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1. Launch of the ACT landcare book 'A Labour of Love'

'A Labour of Love' celebrating Landcare in the ACT will be launched during The Heritage Festival at Tuggeranong Homestead on 19 April at 11am by Simon Corbell. The launch will be a great opportunity to meet fellow volunteers from the 43 groups that are featured in the book and activities will take place to 2pm including stalls, tree planting, a barbeque by Macarthur Scouts. See the flyer for the event at:

<http://sactcg.org.au/node/1118>

Hardcopies of the flyer are also available for groups to put up on their noticeboards and if you would like to contribute brochures or photos to the display on the day please call Martine on 6296 6400.

Also see the following link for all the ACT and Region Heritage Festival events.

http://www.environment.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0015/263202/2013_heritage_festival_events.pdf

2. Southern ACT Catchment Group Meeting

Southern ACT Catchment Group held its first 'on site' meeting at Casuarina Sands on 26 Feb, with a BBQ and round-table sharing of what groups are up to. It was well attended with old and new faces and it was thought that the changed format of second monthly 'on site' meetings will be valuable to facilitate more sharing of ideas across groups and give us an opportunity to see what people are doing.

Our next meeting will be an on site meeting (venue yet to be confirmed) on **Tues 30th April 4.30pm to 6.30pm** and all are welcome.

If you would like to host a meeting at your groups site, or your property please call Martine Franco 62966400 to arrange.

3. Free Spray Safe and Save Course

Southern ACT Catchment Group is holding another herbicide use training course on **11/12 May 2013** at Westwood Farm near Kambah.

An advanced practical/theory session will be delivered over the two days which will include using UV light to show droplets of water coloured with dye and applied to stubble, leaves or grasses at different rates, nozzles and pressures to show variables of application. Participants must attend both days. This course will upgrade your chemical application skills, ensure your machinery is working correctly, help with having up to date records and provide chemical use AQF3 accreditation or reaccreditation if required. Whether you're using a backpack or a 12 metre wide spray rig, the same principles apply to ensure safe efficient and environmentally secure use of herbicides.

Bookings are essential and places are limited: There are still some spots available so please book soon!

Contact Martine Franco on 6296 6400 or email info@sactcg.org.au

4. Tuggeranong Lake Carers (TLC) logo competition

The Tuggeranong Lake Carers was formed to do something about the condition and health of Lake Tuggeranong, which over the last few years has been periodically closed to the public for months because of regular outbreaks of blue green algae. These outbreaks pose a serious health hazard. To further publicise these issues the group is running a Logo Competition. More information about the competition can be found at: <http://sactcg.org.au/projects/tlc/logocompetition>

If you want to be part of the action to clean up the lake please ring Glenys on 6231 0603 or the SACTCG office on 6296 6400. Please feel free to come to the **NEXT MEETING: 6pm, Tuesday 16 April 2013** at SACTCG offices.

5. Art exhibition: "A Journey Along the Centenary Trail - Past, Present and Future"

The Artists Society of Canberra is celebrating the Canberra Centenary by engaging all of the Catchment Groups of the ACT in this exciting Art Exhibition and Competition. The official opening, by Professor Don Bursill, Chief Scientist of South Australia, will be held **Monday 22nd April** at **5.30-7.00** at The Gallery, Canberra Grammar School, Monaro Crescent, Red Hill. Artists entering the competition have been invited to portray their interpretation of the environment and sustainability in all the local catchment areas, and how these have changed over time. The Exhibition will also feature Art works from the local senior schools and colleges in a separate sponsored competition. Prizes will be announced at the event including the Molonglo Art Prize. For more information see:

http://www.asoc.net.au/10856/Along_The_Molonglo_2013/

6. Awards

Prime Minister's Environmentalist of the Year and Young Environmentalist of the Year Awards

To recognise those unsung heroes in our community, nominations are now open for the Prime Minister's Environmentalist of the Year and Young Environmentalist of the Year Awards. The awards recognise and celebrate those who have made an outstanding contribution to our environment or who are finding innovative ways to create a sustainable future for us all, particularly in the following areas:

- biodiversity or ecosystem conservation
- improving the sustainability of Australia's urban communities, including sustainable use of resources and energy efficiency
- sustainable water projects
- pollution reduction projects, including air quality and renewable energy
- climate change adaptation projects
- community education concerning the above areas.

The Prime Minister's Environmentalist of the Year Award is open to individuals, groups or organisations which have made an outstanding contribution to the environment or have worked towards achieving a more sustainable Australia.

The Prime Minister's Young Environmentalist of the Year Award recognises an outstanding contribution to the environment by a young person under the age of 25. Details on the awards are available at the <http://www.unaavictoria.org.au/awards-programs/world-environment-day-awards/>

Nominations close Monday 22 April 2013.

Murrumbidgee Regional Landcare Awards

Nominations are now open for the Murrumbidgee Regional Landcare Awards. They are an opportunity for the community to recognise the hard work of landcarers in our region. The categories for the 2013 Murrumbidgee Regional Landcare Awards are:

- Individual Landcarer Award
- Natural Resource Management (NRM) Award
- Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices Award
- Local Landcare Facilitator/Coordinator Award
- Landcare Community Group Award
- Education Award

- Urban Landcare Award
- Indigenous Award
- Young Landcare Leader Award
- Local Government Landcare Partnership Award

For more information:

http://www.murrumbidgee.cma.nsw.gov.au/getinvolved/2013_mrla.aspx

Nominations close 5pm Friday, 26 April 2013 with the winners announced at a ceremony to be held on World Environment Day, Wednesday 5 June 2013.

7. Funding Opportunities

Volunteer Grants 2013 recognises the valuable work of Australia's volunteers. This initiative forms part of the Australian Government's ongoing commitment to organisations whose volunteers assist disadvantaged communities and encourage inclusion of vulnerable people in community life.

Funding of \$16 million (nationally) is available to support and encourage volunteering. Eligible not-for-profit community organisations can apply for grants between \$1,000 and \$5,000 to:

- Purchase portable, tangible, small equipment items to help their volunteers
- Contribute to the reimbursement of fuel costs for their volunteers who use their own car to transport others to activities, deliver food, assist with medical appointments or help people in need
- Contribute to the reimbursement of transport costs incurred by volunteers with disability who are unable to drive
- Contribute to the cost of training courses and/or undertake background screening checks for their volunteers.

Funding is limited and applications will be assessed and prioritised according to how strongly they meet the selection criteria.

Please find attached to this email the application form and a message from Member for Fraser Andrew Leigh. For more information [click here](#).

Junior Landcare Grants Program

Sponsorship/Funding arranged by Landcare Australia

Through the Junior Landcare Grants Program, any school or organisation that would like to involve their students in landcare projects, in conjunction with local landcare groups, can apply for grants to assist them with the cost of their projects. The program targets major issues relevant to our natural environment including:

- Water quality/conservation
- Waste reduction/recycling
- School Gardens
- Biodiversity
- Land

Closing dates for 2013 are:

Round 2: 10 May (Coles School Garden Grants)

Round 3: 2 August (Coles School Garden Grants)

Applications forms can be downloaded from the Landcare Online website.

<http://www.juniorlandcare.com.au/grants-2>

Greening Australia funding opportunities

Funding is currently available to ACT rural landowners, landcare and parkcare groups through Greening Australia's ACT Land Keepers program.

- Biodiversity Incentives – funding to assist ACT rural landowners with revegetation, remnant protection/enhancement and riparian restoration.
- Veglink – providing tubestock/guards/seed for ACT community/landcare/parkcare groups to undertake small conservation projects.

There are also other projects that may be able to assist landowners with funding for more specific projects:

- ACT Woodlands / Greater Goorooyarroo (woodland restoration)
- Whole of Paddock Rehabilitation (WOPR) available to ACT and NSW landholders.

For further details about any of the above projects please call Angela Calliess at Greening Australia Capital Region 6253 3035 or mobile 0413 921 28

ACT Heritage Grants 2013-2014

The ACT Heritage Grants Program is an annual funding program administered by the ACT Government to assist the community in working to conserve and promote the heritage of the ACT. Applications for the 2013-2014 round are now invited from individuals and community groups. The grants will provide \$318,000 to identify and carry out projects that promote and conserve our local heritage.

Priorities for this year are:

- projects that conserve and enable the continued use of heritage places, including fire, service and access upgrades;
- community events and displays that increase the utilisation/awareness of and engagement in heritage places; and
- projects initiated by or involving the community, including the local Indigenous community, in local heritage activities.

Generally, funded projects are under \$10,000 and have some financial or in-kind support from applicants as a demonstration of their commitment to the project.

Applications close on Friday 17 May 2013.

8. Explore

The April edition of **Explore** put out by TAMS has information on walks and talks in Canberra Nature Park and other Reserves. See:

http://www.tams.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0003/371028/Explore-Program-April-2013.pdf

If your group wants to advertise any walks or talks to public this is a great place to do it. Contact **Jasmine Foxlee, ParkCare and Volunteer Coordinator**

Phone 02 62057384 or Email jasmine.foxlee@act.gov.au

9. Mobile QuikSpray Unit

The SACTCG Mobile QuikSpray Unit is available 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. It is very popular so **consider booking now** if you need it for next spring. To find out more or book the spray unit contact Martine Franco or Martin Lind on 6296 6400.

10. Seed Harvester available

Bush Heritage Australia supported by The Southern ACT Catchment Group has available a Mobile Grass Seed Harvester to assist environment groups, landholders and managers across the ACT and surrounding regions to harvest native grass seed. This rotating brush style harvester is road registered and is fitted with electric brakes.

To find out more or book the Mobile Grass Seed Harvester email: info@sactcg.org.au or phone Martine Franco on 6296 6400

11. 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 Martine or Martin if you have a desire to be involved.

12. African Lovegrass posters and pamphlets

A reminder that the SACTCG posters and pamphlets are available in any quantity from our office at Kambah. Contact Martine on 6296 6400

13. The Weed's News

The Weed's News can be read on-line at any time by visiting www.weedsnetwork.com