

SOUTHERN NEWS
16/7/2010



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Living with Lovegrass

Following on from the forum Anna Van Dugteren, Esther Duffy, Geoff Hyles, David Shorthouse, Steve Taylor and another representative from PCL, Catherine Keirnan and Steve Welch will meet on Thursday 22 July to discuss how we can promote recommendations out of the forum. Forum information is now on www.sactcg.org.au

Algae Workshop

What: Workshop with Dr Skinner and Martin on using new algae recording system as part of Waterwatch monitoring.

When: Saturday 7th August 10am – 12pm (ish)

Where: Meet at Tidbinbilla NR Visitors centre.

Who: Current and potential Waterwatcher volunteers who have yet to discover the joys of the new algae recording system.

Cost: nil

Note: There is a maximum of 20 places, please book early. There will be coffee and cake.

RSVP: waterwatch@sactcg.org.au

PCL weed training

Jenny Connelly, Weed and Invertebrate Pests Officer and Joe Clifton, Athllon Ranger have kindly offered to provide some training in weed id and treatment.

Training will include:

Serrated tussock ID and treatment;

Chilean needle grass ID and treatment;

African love grass ID and treatment; and

Frilling larger woody weeds

When: Sunday July 18th 11:00am

Where: Fisher Parkland, the entrance off Namatjira Drive.

Depending on demand, I will organise two possibly three training sessions. I will run training on both the south side of Canberra and the north side, starting with this first session on the south.

Please RSVP asap for the above training. Please note places are be limited.

A similar session on the north side will be run in September.

Conatct:

Sally McIntosh

Community Programs Officer

Community and Volunteers

Parks, Conservation and Lands

Ph: 6205 7384

<mailto:Sally.McIntosh@act.gov.au>

Tales of Tidbinbilla

Heritage Project, 'Tales of Tidbinbilla', Administrator: Steve Welch and Editors Wendy P. Rainbird, Jennifer R. Widdowson and Valerie A. Brown. The title of the guidebook has been changed to "The World of Tidbinbilla" to reflect the scope of the material, which includes materials for all the topics listed in the application. The project is running to timetable, with a copy currently being reviewed by the Heritage Unit and the edited, proof-read and illustrated text at the book designer for printing in August-September. The Office of the Chief Minister has agreed in principle for Chief Minister Stanhope to launch the book in October. Five external readers, including a professional editor, an ecologist, and three potential consumers have read the book and their comments have been taken into account.

Community Action Grants 2010–11

In the 2010-11 round of the Community Action Grants up to \$8 million is available to help community groups protect the environment and to support sustainable farming practices. Applications opened on Tuesday 6 July 2010 and will close 31 August 2010. More information is available at www.nrm.gov.au including the 2010-11 Community Action Grants *Applicant Guidelines*, *How to complete the Community Action Grants application* and the on-line registration and *application form*. If you are unable to access the website please call 1800 552 008 to obtain any or all of these documents in hard copy. Enquiries may also be made at communityactiongrants@nrm.gov.au.

Identification and preservation of Australia's biodiversity

The Taxonomy Research & Information Network presents: 'Accelerating discovery' and the TRIN Interactive Field Day. 'Accelerating discovery' is the first of two interactive online booklets highlighting the products, outcomes and protocols from the TRIN research projects, that assist with the identification and preservation of Australia's biodiversity. We will be showcasing these products, outcomes and protocols, along with other applications that support biodiversity, at the TRIN Interactive Field Day in Canberra on August 31, 2010. To find out more or to register visit: <http://taxonomy.org.au/fieldday.html>

Southern ACT Catchment Group meeting

The next Executive Meeting will be on Thursday 29 July at 44 McGivern Crescent, Kambah from 4pm, all welcome.

Leading Change – Living for one planet

The Australian Association of Environmental Education 2010 National Conference will be held in Canberra 26-30 September. <https://www.conferenceco.com.au/aaee>

ACT Natural Heritage Nominations

Six ACT Natural Heritage Nominations have been listed for Provisional (5 months) Registration:

- Button Wrinklewort habitat (Majura and Yarralumla);
- Cotter Caves and surrounds;
- Kama Woodlands/Grasslands;
- Lower Molonglo Geological sites;
- Small Purple Pea habitat; and,
- Tuggeranong Parkway Road Cutting.

The closing date for comments is 27 July.

You can find more details at:

http://www.tams.act.gov.au/live/heritage/act_heritage_register/act_heritage_provisional_registrations_seeking_public_comment

If you have any comments that you wish the ACT Conservation Council to make, please send direct to John Hibberd director@consact.org.au

Tilting at Windmills and Beyond

The next public meeting of Nature and Society Forum will be held on Wednesday 21 July. The guest speaker for this occasion will be Geoff Mosley. Geoff Mosley has been a conservationist in Australia for 50 years. In his talk titled 'Tilting at Windmills and Beyond' he will take a no holds barred look at conservation over the last half century and make some suggestions for a significantly improved effort in the future. Australia rides on the back of a never ending resources boom and the public is meekly supportive. Land use is manipulated to cater for this quarry role and for the provision of infrastructure and services for a growing population. The environment movement sees its primary role as mitigating the effects of the quarry goal on particular

resources and parts of the environment and fails to examine either the causes or the alternatives. Hence it has not modified in any way the expansionist paradigm. A better global approach would see each region living within its environmental means. Geoff will also examine this alternative and the potential for Australia to play a major role in the transformation. Geoff Mosley was Executive Director of the Australian Conservation Foundation from 1973 to 1986 and has had a lifelong interest in preserving wilderness. His contributions were acknowledged in 2005 when he was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours. In June, 2008 he was named as the Individual Award winner in the Australia World Environment Day 2008 Awards. In 2008 he also became the Australian Director of the Center for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy.

The venue: CSIRO Discovery Centre, Acton
The date: Wednesday 21 July 2010
The time: 7:30pm

For more information contact office@natsoc.org.au

Tidbinbilla Draft Plan of Management available for public comment

Members may recall that in February last year we submitted comments on the discussion paper for the Tidbinbilla precinct. The issues we addressed included:

1. accommodation;
2. public safety with particular reference to European wasps;
3. an increased emphasis on education about sustainability and Landcare;
4. the role of volunteers;
5. water quality and quantity;
6. the preservation and interpretation of both Aboriginal and European sites;
7. transport, and;
8. the natural vista.

The Tidbinbilla Draft Plan of Management May 2010 is now available for public comment until Monday 26 July 2010. The purpose of the draft plan is to seek community views on the values of Tidbinbilla, the issues and options associated with their conservation and use, and the current and future management policies for the Tidbinbilla precinct.

The draft plan can be viewed at

http://www.tams.act.gov.au/play/pcl/parks_reserves_and_open_places/national_parks/tidbinbilla_nature_reserve/tidbinbilla_draft_plan_of_mgt

ACT Conservation Council Member Forum - Protecting Tidbinbilla

When: 22 July 5:30 for 6pm start

Where: Havelock House, 85 Northbourne Ave, Turner

With the deadline for submissions on the proposed Tidbinbilla Management Plan looming, now is the ideal time to discuss how we want the Tidbinbilla precinct (Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, Birrigai and Jedbinbilla) to be managed. This forum will have a panel for questions and answers, which will then flow into open discussion.

Sitting on the panel will be Trish Bootes from TAMS, Kevin Frawley the author of the management plan and a representative from National Parks Association. The Conservation Council ACT urges member groups in particular to take advantage of this opportunity and attend the forum to discuss issues arising from the plan.

Drinks and nibbles will be provided. Entry by gold coin donation, member groups and eco-activists free!

Hog Hopper

The Invasive Animals CRC 's Technical Officer, Jason Wishart has designed and developed a feral pig specific bait station known as the 'Hog Hopper'. It is in the final stages of development and a tender has recently been released to find a suitable large scale manufacturer.

Jessica Marsh is trying to gauge interest and form a realistic estimate of how many 'Hog Hoppers' should be produced in the first instance.

It is a sturdy aluminium structure with double sided upwards sliding doors that require feral pigs to lift with their snouts to feed and then the door slides back down after they have fed on either grain or Pigout baits (or anything really). They can hold a large quantity of grain/ bait and are pinned to the ground with heavy duty pegs or star pickets. They have been shown to have 100% species specific bait take in lengthy field trials and pigs have no hesitation in using the station after a short 'learning' period. The 'Hog Hopper' will sell for approximately \$500-\$600 although this will depend on the outcomes of the tender process (and how many will be made- the more that are made, the cheaper they will be). The IA CRC are going to take the best value for money option.

The 'Hog Hopper' will be on display at the LHPA rangers conference and QLD Pest Animal Symposium this year for you to have a closer look at but if you could indicate to me ASAP if this would be something you would consider to help combat feral pigs in your region, it would be much appreciated. Like I said earlier, there is no obligation, your names etc will not be used- all I need is a rough estimate of numbers to try and help get accurate production numbers.

The Invasive Animals CRC is proudly hosting the 15th Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference, Sydney June 20-23, 2011 - <http://www.avpc.net.au>

If you want more information:

Jessica Marsh (Gibson)

NRM Liaison Officer - Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre

Industry and Investment NSW

Forest Road, Orange NSW 2800, AUSTRALIA

02 6391 3907

jessica.gibson@industry.nsw.gov.au

Is that a cackle, a croak, or a ribbit?

ACT and Region Frogwatch is would like to invite you to a free Frog Call Identification Evening:

- Learn about our local frog species
- Learn how to identify different frogs by their calls
- Practice identifying frogs from a chorus - what species and how many are there.

These evenings are ideal for anyone interested in frogs including those who have previously participated in Frogwatch and want some further practice with identifying the different species.

Frog Call Evening 3

Date: Wednesday 28th July

Time: 6pm

Venue: Lyons Youth Haven Functions Room - Kambah Pool Road

RSVP: By 21 July - Southern ACT Catchment Group - waterwatch@sactcg.org.au or 6296 6400

Estimated length: 1.5 hours. Tea and coffee will be available.

Contact Martin Lind waterwatch@sactcg.org.au or 62966400

Out back, opportunities beckon to reduce effect of carbon - The Pew Report

This article from the Sydney Morning Herald picks up on the ideas first proposed in the journal *Nature and Society* 2 1/2 years ago:

http://www.natsoc.org.au/html/publications/Journal%2007-6_Reforestation.pdf

The Pew report refers to the reduction of feral animals as a complementary measure, but it focuses mainly on the potential for reforestation to have benefits through carbon sequestration, rather than - more holistically - its potential to mitigate, effectively, the effects of climate change at the regional level. <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/out-back-opportunities-beckon-to-reduce-effect-of-carbon-20100713-109io.html>

Environmental Law Fact Sheets

The Environmental Defender's Office (ACT) has produced a series of eleven Environmental Law Fact Sheets. These fact sheets are designed to give plain English background knowledge of ACT environmental laws. The EDO Fact Sheets Project was carried out with the assistance of funds made available by the ACT Government under the ACT Environment Grants Program and the EDO gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the ACT Government.

The titles are:

- Introduction to environment and planning law and the legal system
- Freedom of information
- Challenging environmental decisions
- Becoming an incorporated group
- Biodiversity law
- Biodiversity: managing pests
- Biodiversity and domestic animals

- Tree protection law
- Heritage protection law
- Pollution control law; and
- Noise pollution.

Copies of these updated fact sheets are available online at our newly redesigned website www.edo.org.au/edoact/ or by contacting the EDO office on 6243 3460 or edoact@edo.org.au.

New 'free range' standards - an unsustainable land use?

Please see below. After signing the petition it takes you to a page to donate money which goes to the web host who hosts the petition page. You do not need to donate to have your signature recorded.

Anna See
Project Officer
Conservation Council ACT Region

20,000 birds per hectare !!!!

At a time when most countries are tightening their environmental and farm animal welfare standards, here, the Australian Egg Corporation has launched plans for new standards for free range egg production which will allow de-beaking or beak trimming of hens as a matter of course, stocking densities on farms to increase from 1500 hens per hectare to a massive 20,000 and hens to be kept locked in sheds for up to 25 weeks.

Understandably, the genuine free range industry and consumers are in turmoil over this proposal. We agree with the Aust Egg Corporation that the current standards for free range egg production need to be changed - but they need to be tightened up to ensure that consumers are not misled. The changes proposed by the Australian Egg Corporation will allow large producers to charge customers a premium for branding their eggs as 'free range' without incurring the additional costs of genuine free range production methods. The proposed AECL stocking density would be a totally unsustainable land use and have serious animal welfare implications.

We have set up a petition at <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/freerange/>
More info is on our blog at <http://freerangereggs.blogspot.com>

Phil Westwood
Freeranger Eggs

The Future - K2C Landholders – Links - Landscapes Expo

Sunday, 10th Oct 2010 at Bredbo Village

Over 25 stalls to field your questions and offer options for you on your land.

Key Presenter, Sam Archer - Cattle and Crop Farmer, MLA Nuffield Scholar

- Calling on all landholders in a 100km radius to head to Bredbo Village for this exciting event.
- 10 K2C Partners + many more industry and community groups will be there to discuss all types of land matters with you.

- Discover a range of sustainable land uses that can yield profits while enriching landscape health.
- Come on a visit to the Bush Heritage “Scottsdale” Property, listen and talk to presenters on land use, birds, reptiles, weeds, wattles and much more.
- Celebrate 2010 — Year of Biodiversity

Contact Lauren Van Dyke—K2C Project Facilitator facilitator@k2c.org.au
www.k2c.org.au

NSW/ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards 2010

Applications are invited for the NSW/ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards 2010. (Nominations close August 13)

Award categories include:

- The Land and Property Management Authority **Crown Reserve Trust Award**
- The Land and Property Management Auth. **Community of the Year Award**
- The Industry and Investment NSW **Business Enterprise Award**
- The Industry and Investment NSW **Events & Tourism Award**
- The Salvation Army Employment Plus **Employment & Training Award**
- The Peabody **Environment & Landcare Award**

Contact Kiri Lewis, Awards Coordinator- Awards Australia
 NSW/ACT Regional Achievement & Community Awards
 1300 735 445 www.awardsaustralia.com

Junior Landcare Grants Available

Round 3 of the Yates and Coles Junior Landcare grants will close Friday 6th August.
www.juniorlandcare.com.au

Parkcare in the Molonglo Valley Workshop

Molonglo Catchment Group (MCG) and The Southern Tablelands Ecosystem Park (STEP) invite you to attend the Parkcare in the Molonglo Valley Workshop to be held on Saturday 28 August at the Crosbie Morrison Centre, Australian National Botanic Gardens, Clunies Ross Street, Acton.

This is also open to existing Park Care group members to attend to advise and educate on how Park Care works.

Saturday 28 August 2010

8.30am to 1.00pm

Crosbie Morrison Centre, Australian National Botanic Gardens

Background and Objectives

STEP are a relatively new group to the Molonglo Valley and would like the opportunity to learn from the various groups operating in the area and also to discuss the potential for a Ecosystem Monitoring Program in the Molonglo Valley. This workshop aims to give the various Parkcare/Friends of groups working in the

Molonglo Valley an opportunity to get together and discuss their work. We would love to find out: what your group is working on, what goals you have for you site, what methods have you used that have been successful or failed miserably, does your group currently do anything to monitor your sites biodiversity, eg are your activities resulting in improved biodiversity, species planted and weeds cleared at your site; and any threatened or protected species on your site.

This workshop is the first of a series planned for the area with the overall aim of identifying ways all the groups in the area can work toward a common goal and to establish an Ecosystem Monitoring Program for organisations with projects in the Molonglo Valley. Such a program would contribute to several STEP aims and objectives towards its vision for a community based regional botanical garden, education and ecosystem recovery centre for the Southern Tablelands. Please register on the form below and email it to: limestone@grapevine.com.au Inquiries to: Linda Beveridge on 6262 5551

This is an United Nations International Year of Biodiversity Year event.