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## 1. SACTCG Group Business Meeting and Field Trips

SACTCG next general meeting will be held on the **25<sup>th</sup> March 2014 4:30 to 6:30** at the 21 Snodgrass Crescent in Kambah. All are welcome. Please RSVP to Martine on 62578969 or [info@sactcg.org.au](mailto:info@sactcg.org.au)

SACTCG are holding field trips 2<sup>nd</sup> monthly on the last Tuesday of that month. Thank you to Tony Lawson for a tour around the Southern Tablelands Ecosystem Park site at the National Arboretum for our February field trip.

The next field trip location in April is yet to be determined so stay tuned. If you would like to host a field trip at your groups' site, or your property please call Martine Franco 62966400 to arrange.

## 2. Events, Field Days, Workshops and Forums

### ***Park Care and Share Workshop series***

The Southern ACT Catchment Group in partnership with their member groups have developed a rolling series of workshops *run by ParkCarers and Landcarers for ParkCarers and Landcarers*. These events will utilise the great knowledge bank within the volunteering community managing our natural environment and will assist in building capacity and support for fellow volunteers.

The first workshop at Coleman Ridge NR was held on a beautiful evening in February and with over 20 volunteers attending was a great success. The workshop was led by CR ParkCarers Arminel Ryan, Alan Ford and Gosta Lynga who guided groups around the northern end of CR and facilitated an exchange of knowledge and ideas around local species identification and regeneration. (It must also be said that standards for snacks and refreshments has now been set quite high! Thank you Arminel)

Next workshop: **5.00-7.00pm 27th May at Red Hill.**

*'Tracks, trails and other tribulations. Making the most of legislation when infrastructure development affects your reserve'.*

Meeting at Telstra Exchange building Car Park, Kent St, Deakin (opposite Deakin High). RSVP to Martine on [info@sactcg.org.au](mailto:info@sactcg.org.au) or on 62966400

### ***Beauty and the Beasties***

The Conservation Council will be a series of events for the ACT Heritage Festival including:

'Beauty and the Beasties'

Sunday **13 April 2:00am – 4:00pm** Cotter Avenue

Experience the journey of one of our most important natural and cultural treasures. Discover the source of Canberra's drinking water as it winds through beautiful eucalypt forests and comes to rest in the newly expanded Cotter Dam. While there, why not investigate some tiny aquatic beasties, take a guided walk, or set up a picnic on the riverbank? Explore the wonders of our water, the mysteries of its depths and enjoy the beauty of this picturesque river corridor.

Find out more by visiting [www.conservationcouncil.org.au](http://www.conservationcouncil.org.au) or call 6229 3200.

### **3. Grants Update**

We are expecting the next round of grants to be realistic in the next few months. If you have any projects you are seeking support for (eg. erosion control, fencing, tract repair etc.) and think we can help please contact Martine or Martin on 62966400 to see if it something we can help with.

#### ***ACT Environment Grants***

An ACT environment grant to purchase equipment including 5 Motorised Backpack Sprayers and GPS devices and tablets for mapping weed infestations is currently being acquitted. All equipment is ready for lending (see below). The electronic devices are being used in development of the ACT WeedSpotter App. Training for ParkCare and Landcare groups to enter information on weeds and weed treatment on their sites has been promised from ACT Government soon.

SACTCG are near completion in the ACT Environment Grant to assist a group of Landholders in the Paddy's River Catchment in weed management. This group of landholders have worked hard this past season in combating African Love Grass along with many other weeds in the catchment and this grant has supported these efforts.

#### ***ACT Heritage Grants***

SACTCG, on behalf of Friends of Tidbinbilla were successful in an ACT Heritage Grant for four Canberra Tracks signs at Nil Desperandum Cottage area to be erected in the next 12 months. A working group are busily writing the content and gathering images for the signage. Stay tuned for the unveiling next year.

### **4. Assistance available and funding opportunities**

#### ***Free Plants!***

Free Native tube stock and seed are available for parks and reserves in the Southern Catchment through the SACTCG. If your group or property would like stock and/or assistance in organising a planting event, please contact Martine or Martin on 62966400, we would love to help out!

#### ***ACT Woodlands Restoration Project.***

This Project is now planning for the next stage which will involve activities in many areas in the south across all tenures including assistance with planting, weeding, pest control and fencing. Most groups who work in the areas planned for works are in consultation with the woodlands restoration officer in TAMS, Christie Gould. If you would like to know more about how / if your patch can benefit from this project please call Martine on 62966400.

### **5. Equipment Available**

#### ***Small Equipment***

SACTCG has a range of small equipment available for lending to ParkCarers/Landcarers and landholders including:

- 5 motorised backpack sprayers with 20L capacity
- GPS /tablets for mapping weeds and pests (rabbits)
- Tools including long handled loppers, shovels, picks and long handles rubbish collection tools, gloves and eye protection

- Display boards, sandwich boards, marquees, tables etc.

Please call 62966400 if you are interested in borrowing any of these for your volunteer activity or email [info@sactcg.org.au](mailto:info@sactcg.org.au)

#### **6. Frog Watch support needed!**

As you may be aware the frogwatch program will run out of funding by the end of this year and are now seeking volunteer support to raise funds and assist the program to continue. Four identified action groups have been identified including: corporate funding, sponsorship/fundraising, grant applications, and webpage improvement. If you are able to be involved in any of these please Phone Anke Maria at Ginninderra Catchment Group: 6278 3309 or Email: [frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au](mailto:frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au)

#### **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 booked out till the end of the year but will be available . To find out more or book the spray unit contact Martine Franco or Martin Lind on 6296 6400.

#### **8. Native Seed Harvester**

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](mailto:info@sactcg.org.au) or phone Martine Franco on 6296 6400

#### **9. Sustainable Horse Management Workshops**

Nationally acclaimed authors and experts on horse property management, Jane and/or Stuart Myers, will deliver a seminar held over two evenings focussed on sustainable horse ownership for properties in the Capital region.

Date: **Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th March**

Time: 6-9pm

Location: Gold Creek Station, Victoria St, Hall

Cost: Free (includes a 49 pg colour booklet which covers all aspects of the workshop)

RSVP: 15th March

Please contact Karissa Preuss: [landcare@ginninderralandcare.org.au](mailto:landcare@ginninderralandcare.org.au)

(02) 6278 3309

A light dinner will be provided

The workshops will cover:

- Equine behaviour both in the wild and in the domestic situation and how this affects your property.
- How to maintain and manage suitable pasture for horses and encourage biodiversity,
- innovative ideas to help plan and design a horse property
- how to manage water, manure and vegetation.
- practical solutions to the problems faced by horse owners, including laminitis and obesity

#### **10. 'A Labour of Love' and 'The World of Tidbinbilla'**

If you are yet to get your copies of these great books you can purchase one from the SACTCG Offices, Botanic Gardens bookshop, Arboritum, National library, Tidbinbilla Visitors Centre or the ANPS.

#### **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 would like to join us to talk about your patch and activities live on air!

### **12.The Weed's News**

The Weed's News can be read on-line at any time by visiting [www.weedsnetwork.com](http://www.weedsnetwork.com)

### **13.Australian National Botanic Gardens Botanical Resource Centre**

Have a specimen you want to identify? Why not use the The Botanical Resource Centre, located within the Australian National Botanic Gardens. This is a free facility available to anyone interested in learning to identify and obtain information about native plants. The centre is open daily from 9.30am to 4.30pm. See the website for further information: <http://www.anbg.gov.au/gardens/research/resource/index.html>

### **14.Looking for more information of events across the ACT region?**

Why not try the ACT Landcare website at <http://www.actlandcare.org.au/>