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The team at Southern ACT Catchment Group would like to wish all of our members and friends a very happy holiday and festive season. We look forward to working with you in the New Year!

1. SACTCG Group Business Meeting and Field Trips

SACTCG next meeting will be held on the 28th January 2014 at the 21 Snodgrass Crescent in Kambah. All are welcome. Please RSVP to Martine on 62578969 or info@sactcg.org.au

SACTCG are holding field trips 2nd monthly on the last Tuesday of that month. The next field trip location in February is yet to be determined so stay tuned. If you would like to host a meeting 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 environmental volunteering community on managing our natural environment and will assist in building capacity and support for volunteers. The workshops will provide a focused learning opportunity at a ParkCare or Landcare work site and will explore topics such as weed and native species identification, innovative restoration techniques, erosion control methods and trials, ecological surveying and many more!

The first workshop will be at Coleman Ridge NR in an evening in February on weed species identification. More details to follow in the New Year. If you would like to be involved and share some of your knowledge, experience and ideas please call Martine on 62966400.

Murrumbung Yurung Murra Cultural Tours

Experience Ngunnawal Country with an Aboriginal Ranger and gain an insight into the cultural landscape of the region. Discover why Ngunnawal people and neighbouring nations have gathered here for tens of thousands of years for ceremony, marriage, seasonal foods, trade and lore. Learn how that connection is still held strong by the Traditional Custodians today, and view Canberra's significance as a nationally important meeting place from a different perspective. Visit the [Murrumbung Yurung Murra Cultural Tours page](#) on the TAMS website for more information.

3. Grants Update

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.

ACT Environment Grants

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 season in combating African Love Grass along with many other weeds in the catchment and this grant has supported these efforts.

The ACT Environment for Hughes Garran Woodland is currently being acquitted. This project produced a long term Plan of Management for the woodland along with some monitoring and maintenance equipment. This has been one of the first detailed Plans of Management developed by a community group for a non-reserve area in the ACT and has had some key learnings that will guide future planning and working effectively with the land managers. The plan can be found at:

http://sactcg.org.au/SACTCG_HughesGarranWoodland

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.

Greening Australia Funding Opportunities

Whole of Paddock Rehabilitation (WOPR) funding is available to ACT and NSW landholders. For further details please call Angela Calliess at Greening Australia Capital Region 6253 3035 or mobile 0413 921 28

5. Equipment Available

Small Equipment

SACTCG has a range of small equipment available for lending including:

- 5 motorised backpack sprayers with 20L capacity
- GPS devices for mapping
- Tools including long handled loppers, shovels, picks and long handles rubbish collection tools
- Display boards, sandwich boards, marquees etc.

Please call 62966400 if you are interested in borrowing any of these for your volunteer activity.

Mobile QuikSpray Unit

SOUTHERN NEWS

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.

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 or phone Martine Franco on 6296 6400

6. Consultation Still Open for Draft ACT Trails Strategy

Any wishing to comment or consult on the ACT Trails Strategy has the opportunity to do so up until December 20. More details can be found on the TAMS website [here](#)

7. New Grass is Greener Website

Check out the new "Grass is Greener" website <http://www.grassisgreener.org.au/> a collaboration between ACTEW Water and Greening Australia. This is a place to share stories of improved land management and to see what's happening on the other side of the fence. You can discover some of the steps that landholders in our region are taking to increase productivity, protect their stock, increase property value, reduce erosion, increase water quality and bring birds back. Landholders and Natural Resource Management groups in the Capital Region are encouraged to get involved and tell your stories. If you have a story to tell, or would like to do something on your place go to: <http://www.grassisgreener.org.au/get-involved/> to register your interest.

8. '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.

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

10. The Weed's News

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

11. 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>

12. Looking for more information of events across the ACT region?

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