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1. Southern ACT Catchment Group Field Trip and Meeting

SACTCG are holding field trips 2nd monthly on the last Tuesday of that month. The next field trip will be at Red Hill. This will be a walk around to see the work the Red Hill Regenerators have done followed by refreshments at the café. Meet at the care park at the top of red hill at **4.30** on the **27th August**. If you would like to host a meeting at your groups' site, or your property please call Martine Franco 62966400 to arrange.

SACTCG Business meetings are held every other month on the last Tuesday of that month at the Kambah Office's. The next meeting will be on the **24th September from 4.30 to 6.30pm**. This will be an 'all groups meeting' which will have representatives from all or member groups present. We will be in contact with individual group conveners prior with more information.

2. ACT Natural Resource Management Council

Nominations for membership of The Natural Resource Management (NRM) Council closed Fri 28 June and will be announced shortly. The Council provides independent strategic advice to the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate on Australian Government funding for ACT Natural Resource Management investments. Community representation on this council can influence funding directions for the community in NRM. If you are interested in who the reps will be keep your eye on the link on the ESDD website:

http://www.environment.act.gov.au/environment/natural_resource_management/natural_resource_management_council

3. Events, Field Days, Workshops and Forums

Farrer Ridge Nature Park Guided Spring Wildflowers Walk

This is the best time to see and learn to identify the lovely blooms that Farrer Ridge keeps in hiding until the spring.

When: 10 am – 12 noon, Sunday 15th September, 2013. Meet at top of Muresk Street, Farrer. Bring cameras, binoculars, hat, & wear walking shoes.

More information: Jasmine Foxlee, ACT Parks and Conservation Service: 6205 7384
Proudly presented by Farrer Ridge ParkCare Group

Black Mountain Wildflower Ramble

Saturday 12 October 2013: 9.30 am sharp to 12 noon (or later)

Belconnen Way entry, just before Caswell Drive turnoff (look for the balloons). Join wildflower lovers for the Burbidge/Chippendale tradition of celebrating the spring flowering with the 42nd annual Black Mountain wildflower ramble. Discover the surprising diversity of tiny orchids, bush peas, wattles and billy buttons with experienced guides, easy bush tracks and good company. All welcome, especially those new to plant identification. BYO morning tea, hat, sunblock, water and stout shoes. **Please book:** friendsofblackmountain@gmail.com so we have enough guides. Contact: Jean Geue on 6251-1601.

Platypus Walk Queanbeyan

Stephen Skinner and Woo O'Reilly from Waterwatch will be hosting a platypus walk at 3:30pm at the Isabella St foot bridge in Queanbeyan. No RSVP necessary.

2003 Canberra Fires 10 years after: What have we learned?

Hear the leading ACT fire researchers and emergency service personnel discuss the implications of their findings about the devastating ACT fires in 2003. This event is part of the AMOS (Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society) National Science Week Seminars.

Enquiries: info.discovery@csiro.au or 02 6246 4646

When: Sunday 18 August 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Where: Lecture theatre, CSIRO Discovery Centre, North Science Rd, Acton ACT 2601

Cost: Free, no bookings necessary

Royalla Landcare Bio-Control Weed Field Day

Do you have an area of persistent weed problems?

Do you want to find another method of tackling weeds on your property?

With the assistance of small grants funding from the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority through the NSW Government, Royalla Landcare Group will be hosting a Bio-control Weed Field Afternoon on 24 August 2013.

The field day (a half-day workshop) will be on biological control agents that are currently available for release to help tackle common weeds threatening box gum woodlands in the region. After attending the workshop, 20 interested landholders that have registered their interest prior to the workshop, will then be able to have some agents to release on their properties.

The workshop is to be run by Barry Sampson on Saturday **24 August 2013, 12 noon to 4pm**. Jerrabomberra Creek Rural Fire Shed, 1722 Old Cooma Road, Royalla (2km from Monaro Hwy towards Queanbeyan), with a \$10 donation per property for printing and food. Targeting St Johns Wort, Paterson's Curse & Vipers Bugloss weeds ... possibly thistles in spring as well.

Call for Expressions of Interest for release of bio-agents on your property – limited to 20 properties What species will you target?

The register is open for interested participants in the agent release. To register your interest, and to participate in the workshop, contact:

Royallalandcare@earthbasics.com.au or phone Maryke at 6280 4128 (w)

Landholders who express interest will take home bio-agents following the session, for release on their own weed species. Remember to nominate your weed species of concern when you express interest.

Invasive Animals CRC Photo Competition

The Invasive Animals CRC (IA CRC) are looking for photos showing pest animals living in the wild, the damage caused by pest animals, and also photos that demonstrate the various methods that are available for pest monitoring and humane control.

Entries into this year's competition can be submitted online via the Invasive Animals CRC website. There is a limit of five (5) photo entries per person and a range of great prizes will be on offer. Visit the website for more information:

www.invasiveanimals.com/feral-photos. The competition closes on **30 September**

2013. For more information, contact Jessica Marsh at:

jessica.marsh@dpi.nsw.gov.au or on **0400 586 060**.

Water for the future - Striking the Balance: Draft ACT released for public comment

Water for the future – Striking the Balance: Draft ACT was released on 3 July 2013 for public comment. The draft Strategy and information on how to comment can be found on the *Time to talk Canberra* Website: <http://timetotalk.act.gov.au/community-engagements/?engagement=draft-act-water-strategy>

Workshops will be held in various locations around Canberra. Submissions are due by **30 August 2013**.

New App Field Guide to Pest Animals

For those of you with an Apple device you may be interested in the Field Guide to Pest Animals of Australia App recently released by the Invasive Animals CRC. This is available as a free download from iTunes (see <https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/field-guide-to-pest-animals/id634197149?mt=8>)

Murrumbidgee Landcare Annual Forum

The 16th Murrumbidgee Landcare Annual Forum is being hosted by the Junee Area Landcare Network. **22 - 23 August 2013**

- Cross property planning in the Junee district
- Pest animal management
- Managing Salinity at a landscape scale
- Community environmental action across the catchment.
- Why paddock trees matter
- Joining the dots: networking Landcare in schools

Keynote Speaker: Paul Gibson-Roy on restoring grasslands

REGISTRATION

Landcare members & community volunteers - \$40 per day/\$60 for two days

Non-members - \$60 per day/\$100 for two days

Dinner - \$35 per head. Bar provided - purchase your own drinks. More information can be found at <http://www.murrumbidgeelandcare.org.au/forum/2013>

4. Awards

2013 ACT Landcare Awards Breakfast Ceremony will be held on **Thursday 5 September 7am to 9.30pm**. If you wish to attend I have 6 tickets for the event to give to members. Please call Martine on 6296 6400.

The Landcare Awards honour the invaluable work undertaken by the Landcare community. Winners from these bi-annual awards become finalists in the 2014 National Landcare Awards.

5. Funding Opportunities

Greening Australia funding opportunities

Funding is currently available for 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 Callies at Greening Australia Capital Region 6253 3035 or mobile 0413 921 28

6. The ACT landcare book 'A Labour of Love'

If you are yet to get your copy of a Labour of Love you can purchase one from the SACTCG Offices, Botanic Gardens bookshop, Arboritum, National library, Tidbinbilla Visitors Centre or the ANPS. Copies of 'The World of Tidbinbilla' are also available from these outlets.

7. 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.

8. 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

9. 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.

10. 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

11. The Weed's News

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