

**SOUTHERN NEWS**  
**03/11/2011**



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**1. ACT Weeds of National Significance (WONS) Grants Program**

The ACT Natural Resource Management (NRM) Council, with support from the Australian Government’s Caring for our Country (CFOC) program, is making \$330,000 available for targeted control of Weeds of National Significance (WONS) within the ACT.

Funding is available to support community groups and rural landholders in managing WONS in the ACT through strategic and well planned on-ground actions. The principle WONS that funds can be used to control are: Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus aggregate*); Chilean Needle Grass (*Nassella neesiana*); and Serrated Tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*).

Grants of between \$5,000 and \$100,000 will be offered, with proponents being expected to match the funds sought 1:1 through cash and/or in-kind contributions.

Guidelines, applications and weed facts sheets are available at the ACT NRM Council website <http://www.actnrmcouncil.org.au/node/170>

Applications must be received by 5pm on 2 February 2012.

For more information contact Tammie Spackman, NRM Investment Manager on 6207 2114 or [tammie.spackman@act.gov.au](mailto:tammie.spackman@act.gov.au)

An information session about writing a WONS grant application is scheduled to take place on the evening of Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of November. Tammie Spackman, ACT NRM Investment Manager will run the session. The session will provide an opportunity for prospective applicants to gain insights into:

- The WONS grants program objectives;
- addressing the funding criteria to increase your chances of writing a successful application;
- activities that are eligible under the funding program and activities that are not eligible; and
- opportunities for chemical handling accreditation;

**When:** Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of November, 6:00pm – 7:30pm.

**Where:** ACT Legislative Assembly - Reception room, London Circuit, Civic.

**RSVP:** Please RSVP to Sally McIntosh at [sally.mcintosh@act.gov.au](mailto:sally.mcintosh@act.gov.au)

## **2. 'Don't love this Grass' - African Lovegrass: Urban Landcare Workshop**

African Lovegrass Workshop for ParkCarers and Landcarers:

*When: Friday 18th of November, 9:00am – 12:30pm followed by lunch.*

*Where: Westwood Farm, 244 Kambah Pool Road, Kambah.*

As many ParkCarers and Landcarers know, African Lovegrass (ALG) is an extremely invasive grass weed which poses a major threat to the biodiversity of the ACT's native grasslands and woodlands. A number of groups in the ACT have come together to offer this *workshop*. The workshop will include the following:

- *Steve Welch, Southern ACT Catchment Coordinator* will speak about the ALG Awareness campaign that Southern ACT Catchment Group been driving since early 2010; the extent of the problem in rural and urban Canberra; and provide some insights on how individuals can contribute to stopping the spread of ALG.
- *Sarah Sharp, Ecologist* will discuss the biology and ecology of African Lovegrass and provide an update on Southern ACT Catchment Group's campaign to map ALG in the ACT. In addition Sarah will run through ALG identification and identification of native grasses often mistaken for ALG.
- *Steve Taylor, Senior Weed Management Officer with ACT Parks and Conservation* will discuss the latest developments in ALG control being applied in parks and reserves.
- *ACT Government City Services* will discuss roadside mowing and the strategies in place for preventing ALG spread.

The workshop will finish by hearing from you. We want to learn from you, in particular:

- What are the key actions that you think would make a difference to ALG control in the ACT?
- What are your experiences with ALG as a ParkCarer/Landcarer?
- Have you successfully controlled ALG on your patch, if so, how?
- In your experience – what on-ground practices haven't worked and why?

*The workshop is free and morning tea and lunch will be provided for workshop participants.*

Please **RSVP to Sally McIntosh by the 16th of November**

[actlandcare@act.gov.au](mailto:actlandcare@act.gov.au) or phone Sally McIntosh on 62052913 for catering purposes. If you have any dietary needs please mention them when you RSVP.

## **3. Don't be a Drifter Herbicide spraying workshops**

Southern ACT Catchment Group is organizing more 'Don't Be A Drifter' herbicide use training courses at Westwood Farm near Kambah and run by Craig Day from 'Spray Safe and Save'. Craig adapts the course content to suit the requirements of the participants. Craig is an excellent presenter with a truly in-depth knowledge of all aspects of herbicide use and the legislation surrounding it. The practical sessions clearly demonstrate the learning gained from the theory sessions. All people using herbicides at any level could gain a greater understanding of all aspects of herbicide use by undertaking this course, whether they are seeking accreditation, reaccreditation (AQF3/4) or simply a better knowledge base to work from regarding drift reduction, nozzle selection, equipment selection and calibration and OH&S to name a just few aspects. All costs are covered through funding to the catchment group from ActewAGL and the ACT NRM Council. At this stage we will probably hold a course aimed at urban, landcarers / Park Carers in mid-December and another for the rural community on the weekend 18-19 February. More information will be made available as soon as dates are confirmed. Contact Steve Welch on 6296 6400 or [info@sactcg.org.au](mailto:info@sactcg.org.au) if you are interested.

#### **4. 'Equiculture' seminar**

Southern ACT Catchment Group and ActewAGL Source Water Protection are organising an 'Equiculture' seminar aimed at people who agist their horse and agistment property owners on Monday 21st November at Westwood Farm in Kambah. Jane Myers MSc (Equine Science), author, speaker, educator and rider – will present an evening seminar for horse owners on the subject of managing horses on horse properties. This seminar will be aimed at people who agist their horse and agistment property owners alike. It will also be of interest to people who are planning to buy land for horse-keeping in the future.

The cost is \$10 payable at the door. A light meal will be provided.

**RSVP essential:** [info@sactcg.org.au](mailto:info@sactcg.org.au) or 6296 6400

You will learn about:

- The grazing behaviour of horses,
- The grazing management of horses,
- Innovative designs for horse properties,
- Practical solutions for the problems faced by horse owners.

See the Equiculture website - [www.equiculture.com.au](http://www.equiculture.com.au)

Please note that Molonglo Catchment Group are also running similar workshops:

- Saturday 19th November - Queanbeyan
- Saturday 28th January – Wamboin
- Sunday 29th January - Michelago
- Saturday 18th February – Murrumbateman
- Sunday 26th February – Southern Tablelands

For more information on the Molonglo Catchment Group workshops go to:

<http://www.molonglocatchment.com.au>

#### **5. 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 is proposed to be entitled '*A Labour of Love*' – *landcare in the ACT* and is a Catchment and Landcare Association (CLA) project. Invitations to participate in this project will be sent out to all groups associated with the CLA.

#### **6. African Lovegrass poster and associated brochure available**

Southern ACT Catchment Group (SACTCG) has produced a poster and a complimentary pamphlet with the aim of raising the awareness of African Lovegrass amongst the general community. These publications have been produced with the support of the Australian Government's Community Action Grant for the Regional education on African Lovegrass - an integrated approach project run by SACTCG. Your help is requested in distributing these publications and finding locations to display the poster (see pictures below). Contact Steve Welch on 6296 6400 or [info@sactcg.org.au](mailto:info@sactcg.org.au) to obtain copies.

# Don't love this grass!

IN AUSTRALIA IT'S NOBODY'S FRIEND!

We need to work together to control African Lovegrass and reduce its impact through its removal, long-term and targeted plans in our regions. You can help by reporting it to your local council, state and regionalised biocontrol or pest spraying bodies, www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/pests or 1300 010 000.

**African Lovegrass** is the fast spreading weed that is causing much of Australia's agricultural and environmental damage. It is currently the most invasive weed in the ACT region.

**You can help now by:**

- ACT:** Report sightings to your local council.
- GAZON CARE:** If you have a lawn, check for African Lovegrass in your lawn. If you find it, report it to your local council.
- GRASS FIRE:** Don't burn grass. If you must, burn it in a controlled area.
- NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:** Report sightings to your local council.
- WATERWAYS:** Report sightings to your local council.
- ROADS:** Report sightings to your local council.
- REPORT IT:** Report sightings to your local council.
- LEARN:** Report sightings to your local council.

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/pests

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Originally introduced to Australia as a pasture grass, African Lovegrass is now a major pest. It is currently the most invasive weed in the ACT region.

**Information on African Lovegrass:**

- Report sightings to your local council.
- Check your lawn for African Lovegrass.
- Don't burn grass.
- Report sightings to your local council.
- Check your lawn for African Lovegrass.
- Don't burn grass.
- Report sightings to your local council.

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/pests

# You can help now by:

**Around the house:**

- Check your lawn for African Lovegrass.
- Don't burn grass.
- Report sightings to your local council.
- Check your lawn for African Lovegrass.
- Don't burn grass.
- Report sightings to your local council.

**Around the farm:**

- Check your paddocks for African Lovegrass.
- Don't burn grass.
- Report sightings to your local council.
- Check your paddocks for African Lovegrass.
- Don't burn grass.
- Report sightings to your local council.

**Don't burn:**

- Don't burn grass.
- Report sightings to your local council.
- Check your paddocks for African Lovegrass.
- Don't burn grass.
- Report sightings to your local council.

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/pests

## **7. Isaacs Ridge Mount Mugga Mugga ParkCare Group - Activity**

Thanks to everyone who helped last month removing briar rose and a few other plants. By popular demand we are returning to the same spot to work further down the hill and along.

Next Activity: Sunday 13 November, 9.00 to 11.00am or later

Where: Isaacs Ridge

Meet: Buntine Crescent, Isaacs

What: Woody Weed Removal, Verbascum and Thistles

Tools: saw, loppers, secateurs (some provided) mattock (if you want to dig verbascum instead)

Please wear suitable clothing, especially long sleeves, sun hat, sturdy footwear, and strong gardening gloves. Bring a day pack and do carry water. Sunscreen or raincoat depending on the weather. The weather is warming up so please note we will be starting a bit earlier, at 9 am.

You might have seen that the Review of Canberra Nature Park has been released. It is available on

[http://www.environmentcommissioner.act.gov.au/investigations/nature\\_reserves\\_investigation](http://www.environmentcommissioner.act.gov.au/investigations/nature_reserves_investigation) but it is huge and you should be selective in what you download. It says that Mount Mugga Mugga Nature Reserve is in reasonably good condition but Isaacs Ridge Nature Reserve is one of the poorest in condition, with 80-90% approaching critical. Some of the recommended actions are attached. We need to get some ideas together to improve the area.

Mike Sim

Isaacs Ridge Mount Mugga Mugga ParkCare Group

Ph 62901425

## **8. Farrer Ridge ParkCare Sunday 6th**

A couple of months ago, the ACT Bushfire Management team cleared some flammable plants, *A.baileyana* from behind the back of the Hawkesbury Crescent houses. So, as usually in November, we check such clearing for bushfire hazard reduction, I think we do not need to concentrate there this month. Also, Judy Ingle spends time clearing weeds along the area adjacent to the Pridham Street houses.

We could really reduce the seed stock of Verbascum on the Farrer Hill site, where about 11 bags of seed-heads were removed by the Green Corps people, and myself. There are almost blankets of Verbascum rosettes in the area. If we have enough people we could work on those from both the western and eastern sides. I know there are heaps of other areas, but I think we should try to get on top of that area, which had become so infested.

If others have seen orchids in flower, perhaps we could have a walk to see those. Our next work activity is for Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November, starting still at 10am.

Just a reminder that because snakes will be active, and the Park Care group tends to scatter, please ensure you have a compression bandage and mobile phone.

So, in the unlikely event of a snake bite, you can apply first aid and call 000.

My mobile number: 0411 484 398

Wendy Rainbird [wpainbird@grapevine.com.au](mailto:wpainbird@grapevine.com.au)

## 9. ACT Environment Grants 2011-2012 - Round 2

The ACT Environment Grants - Round 2 are worth more than \$180,000, with an upper limit of funding of \$50,000 for each project. Continued projects can be now supported with further funding up to \$10,000 for each project. The closing date for applications is Friday, 4 November 2011.

*Funding is available for projects that meet one or more of the following objectives:*

- support community engagement in implementing nature conservation strategies, including action plans for threatened species and ecological communities such as grasslands and woodlands;
- address the practical management of plant and animal pests;
- promote climate change abatement and/or sustainability through on-ground actions;
- promote local involvement in practical environmental activities that could extend to bush or urban park rehabilitation and recovery campaigns; or
- involve the local Indigenous community in local environmental activities;

*Applications that have an on ground focus will be favoured over applications that do not.*

For more information including Environment grant guidelines and applications go to

[http://www.environment.act.gov.au/environment2/2010-11\\_environment\\_grants](http://www.environment.act.gov.au/environment2/2010-11_environment_grants)

## 10. Mulloon Creek Natural Farms – land restoration field day

**When:** Saturday 05 November, 9:30am to 4:30pm

**Where:** Mulloon Creek natural farm, Bungendore

This field day will focus on the results of the repair work done to Mulloon Creek over the last 5 years. The day is to help people understand the impact of changes, and will include presentations from Peter Andrews ('the architect') and scientists who have been studying the ecosystem and techniques applied.

Bookings essential.

Full details at the Mulloon Institute website at:

[http://www.themullooninstitute.org/webapp\\_1561262/MCNF\\_Land\\_Restoration\\_Day](http://www.themullooninstitute.org/webapp_1561262/MCNF_Land_Restoration_Day)

## 11. Plant Sale

Next Wednesday, 9 November, the Greening Australia nursery will be selling excess stock that has not been required for our revegetation projects this year. All plants will be selling for \$1.00. There will be a variety of local native species available, including several *Eucalyptus* species and a range of shrubs and understorey plants. GA advises '*as we are selling only our excess stock, our full range of species will not be on sale. Please come along to see what we have available!*'

The sale will take place at Greening Australia's nursery at 1 Kubura Place, Aranda. 12 noon until 6 pm or until all plants are sold. Minimum sale will be \$10. Unfortunately, EFTPOS facilities will not be available, cash and cheque only.

## 12. Wildflowers in the sanctuary

Join a Ranger on the hunt for wild flowers in Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary. Rangers will be hunting for several different species of orchids and attempting to find at least twenty different wildflowers. The walk is around 5 km through bushland. Bring lunch, hat, sunscreen, your camera and wear sturdy enclosed shoes. Meet at Amy Ackman Street, Forde car park to Mulligans Flat.

**Bookings essential Ph: 62072113.**

### **13. Bush Tucker - Hunting and gathering**

Enjoy a taste of traditional Ngunnwal food with an Aboriginal Ranger in Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary. Discover the methods and tools used to obtain food and how it was prepared and eaten. Suitable for families. Cost \$5 per person or \$12 per family. Wear sturdy enclosed footwear, a hat and sunscreen and bring drinking water.

**Bookings essential** Ph: 6207 0078 or 0401 778 009

### **14. ACT Community Green Skills Project**

The ACT Community Green Skills Project was launched on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at Black Mountain Peninsula. The National Green Jobs Corps now have a good number of young people in the project and are starting to fill a second team. National Green Jobs Corps is a 26-week environmental training program that offers young people, aged 17 to 24 years, a combination of work experience, skill development and accredited training to ensure they are ready for employment in emerging green and climate change industries.

National Green Jobs Corps projects are team based activities developed in conjunction with local communities and groups, representatives from the environment and climate change sector, local government and relevant training providers. Participants have the opportunity to participate in hands-on work experience activities and accredited training.

For further information please contact Deb Kellock from Job Futures SEQ on 6251 3388 or [training.gc@jobfutures-seq.com](mailto:training.gc@jobfutures-seq.com)

### **15. Centenary Trail in Canberra**

The idea for a Centenary Trail in Canberra arose from community submissions received in 2009 as part of the Canberra 100 call for Centenary projects. The Trail is intended to be a showcase of Canberra, taking users on a seamless journey between urban and rural environs and incorporating the ACT's iconic sites and hidden treasures. A Canberra Centenary Trail Feasibility Report was prepared for Parks and Conservation Service, which assesses the feasibility of the proposal in terms of estimated costs and predicted benefits.

Comments and suggestions about the trail or the report are welcome at any time and can be sent to [TAMSCentenaryTrail@act.gov.au](mailto:TAMSCentenaryTrail@act.gov.au)

More information including maps of the proposed trail can be found at [http://www.tams.act.gov.au/live/about\\_our\\_department/community\\_engagement/community\\_engagement\\_activities\\_and\\_events/canberra\\_centenary\\_trails](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/live/about_our_department/community_engagement/community_engagement_activities_and_events/canberra_centenary_trails)

### **16. Radio Landcare**

For an interesting update on local landcare listen to Radio Landcare:

**2XX FM** 98.3 Tuesdays 9 - 10am **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.

## **17. Catchment Group annual general meeting**

The Annual General Meeting was held on 25<sup>th</sup> October at Tuggeranong Homestead. Our Guest speaker Ian Lawrence addressed the group about the great changes taking place in urban water catchments, changes prompted by drought and the prospect of climate change. Ian talked about three projects: the Canberra Integrated Waterways program; water-sensitive urban design; and the planned Tuggeranong Creek Rehabilitation project.

He explained that cities are increasingly moving away from the old designs of impervious stormwater pipes and concrete channels. Stormwater and grey water are now seen as resources we have to harness and use. There are now imaginative programs in place to harvest stormwater, intercept pollutants, and re-design out streetscapes and gardens to make more intelligent use of all our water resources. The real obstacles to progress and change lie not with technology but with management structures that are inflexible and often resist innovation. But governments are slowly beginning to recognize that redesigning our urban spaces must be a collaborative effort, involving community and local business groups in a cooperative partnership with government.

Ian talked briefly about the site at Tuggeranong, where a large alluvial plain, one and a half metres below the surface, used to support a large catchment of water in a bed of sand and gravel. The deep drain that was built in the 1970s, has drained out much of this underground aquifer. The Tuggeranong Creek Rehabilitation project aims to correct much of this leakage by building clay walls along the creek to seal the aquifer and allow a chain of ponds to redevelop in the old creek-line. We await a government response to this plan.

In conclusion, Ian talked about the work he is doing in studying the state of health of Lake Burley Griffin by a close analysis of the water quality in the Molonglo catchment above the lake.

The Election of Office Bearers resulted in:

**Chair:** Glenys Patulny, nominated by Jenny H, seconded by Geoff Pryor. Elected unopposed.

**Treasurer:** Fiona Spier, Nominated by Geoff Pryor, seconded by Glenys. Elected unopposed.

**Secretary:** Jenny Horsfield, nominated by Glenys, seconded by Mike Morris. Elected unopposed.

**Vice Chair:** Fiona Spier, nominated by Glenys, seconded by Joan Goodrum. Elected unopposed.

### **General Committee members:**

Geoff Pryor, nominated by Glenys, seconded by Jenny. Elected unopposed.

Joan Goodrum, nominated by Jenny, seconded by Fiona. Elected unopposed

Julia Banks, nominated by Geoff, seconded by Fiona. Elected unopposed.

Our next General meeting will be 22 November, Urambi office, 4.30 pm.  
Committee to arrange special pre-Xmas afternoon tea.

### **18. 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.

### **19. Friends of Aranda Bushland activities**

#### **Guided Frost Hollow to Forest Walk**

Sunday 6 November from 9.30am to 12 noon (or longer)

Meet at the stile on the closed part of old Caswell Drive off eastbound William Hovell Drive. Peter Ormay will lead a guided walk to celebrate the revitalising of the ten year old interpretative signs that showcase the frost hollow grasslands, snow gum and box gum woodland then Aranda Bushland's forest. Learn what to look for to identify ten eucalypt species and how Park Care has made a difference. The grassland wildflowers have started flowering and there should be good displays of at least five species of yellow wildflowers.

Contact: Jean on 6251-1601 or go to [www.friendsofarandabushland.org.au](http://www.friendsofarandabushland.org.au)

#### **Proposed Murrumbidgee-Ginninderra Gorges National Park**

Monday, 31 October 2011, 5.30 - 7.30pm

The Murrumbidgee-Ginninderra Gorges National Park Working Group will hold a public meeting on Monday, 31 October at 5.30 pm to explain why it believes a new national park with its centrepiece as Ginninderra Falls, is needed. ACT Legislative Assembly's reception room, South Building, London Circuit, Civic. Ginninderra MLA Meredith Hunter will host proceedings, starting at 5.30 pm with light refreshments followed by a panel of experts speaking and answering questions at 6.00pm. The meeting will end at 7.30pm

Contact: Jean on 6251-1601

to confirm your attendance or if you have any questions about the launch.

View the latest Upper Murrumbidgee

<http://www.act.waterwatch.org.au/Files/Newsletters/oct2011.pdf>

### **20. Managing Native Grasslands for Soil & Animal Health – Conference**

Stipa is holding the 7th National Grassland Conference in Holbrook this year. The theme of the conference is "Managing Native Grasslands for Soil and Animal Health.

**When:** 9 & 10 November

**Where:** Holbrook Town Hall, NSW

For further information [www.stipa.com.au/Events/Conferences.html](http://www.stipa.com.au/Events/Conferences.html)