

SOUTHERN NEWS
20/8/2010



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Living with Lovegrass

Following on from the forum a working group convened by the Southern ACT Catchment Group has met to discuss how we can promote recommendations out of the forum. As a result Southern ACT Catchment Group is currently seeking funds (including a Community Action Grant application) for a project that will work with project partners to:

- * Identify areas to target for priority control through analysis of existing data to produce a map indicating the ALG distribution in 2000, undertake surveys to map the 2010 distribution, and provide an estimate for the likely 2020 distribution, based on current control levels;
- * Produce a poster explaining ALG impacts and how rural landholders and urban dwellers can take action to reduce these impacts;
- * Place articles in local press with same aim as poster (above), place ads in local press and targeted newsletters when conditions for the control by herbicide is optimal;
- * Conduct Field days to demonstrate best-practice control methods on nearby farms where trials on ALG control are established;
- * Add to existing information to ACT Landcare, Parkcare and catchment group websites and encourage community groups to add links to their websites.

Trees in Trouble

Gerry Nussio, Manager of Westwood Farm for Lion's Youth Haven has devised an efficient, cost effective barrier designed to protect paddock trees from horses, and is involving school students in their construction.

The 'Trees in Trouble' Program at Westwood Farm aims to conserve the remnant Yellow box/Redgum paddock trees, while maintaining agricultural production. The program involves students, who were not engaging well at their school, constructing tree guards to prevent horses from damaging paddock trees.

A member of Southern ACT Catchment Group, Lions Youth Haven is a community based organisation dedicated to providing Canberra's youth at risk with a supported, learning outdoor environment. While significant areas of the farm are managed for conservation, most of the farm is used for horse agistment.

The protection of remnant paddock trees (particularly Yellow box) in horse paddocks remains a concern and priority for Lions Youth Haven and the organisation has responded by supporting the design, building and trialing of custom made tree guards to prevent horses from chewing, rubbing and ring-barking remnant trees. These tree guards are a proven (over 5 years), cost effective solution to protecting these iconic and highly threatened features of our landscape. Their design solves the problem of horses attacking paddock trees while still allowing access to the tree by wildlife. Another of the programs objectives is to make this design freely available to the wider rural and equestrian community.

Southern ACT Catchment Group has nominated the Trees in Trouble program and the tree guard design in the NSW/ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards 2010.

Conservation Council ACT Region Member Forum – Thursday 26 August

Considering making your house a solar home? What are the opportunities and challenges for solar in Australia? How can Canberra be a leading city in solar homes? This month's forum will examine solar energy and look at the current options available in Canberra focussing on the opportunities available for residents.

Speakers:

Jenny Goddard - Australian Solar Institute (ASI) and Patrick Greene – Ingenero
5.30 for 6pm start, Havelock House, 85 Northbourne Ave, Turner. All Welcome!
Entry by gold coin donation, Member Groups and Eco-activists FREE

www.landcareonline.com.au

Were you part of the 2010 National Landcare Awards? Landcare Australia is asking for those involved to complete a short survey has been designed to evaluate the 2010 National Landcare Awards and make improvements.

The 2010 Landcare Week campaign encourages landcare groups, schools and youth groups, business and industry, and everyone from the general community to register as a 'Landcare ClimateWatcher' for Landcare Week. Visit www.landcareonline.com.au to register for the Landcare Week campaign. On the website you will also find other citizen science programs that you can link in with such as programs to map the spread of rabbits, weeds or water quality.

Tuggeranong Community Council submission to the Chief Minister

Darryl Johnston, President of the Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC) advises that the Chief Minister, John Stanhope, has invited the President and Vice President of the TCC to meet with him on 9 September 2010. All TCC members had been invited to contribute to a submission (Talking Tuggeranong) that was presented to the Chief Minister at a meeting in March. The TCC plans to present a similar submission (an update to Talking Tuggeranong) to the Chief Minister at the meeting in September. Darryl is seeking your contributions by no later than 27 August 2010. The Talking Tuggeranong document can be found on the TCC website.

Visit; <http://www.tuggcc.com/2010/03/talking-tuggeranong-an-issues-document/#more-322>

Darryl Johnston, President of the Tuggeranong Community Council PO Box 436, Erindale Centre ACT 2903, Ph: 0431 235 970

Email: president@tuggcc.com Visit: www.tuggcc.com

Greening Australia's events

National Lung Cancer Tree Planting, Sunday 29 August

Help plant 760 trees. Each tree will represent 10 Australians who die from this disease every year. Sunday 29 August, 10:00am to 12:00noon at Pine Island.

RSVP: By Wednesday 25 August. *N.B. Volunteer numbers strictly limited to 30.*

Phone Greening Australia on 6253 3035 or email admin@act.greeningaustralia.org.au

Spring Planting in the Cotter, Sunday 12 September

Conditions have not been this good for planting tubestock in years. The planting will be followed by a talk by Greening Australia Chief Scientist Dr David Freudenberger on "Progress of restoration in the Cotter". RSVP essential: (please specify if you require a seat on the bus) Phone Greening Australia on 6253 3035 or email

admin@act.greeningaustralia.org.au

Weston Creek Community Council Annual General Meeting and Community Forum

Wednesday, 25 August 2010, from 7.30 pm at the Weston Club, Liardet St, Weston

The AGM will include an election for a new executive committee of ten members, including Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and six committee members. We need a strong committee to pursue our interests, and urge WCCC members and other Weston Creek residents to consider standing for the committee.

You can join the Weston Creek Community Council and participate in the AGM.

The AGM will be followed by a Community Forum, where you can raise and discuss matters of concern to you and other residents. Issues that have been raised with WCCC in recent months include parking at Cooleman Court, the effects of construction in Molonglo on Weston Creek, increased car traffic in the Weston Creek area, infill in suburbs in the region, and development of the former CIT arboretum as a community garden.

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.

