

SOUTHERN NEWS 17/6/2010



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Hope in a Changing Climate

This film documents the large scale (35,000 km²) restoration on China's Loess Plateau taking it from a highly degraded environment in 1995 to a highly productive agricultural and ecological area in a decade, and also includes other examples from Ethiopia and Rwanda. It is inspirational to see what is possible, and while it isn't Australia, there are many parallels that we can learn from. For the past 15 years, in a unique and ambitious project funded by the Chinese government and the World Bank, local people have been working to restore the severely degraded landscape of China's vast Loess Plateau. Now their efforts in planting trees and building terraces over a 90,000 square kilometre area have started to pay off. Once barren hillsides are again cloaked with trees, and farmers who struggled to survive are beginning to reap the benefits of the improving soils. But the Loess Plateau project didn't just transform the landscape - it also inspired film-maker John Liu to become a soil scientist based at the Rothamsted Institute in the UK and the US's George Mason University. In 'Hope in a Changing Climate', John Liu goes back to report on the transformation of the Loess Plateau, and travels to Africa to explore whether lessons learned in China could help restore other degraded lands around the world. Can restoring soil fertility and tree cover, he asks, also help tackle climate change by soaking up more CO₂ from the atmosphere?

Hope in a Changing Climate <http://www.hopeinachangingclimate.org/>

Southern ACT Catchment Group meeting

The next General Meeting will be on Tuesday 22 June at Urambi Primary School from 4pm, all welcome.

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

‘Our Water’

The launch of ‘Our Water’: Source Water Protection for the ACT - Teaching Resources will be at Lanyon High School on Friday 25 June at 9.15am.

As Canberra’s population and water supply requirements increase, our need to find additional sources of water and to protect our water supply catchments, has become more important.

Ensuring that the Territory’s school students understand the value of drinking water, where it is sourced from and how to protect the ACT’s water supply catchments, is the thinking behind “***Our Water: Source Water Protection for the ACT - Teaching Resources***” - a teachers resource to be launched on the 25 June at Lanyon High School, during Landcare week.

The “***Our Water: Source Water Protection for the ACT Teaching Resources***” has been developed by Martin Lind, Waterwatch Coordinator for the Southern ACT Catchment Group with funding provided by an ACT Government Environment Grant, Australian Government ‘Caring for our Country’ program and ACTEWAGL.

The resource will assist teachers to develop classroom and field based activities to support students to gain a greater understanding of source water protection, catchment health in the ACT, and how to work towards an environmentally sustainable future.

Lanyon High was chosen for the launch as it is the ACT Education and People’s Choice finalist in the National Landcare Awards, which will be announced at Parliament House on Thursday 24 June.

Lanyon High has a proud environmental history, having won the ACT Landcare Education award twice – in 2003 and 2009, for its ongoing efforts at increasing environmental awareness in its students, supporting Landcare groups, Birrigai and other schools by propagating thousands of native trees and shrubs in the schools glasshouse, for use by these groups. Concurrently the school community has planted thousands of trees around the school and created a native plant bush garden.

Contact waterwatch@sactcg.org.au

Junior Landcare Grants Available

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

Landcare Awards

The Landcare Awards People's Choice voting will close 12am 23 June so only a few days left to vote for the wonderful ACT finalists, leave a message of support or be inspired by the other finalists that are all winners from their own states. You can access the website from www.landcareonline.com.au and click on the "People's Choice Awards

Women of Flowers: Botanical Art in Australia

Leonie Norton will give a talk about her book *Women of Flowers: Botanical Art in Australia from the 1830s to the 1960s* at the Tuggeranong Homestead. Leonie is one of Australia's leading botanical artists and an international botanical art tutor. The book pays tribute to 11 colonial women botanical artists and features many beautiful works that were sourced primarily from the National Library of Australia's Pictures Collections. Leonie's book is a social history of the women that celebrates their achievements and their contribution to botanical art. The book will be available at the talk and the National Library's book shop.

When: 2 pm Sunday 11 July 2010

Where: Tuggeranong Homestead, Johnson Drive, Richardson

Cost: \$10 includes Devonshire tea

Bookings please to: Jenny Horsfield 62314535

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 1

Date: Thursday 22nd July

Time: 6pm
Venue: Queanbeyan TAFE - Corner Buttle and Macquoid Streets
RSVP: By 15 July - Molonglo Catchment Group
- <mailto:coordinator@molonglocatchment.com.au> or 6299 2119

Frog Call Evening 2

Date: Tuesday 27th July 6pm
Time: 6pm
Venue: Belconnen Library - 12 Chandler St Belconnen
RSVP: By 20 July - Ginninderra Catchment Group
- frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au or 6278 3309

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.

ACT and Region Frogwatch runs an annual Frogwatch Census each October. The program aims to involve large numbers of volunteers to undertake frog monitoring and protect frog habitat in the ACT and region. In spring the program will run introductory training sessions for *new* Frogwatchers to learn about frogs and their calls as well as the monitoring process. Field trips for more experienced Frogwatchers will also be offered.

The Natural Sequence Association - Upper-Murrumbidgee Chapter

Sun. 4 July; Working-bee & Composting Demo, Bredbo

10am-3pm, at Committee-member Martyn's place, 1km S of the village, E-side of the highway (NSA banner will mark it).

Main activity is to build a leaky-weir across a long gully using nearby rocks, followed by a demonstration of latest compost-making equipment and activators. Wear work-gear, including gloves, if not just supervising.

No charge; morning-tea, BYO lunch.

We'll also participate in the **K2C Biodiversity and Farming Fair** at Bredbo village, October 10th ; probably also at Murrumbateman the following week.

Contact nsa_umc@yahoo.com.au

News of our world

For the latest in NRM news, events, funding and training opportunities, forums and conferences of interest to people living in the ACT and nearby regions check out the News of our World, a newsletter prepared by the ACT Natural Resources Management Facilitator for the ACT NRM Council. <http://actlandcare.org.au/now>

Government response to the report on the ACT lowland native grasslands

To view the Government response to the Report on the ACT Lowland Native Grassland Investigation by the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment presented by Simon Corbell MLA, Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water in March 2010 go to:

http://www.environment.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/189840/Government_response_to_Report_on_the_ACT_Lowland_Native_Grassland.pdf

Living with Lovegrass

‘Living with Lovegrass’ a forum designed around learning from each other on how to manage African Lovegrass was held at the Namadgi Visitor Centre on Saturday 22nd May. When the write-up of the forum is completed I will let you know that it is on our website. Anna Van Dugteren, Esther Duffy, Geoff Hyles, myself and potentially David Shorthouse will meet to discuss how we can promote recommendations out of the forum.

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