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1. SACTCG Office and Staff

We moved offices e to **Erindale Business Park, 2 Lansell Circuit Wanniasa**. We now have some great meeting space for member groups so give us a call if you need one. We welcome Fiona Spier who has now joined us as a project officer three days a week. Fiona has been the convener of Friends of Tidbinbilla for around 15 years (so long she can't accurately remember!) and has been on our executive for many years. She has now stepped down to take this position. Her expertise and knowledge is much welcomed. We are seeking a volunteer treasurer to replace Fiona in our executive. Please contact us on 62966400 if you are interested.

2. SACTCG Group Business Meeting and Field Trips

SACTCG next general meeting will be held on the **26th August 2014 4:30 to 6:00** at the Erindale Business Park, 2 Lansell Circuit Wanniasa. 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 will be at Castle Hill property in Tharwa. Date and details to follow.

3. 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 volunteering community managing our natural environment and will assist in building capacity and support for fellow volunteers.

Next workshop: *Details to follow*

ParkCare and Landcare forum

Reflect, Explore and Inspire: Celebrating 25 years of ParkCare and Landcare in the ACT

Here is an opportunity to think about the next 25 years of ParkCare and Landcare in our region. The forum will bring together ParkCarers, Landcarers and others with an interest in caring for ACT parks and reserves. There will be time to share stories, explore challenges and communicate successes.

Anne Harding Conference Centre, University of Canberra

Friday 17 October and Saturday 18 October

Landcare Week Celebration Day will be held this year on **Sunday the 31st of August 11am - 3pm**. An Indigenous heritage walk, community BBQ as well as information from ACT Wildlife and Ginninderra Falls. A great opportunity to comment and put forward ideas on the future of the area. Held on the corner of Owen Dixon Dr and William Slim Dr.

Urban Agriculture Australia are running a number of talks regarding **"A City of Food"** covering topics from addressing Canberra's food needs to high efficiency production in urban areas. The first of these talks will be held on **Wednesday the 3rd of September, at Pilgrim House Conference Centre, Canberra City at 6pm**. This first talk looks at Canberra's current consumption and production of food and looking at what other cities are doing in terms of locally producing food. For tickets and more information, click [here](#)

Platypus Walk at the Queanbeyan River

For your chance to spot platypus, join the Sunday afternoon platypus walk at the Queanbeyan River, meeting at the Isabella St footbridge,. This event is suitable for all ages and there is no charge.

31st August, starting at 4:30pm

For more information contact:

Woo O'Reilly (Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch Facilitator) on 02 62072246 or waterwatch@act.gov.au

Friends of grasslands forum

At the CSIRO Discovery Centre from the **30th October to the 1st November** the [Friends of Grasslands Forum](#) will be held. With the topic 'Grass half full or grass half empty? Valuing native grassy landscapes' there will be discussions and field visits to local grassy woodlands. To register and express interest, contact president@fog.org.au or click [here](#) for more information.

Improving Land management on your property

An 'Improving Management of Your Property' workshop will be held in the Burra - Royalla area on Saturday 23rd August 2014. The event will include a morning presentation at Burra Community Hall followed by an afternoon field trip to Royalla. Guest presenter will be the experienced and knowledgeable Alison Elvin of Natural Capital, who has previously conducted several workshops in the local area relating to a variety of subjects such as the management of weeds, pastures, horses, and native flora and fauna.

The workshop will provide ideas and practical advice as to how overall property management can include both sustainable production and the protection of environmental values.

More details will be available later, but to register your interest, contact Melinda Hillery, Catchment Officer at Molonglo Catchment Group on 0422 881 685 or by email at mcofficer@molonglocatchment.org.au

Erosion Control Field Day

In response to landholder concerns regarding local erosion issues and remediation options, The ACT Regional Landcare Facilitator Program, in collaboration with Ginninderra Catchment Group, will host an Erosion Control Field Day.

The Field Day will include presentations on:

- Prioritising erosion control works—what do you deal with first?
- Gully and riparian erosion— how, why and when should we fix it?
- The role of structural works in erosion control.
- Lessons learnt from the Bidgee Banks' erosion control project (2002/2003)
What's worked? What hasn't worked?

After presentations at the Tharwa Hall, we will travel to Tidbinbilla Station to talk about practical erosion control works in the field.

Presenters for the day are Sari Glover, Dr Fiona Dyer and Will Higginson

When? Saturday 6th September, 8:30-1pm

Where? Meet at Tharwa Hall for presentations, then travel to Tidbinbilla Station for field visit

RSVP to actlandcare@act.gov.au

Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

4. Assistance available and funding opportunities

Free plants and seed!

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!

5. Grants and Funding Websites

Grantslink - www.grantslink.gov.au/

DAFF grants & assistance - www.daffa.gov.au/about/grants_and_assistance

DEWHA grants & funding - <http://www.environment.gov.au/about/programs/index.html>

FRRR grants - www.frrr.org.au/currentprojects.asp

Caring for our Country funding - www.nrm.gov.au/funding/index.html

ACT NRM Council: - <http://www.actnrmcouncil.org.au/>

6. Equipment Available

Small Equipment

SACTCG has a range of small equipment available for lending to ParkCarers/Landcarers and landholders including:

- 5 motorised backpack sprayers with 20L capacity
- GPS /tablets for mapping weeds and pests (rabbits)
- Tools including long handled loppers, shovels, picks and long handles rubbish collection tools, gloves and eye protection
- Display boards, sandwich boards, marquees, tables etc.

Please call 62966400 if you are interested in borrowing any of these for your volunteer activity or email info@sactcg.org.au

7. Frog Watch support needed!

As you may be aware the frogwatch program will run out of funding by the end of this year and are now seeking volunteer support to raise funds and assist the program to continue. Four identified action groups have been identified including: corporate funding, sponsorship/fundraising, grant applications, and webpage improvement. If you are able to be involved in any of these please Phone Anke Maria at Ginninderra Catchment Group: 6278 3309 or Email: frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au

8. Mobile QuikSpray Unit

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.

9. 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

10. '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.

11. 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!

12. The Weed's News

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

13. 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>

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

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

15. Environmental Offsets policy

The final version of the Environmental Offsets Policy is now available [here](#) on the ACT Government website. There is also a draft ACT bilateral agreement released or public comment, available [here](#).