival has been very successful with around 8,000 visitors. If you are able to assist contact Steve Welch 6296 6400 or email info@sactcg.org.au

6. Applications now open for 2012-13 Community Action Grants

The Australian Government is seeking applications for 2012-13 Community Action Grants from local community groups to help them take action to conserve and protect their local environment.

As part of the Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative, Community Action Grants recognise the contribution that community groups make to the Caring for our Country priority areas of:

- Coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats
- Sustainable farm practices, or
- Biodiversity and natural icons.

As in previous rounds, local community, farming and Indigenous groups can apply for a grant between \$5,000 and \$20,000 (GST exclusive) to fund projects that encourage active participation and build the skills and knowledge of the community to protect and restore our environment and natural resources. Projects may include hosting a local field day, developing natural resource management plans, educating land owners in sustainable agriculture techniques and on-ground works.

Community Action Grant applications are subject to a competitive assessment process. Applications will be assessed based on alignment to Caring for our Country priorities, community engagement, project feasibility and value for money. All successful applicants must finish their project by 30 June 2013.

Applications close at 5pm (AEDT), on Tuesday 27 March 2012. Contact Steve Welch 6296 6400 or email info@sactcg.org.au if you have a project in mind.

7. Mobile QuikSpray Unit available

The Southern ACT Catchment Group supported by an ACT Environment Grant and sponsored by ActewAGL has available a QuikSpray unit to assist landholders and managers across the ACT or in the Googong or Upper Murrumbidgee catchments (within 50 km south of the ACT border) to undertake weed control. The unit has 2 hand held spray guns each with 100 metres of push-button retractable hose and a small selection of spray nozzles.



To find out more or book the spray unit contact Steve Welch or Martin Lind on 6296 6400.

8. Launch of report on the distribution and abundance of African Lovegrass

The Southern ACT Catchment Group as part of its project '*Regional education on African Lovegrass - an integrated approach*' invites you to attend the launch of a report on the distribution and abundance of African Lovegrass in the ACT. The report will be launched by Shane Rattenbury (MLA).

African Lovegrass is a fast spreading weed that is invading much of Australia. It is arguably the most invasive weed in the capital region and is found in all areas – suburban gardens, lawns, urban parks, road verges, farms and nature parks.

Author of the Report, Sarah Sharp has mapped the past and present distribution of African Lovegrass in the ACT along with the likely distribution of this highly invasive weed into the future. The report sets out likely scenarios for African Lovegrass distribution in 2020 depending on the budget allocated to its control.

When: Wednesday 7th March 10am to 1130am

Where: Westwood Farm Kambah Pool Road, Kambah

For a **location map** for Westwood Farm please go to:

http://www.lyh.org.au/lyh/?page_id=58 & scroll down the page.

Please RSVP to Steve Welch 6296 6400 or email info@sactcg.org.au

9. Catchment Group Websites

Southern ACT: www.sactcg.org.au

Ginninderra: www.ginninderralandcare.org.au

Molonglo: www.molonglocatchment.com.au

10. Ant Walk on Mount Ainslie

Join Ant Researcher Ajay Narendra from ANU for a fascinating walk hosted by Mt Ainslie Weeders ParkCare Group on Mt Ainslie. Learn amazing facts about Jack Jumpers and other ants that live on the mountain.

Discover how ants live and work, and in particular, how they navigate

Sunday 18 March, 3 – 4.30pm

Canning St entrance to the Nature Reserve

Wear covered shoes/boots and hat, and bring a magnifying lens if possible.

Children especially welcome, but they must be accompanied by an adult.

Please let us know if you are allergic to ants or bee stings

A gold coin donation to support the conservation work by Mt Ainslie Weeders would be much appreciated.

Bookings essential as places are limited.

ph. 62475561 or email mclough@netspeed.com.au

11. The Conservation Council will be holding its annual trivia night on Friday, 16th March.



TRIVIA NIGHT

WHEN: Friday, 16 March, 6.30pm for 7pm
WHERE: Majura Hall, 2 Rosevear St, Dickson
COST: \$25 each or tables of 8.



**EARLY BIRD TICKETS:
ONLY \$20 EACH,
IF PAID BEFORE MARCH 1!**

**BOOK NOW: 6229 3208 OR
WWW.CONSACT.ORG.AU**

**BYO Drinks & Nibbles.
Light refreshment provided
Raffle Prizes and Silent Auction**

12. NCCARF student funding call now open for Terrestrial Biodiversity adaptation.

Round 7 of the Terrestrial Biodiversity network student funding is now open. This will be the only round offered this year. Funding is available for Honours and Masters project funding and for PhD collaborative travel. To find out more information and get the forms please go to:

<http://nccarf.jcu.edu.au/terrestrialbiodiversity/index.php/General/funding-opportunities.html>

Funding applications are due close of business on Friday 30th March. Projects which apply for funding must be able to submit a report and undertake travel by 15th Dec 2012.

13.NCCARF's Climate Adaptation Champions - 2012 Nominations now open

NCCARF is highlighting the actions of people in communities, business and government who are leading the way in climate change adaptation. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) defines adaptation as "Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities."

We will showcase people and projects actively changing behavior, techniques, businesses and policies to adapt to an altered climate future. NCCARF Climate Adaptation Champions can be:

- excellent communicators, actively involved in exchanging the knowledge needed for climate adaptation;
- people, groups and governments actively involved in making decisions that take climate change impacts into account;
- leaders in their field, assisting others to adapt to a changing climate and
- inventors, designers and businesses leading the way with innovative ways to adapt.

To nominate a NCCARF Climate Adaptation Champion 2012, please fill in the form available from Ann Penny at a.penny@griffith.edu.au by 31 March 2012. More information is available at: <http://www.nccarf.edu.au/adaptation-champions>

14.New granular flupropanate product

There is a new granular flupropanate product able to be applied dry (in the granular form) by hand or air. This should add another tool to the tool box for dealing with serrated tussock.

If you would like to know more please go to the manufacturer's website: www.granularproducts.com