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1. Catchment Coordinator Position Vacant

The Southern ACT Catchment Group Inc requires a Catchment Coordinator to work with volunteers, community groups, and a wide range of other stakeholder organisations to promote and implement its catchment strategy and improve the health of the SACTCG catchment.

The coordinator should have a sound understanding of the urban, peri-urban and rural environmental issues affecting the catchment and should be outgoing with good communication, organisational, project management, administration and computer skills.

Selection Criteria/information for applicants is available by emailing info@sactcg.org.au or go to www.sactcg.org.au Applications close 17 August 2012.

2. Call for action to Save Lake Tuggeranong

A recent community forum called for government and community action to solve pollution problems in Lake Tuggeranong. The forum, held at the Tuggeranong Community Centre, was jointly hosted by the Southern ACT Catchment Group (SACTCG), Concerned Residents for West Kambah (CROWK) and the Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC). Building on the success of the first meeting, a second meeting will be held to discuss next steps on 22 August 2012 at 7pm. The meeting will be held at Tuggeranong 55 Plus Club, 101 Cowlshaw St, Tuggeranong. For further information contact: Martin Lind - 6296 6400, or Glenys Patulny - 0411 161948 or go to the SACTCG web site: www.sactcg.org.au

3. UMCCC Biennial Forum and Field Trip 23 and 24 October 2012

UMCCC will be hosting our biennial forum on 23 and 24 October 2012. This year's theme is *Connectivity Conservation and Corridors: Connecting Environment, People and Production*.

Our field trip on 23 October encompasses two sites that are being developed or are already using connectivity conservation corridors to enhance biodiversity. Participants will visit a property and a nature reserve.

The forum day on 24 October will bring together a range of relevant presenters, and will be an interactive day for participants. Our headline speaker is Robyn Williams of ABC Radio's *The Science Show*.

A flyer is now available on UMCCC's website <http://umccc.org.au/node/827> . Please feel free to circulate, print and display in your workplace, community hall or local noticeboard.

4. EOIs for a Conservation Farming workshop in the Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment

The Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority is currently organising Conservation Farming workshops in the mid-catchment area.

The workshops aim to provide farmers with an opportunity to find out how conservation farming can contribute more to improving the productivity and profitability of the farm without having to spend a fortune. MCMA is seeking Expressions of Interest from landholders in the upper catchment to run a workshop in this region. If numbers are sufficient, a workshop will be held. Please contact Kathleen Harvey at Murrumbidgee CMA on: (02) 6229 7716 or email: kathleen.harvey@cma.nsw.gov.au

5. Volunteers and the new work health safety laws

On Wednesday 1 August 2012, the Hon. Bill Shorten MP, announced the release of the Safe Work Australia Volunteer Resource Kit. The kit was developed with input from a range of peak volunteer organisations including Volunteering ACT. The kit will assist volunteers to understand what Work Health and Safety laws mean for them and provides a range of useful tools and information on Work Health and Safety laws including:

- an essential guide to WHS laws for volunteers; http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/SWA/Legislation/volunteers/Documents/Volunteers_Guide.pdf
- an essential guide to WHS laws for organisation who engage volunteers; http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/SWA/Legislation/volunteers/Documents/Volunteer_Organisations_Guide.pdf
- a PowerPoint presentation and a podcast;
- FAQs; and
- fact sheets.

to download a copy of the kit please go to www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au and follow the links.

6. Tuggeranong Community Council 2012 ACT Election Forum

The Forum will be held at the Tuggeranong Arts Centre at 137 Reed Street Greenway on Wednesday 12 September 2012 commencing at 7.00pm. All ACT Election candidates for the seat of Brindabella are being invited to participate. The Forum will be run along the lines of the ABC's Q&A program and will be chaired by Canberra ABC Radio personality, Genevieve Jacobs. She will introduce each candidate before opening the Forum to questions from the floor. If you wish to join the Forum audience please contact the Tuggeranong Arts Centre on 6293 1443 to reserve your seating.

7. Webinar: Introduction to Drupal content management system

The SACTCG website operates on the Drupal system. If you would like to learn more about this with the aim of contributing directly to your section of our site this on-line introduction brought to you by Connecting Up may be helpful Go to <http://www.connectingup.org/events/webinars/webinar-introduction-drupal-content-management-system> . The webinar is on 17 Aug, 2012 11:00am.

8. Wendy Rainbird comments on Dr Richard Groves' presentation on Invasive Weeds in Australia

I went to Dr Richard Groves' presentation at the Academy of Science on Invasive Weeds in Australia, and here are a few points:

- * Of the 27,000 introduced species into Australia, about 2,700 have become naturalised, and of those about 10-15% become weeds.
- * the rate is increasing, despite good quarantine services
- * 65% are deliberately cultivated as ornamental plants. Even in 2003, Bear-skin Fescue, an ornamental grass was sold in nurseries in Victoria, and it has already become an environmental and agricultural weed. There is an "Alert list" that goes to nurseries.
- * the cost of weeds to Australian agriculture is \$3.5 billion per year
- * there are negative indirect problems as some weeds harbour insect pests, some plant diseases_ there are 295 known.
- * weeds can affect human health through annual grasses causing asthma and hayfever, some like oleander are toxic, some cause dermatitis.
- * a mix of approaches, and integrated methods of control are important, as herbicide use can result in herbicide resistance.
- * there is no longer a CRC for Weeds.

Afterwards, I asked him whether he thought there might be a risk from the 100 X 100 plants being planted for the National Arboretum, for although they might be endangered plants where they are naturally occurring, they might become weeds. He estimated that about 10 could become weeds. He agreed that there are plants which might not be a problem in their own habitat, like Eucalypts, but which become invasive in other countries and in different areas. Cootamundra wattles or Bitou bush are examples in Australia.

Best wishes, Wendy Rainbird.

9. ACT landcare book 'A Labour of Love'

Our first draft will soon be complete. When this occurs contributors will be sent our edited version of their contribution with an author's agreement that is a Memorandum of Agreement regarding transfer of rights. This will occur before the book goes to our professional editor and ACT Heritage.

10. 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 booking out fast for next Spring so **consider booking now** if you need it. To find out more or book the spray unit contact Steve Welch or Martin Lind 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 Steve or Martin if you have a desire to be involved.

12. Catchment Group meeting

Our next General meeting will be 28 August, Urambi office, 4.30 pm.

The Annual General Meeting is tentatively set for 30 October at Tuggeranong Homestead from about 4.30.

13.African Lovegrass posters and pamphlets

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

Also check out the latest 'placestories' added to the African Lovegrass section on our website <http://sactcg.org.au/node/348>

14.Voting is now open for the 2012 Landcare People's Choice Award

You can now vote online for the ACT finalists in the 2012 Landcare People's Choice Award. Voting closes at 4pm (EST) on Tuesday, September 4th, with the winner announced that night at the 2012 National Landcare Awards gala dinner. To find out more about the finalists, get involved, and show your support by voting, please visit www.landcareonline.com.au/nationalawards.