

SOUTHERN NEWS
15/04/2011



1. [The Caring for our Country Business Plan 2011-12](#)
2. [ACT Environment Grants](#)
3. [African Lovegrass Survey](#)
4. [Provincial Plants and Landscapes Awarded again](#)
5. [News from MoTH](#)
6. [Waterwatch Newsletter](#)
7. [Mobile Quikspray unit available to landholders](#)
8. [Don't be a Drifter Herbicide spraying workshops](#)
9. [What Farmers Need forum](#)
10. [Radio Landcare](#)
11. [The relationship between health and the environment](#)
12. [Have your say on Caring for our Country](#)

1. CFOC 2011-12 Business Plan Funding Round

The *Caring for our Country Business Plan 2011-12* is now available. It provides an opportunity to seek funding for open-call projects and regional base-level funding that contribute to one or more of the six national priority areas set by the Australian Government for improving our natural resources. For more information go to: <http://www.nrm.gov.au/business-plan/11-12/index.html>

2. 2011–2012 ACT Environment Grants

Applications are invited from not-for-profit organisations and individuals for environmental projects in the ACT. Information and application forms are available at www.environment.act.gov.au or by phoning 6207 7140. Applications close on 13 May 2011. An information session will be held at the Reception Room in the ACT Legislative Assembly, Civic from 4.30pm to 6.30 pm on Wednesday, 20 April. To reserve a place, email sally.mcintosh@act.gov.au or phone 6205 2913 by Monday, 18 April.

3. African Lovegrass Survey

Your help is requested, to fill out the African Lovegrass survey form at sites where you see African Lovegrass growing, but also in sites that you do not find the grass. Please feel free to contact Sarah Sharp on 0402 576412 or Steve Welch on 6296 6400 about this project. The survey form along with comprehensive information on African Lovegrass and a gallery of AG photos can be found at www.sactcg.org.au/node/348

4. Provincial Plants and Landscapes named 'best of the best' and taken out the National Environment Award

Congratulations to local business 'Provincial Plants and Landscapes' based in Pialligo and Wandella, NSW who won the prestigious 2011 Nursery and Garden Industry's National Environment Award for the second year in a row. The 'NGI Environment Award' is a highly competitive award that is open to all industry businesses Australia wide and acknowledges initiatives to environmental management or community participation in relation to environmental issues. <http://plantsandlandscapes.com.au/>

5. News from MoTH (Mindere of Tuggeranong Homestead)

Jenny Horsfield last wrote a report for the Friends of Grasslands newsletter in August 2009, in which she described MoTH's work, in partnership with the Southern ACT Catchment Group (SACTCG), in a long-term project that aims to 'Return Life to Tuggeranong Creek' through extensive plantings of native grasses and shrubs above the dry creek-bank. Jenny commented at the time, in the middle of our extended and seemingly endless drought, that many of the grasses were flourishing but the bigger plantings were struggling. Now, after this amazing spring and summer, Jenny says *that 'our project has taken off! The scattered plantings of E Melliodora are thriving, a couple of the young trees reaching head height. A number of Indigofera and Cassinia shrubs are well-established and provide protection for the grasses and groundcovers beneath them. We are discovering with great interest that as we extend the area of native vegetation above the creek bank and eliminate the introduced pasture grasses and exotics like African Lovegrass, much of the vegetation that would have grown along the original creek-line is coming back. We have healthy stands of wallaby grass (Austrodanthonia sp.), redleg grass (Bothriochloa), various forms of Stipa, and some areas covered by the lovely purple Glycine and the native geranium. We are very proud of the success of our planting of sticky everlasting daisies which now cover a whole bank and have seeded profusely.*

These past months, the croaking of frogs has been a welcome sound as we worked along the creek-line, with the usually dry creek-bed retaining water for the first time in many decades. Mid-March saw extensive clumps of frog spawn on the surface of the ponds. All around us we see a revival of insect and bird life, a welcome addition to the area's biodiversity.'

MoTH is also involved in caring for the remnant woodland on the Tuggeranong Homestead property. A Caring for our Country Community Action grant, gained through the SACTCG coordinator, has allowed us to further our work on this site. Plantings over the summer are intended to provide a healthy understory in the woodland where there are some fine stands of *E melliodora* and *E blakelyi*.

We welcome any new members who perhaps live in Tuggeranong and would like to be involved with MoTH in landcare work at this historic property. Contact Southern ACT Catchment Group for details.

6. Waterwatch Newsletter

The April Waterwatch newsletter is available now at:

<http://www.act.waterwatch.org.au/Files/Newsletters/march2011.pdf>

7. Mobile Quikspray unit available to landholders

The Southern ACT Catchment Group supported by an ACT Environment Grant has purchased a trailer mounted QuikSpray unit to assist landholders across the ACT to undertake weed control. The 600lt dual hose unit is now available to any rural lease in the ACT and in the Googong or Upper Murrumbidgee catchments south of the ACT.

The Southern ACT Catchment Group Inc. offers to lend its mobile Quikspray Unit under a limited number of simple conditions.

To find out more or book the spray unit contact: Steve Welch on 6296 6400

8. Don't be a Drifter Herbicide spraying workshops

Interested in learning more about herbicide application?

Are you a landholder in the ACT or in the Googong or Upper Murrumbidgee catchments south of the ACT? Want to upgrade your chemical application skills, ensure your machinery is working correctly, you have up to date records ensure you gain your reaccreditation? If so Southern ACT Catchment Group has organised a herbicide use training course for the 28/29 May to be held at Westwood Farm near Kambah. The concept is to deliver an advanced practical/theory session in one day, which will include observing, using UV light, droplets of water coloured with dye, applied to stubble, leaves or grasses at different rates, nozzles and pressures To reinforce the workshop information the day will be followed by small group half day sessions where spray applicators can bring along their own equipment and have their questions answered, guided by an experienced operator. The workshops have a mixture of RELEVANT theory and practice. Assessment is relevant to the participants, for example: preparing a diagram for the farm paddock and putting in the relevant buffer zones. Demonstrating how to keep the necessary records in a simple format, ensuring they have the MSD's they need and only the ones they need. Chemical user accreditation (AQF3) or reaccreditation is available if required. All costs will be covered through funding to the catchment group from ActewAGL and the ACT NRM Council. Places are limited and Bookings essential: Contact Steve Welch on 6296 6400 or email info@sactcg.org.au

9. What farmers need forum

The forum will be held on Thursday 19th May 2011 at the CSIRO Discovery Centre from 9.30am – 4.30pm. RSVP is essential as places are limited Cost is FREE, morning and afternoon tea, lunch and tea and coffee provided. "What Farmers Need" is an opportunity for NSW and ACT farmers, extension workers, policy makers and researchers to come together to discuss NRM information and support needs.

Eight farmers with different lifestyles and experiences will showcase their personal experiences with natural resource management in relation to their farming business.

The two major questions being asked are:

What motivates landholders to undertake NRM work?

What resources / information do they think they need to help them continue this work (or begin it in the first place)?

Following each presentation will be an extended discussion time, and the audience will have the opportunity to ask questions and put forward views in relation to these questions. Enquiries: Lori Gould, Ph 0439 030 058 or 02 6253 3035 lgould@act.greeningaustralia.org.au

10. Radio Landcare

For an interesting update on local landcare listen to:

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. On Tuesday 19th April, members of the Cooleman Ridge Park Care Group will be on air to help celebrate the group's 20th birthday.

11. Health and the environment

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released a report on the relationship between health and the environment. The report synthesises research findings on 15 selected environmental factors that include 'natural' features (such as temperature and ultraviolet radiation) and aspects which have been created or modified by humans (such as housing and transport). As many of the pathways involved are indirect and complex, the report also examines some of the difficulties involving in assessing the broader relationship between health and the environment.

To download a copy of the report please visit:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=10737418534&tab=2>

12. Have your say on Caring for our Country

The Australian Government is inviting your views on its NRM program - Caring for our Country. The Australian Government is looking at what is working well, what can be improved and what the future challenges will be in protecting Australia's natural resources. To get the conversation started, the Australian Government have released a discussion paper (attached) which outlines a series of common topics people have already raised with us. The Australian Government invite you to contribute to this review of Caring for our Country and have your say on the future of natural resource management in Australia. The discussion paper and information on how to make a submission is also available at www.nrm.gov.au. Written submissions are due by 20 May 2011.