

SOUTHERN NEWS
20/05/2011



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1. 2011–2012 ACT Environment Grants

SACT Catchment Group has applied to the ACT Environment Grants with a complementary application to ACT Heritage Grants on behalf of the ACT Catchment and Landcare Association (CLA) to produce a high quality book celebrating the efforts of landcarers across the Territory. This involves the preparation of an illustrated compendium of stories about the landcarers and their 'patches' in rural, urban and reserved for nature areas. Many of these patches are listed heritage places on the ACT Register. Stories featured in the book will also be uploaded on-line using the ACT Landcare Place Stories website.

We have also sponsored applications from 'Bridabella Banding' for '*Increasing awareness of our forests and fauna: Community engagement in the Brindabellas*' and for the Hughes Garren Landcare Group for '*Hughes Garran Park Care Maintenance and Long Term Management Grant*'.

2. African Lovegrass

Your help is requested: We need high quality photos of:

- mower slashing lovegrass on a road verge;
- tall and short forms flowering;
- cattle or sheep grazing around it.

email to: info@sactcg.org.au

3. CFOC 2011-12 Business Plan Funding Round

The *Caring for our Country Business Plan 2011-12* is now available. It provides an opportunity to seek funding for open-call projects and regional base-level funding that contribute to one or more of the six national priority areas set by the Australian Government for improving our natural resources. For more information go to: <http://www.nrm.gov.au/business-plan/11-12/index.html>

4. Mobile Quikspray unit available to landholders

The Southern ACT Catchment Group supported by an ACT Environment Grant has purchased a trailer mounted QuikSpray unit to assist landholders across the ACT to undertake weed control. The 600lt dual hose unit is now available to any rural lease in the ACT and in the Googong or Upper Murrumbidgee catchments south of the ACT.

The Southern ACT Catchment Group Inc. offers to lend its mobile Quikspray Unit under a limited number of simple conditions.

To find out more or book the spray unit contact: Steve Welch on 6296 6400

5. Don't be a Drifter Herbicide spraying workshops – still a few places left

Interested in learning more about herbicide application?

Are you a landholder in the ACT or in the Googong or Upper Murrumbidgee catchments south of the ACT? Want to upgrade your chemical application skills, ensure your machinery is working correctly, you have up to date records ensure you gain your reaccreditation? If so Southern ACT Catchment Group has organised a herbicide use training course for the 28/29 May to be held at Westwood Farm near Kambah. The concept is to deliver an advanced practical/theory session in one day, which will include observing, using UV light, droplets of water coloured with dye, applied to stubble, leaves or grasses at different rates, nozzles and pressures To reinforce the workshop information the day will be followed by small group half day sessions where spray applicators can bring along their own equipment and have their questions answered, guided by an experienced operator. The workshops have a mixture of RELEVANT theory and practice. Assessment is relevant to the participants, for example: preparing a diagram for the farm paddock and putting in the relevant buffer zones.

Demonstrating how to keep the necessary records in a simple format, ensuring they have the MSD's they need and only the ones they need.

Chemical user accreditation (AQF3) or reaccreditation is available if required.

All costs will be covered through funding to the catchment group from ActewAGL and the ACT NRM Council.

Bookings essential: Contact Steve Welch on 6296 6400 or email

info@sactcg.org.au

6. 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. On Tuesday 19th April, members of the Coleman Ridge Park Care Group will be on air to help celebrate the group's 20th birthday.

7. Riggers gloves

Daniel Fletcher from SafetyWise has advised us that he has recently done a big stock up on Riggers gloves and a few other items:

A Grade Leather Riggers Gloves - \$4.95inc

Split Back Leather Riggers Gloves - \$4.18inc

Visit www.safetywise.com.au

8. Alternative Fertiliser Trial field day

Binalong Landcare & Industry & Investment NSW Yass invite you to attend the Alternative Fertiliser Trial field day on Thursday 2nd June 2011 starting at 12 noon. The Alternative Fertiliser Trial is now into its 3rd year. The project aims to investigate a range of alternative fertiliser products for use on native perennial grass based pastures in the Yass district to increase soil fertility and pasture productivity. We now have 2 years worth of trial results for pasture and soil measurements. These will be presented on the day and landholders will have an opportunity to observe visual differences between fertiliser treatments at 'Kia-Ora' Bookham.

Please RSVP for catering purposes by MONDAY 30th May 2011 to:
Donna Reid, Binalong Landcare - 6227 4237 - donnarei@cyberone.com.au or
Fiona Leech, I&I NSW, Yass - 6226 2199- fiona.leech@industry.nsw.gov.au

9. 2 JUNE 2011 - MOLONGLO STAGE 2: COMMUNITY FORUM no. 2

The ACT Planning and Land Authority (ACTPLA) would like to invite you to attend the second community forum on 2 June 2011. The preferred option for future development of the Molonglo Valley stage 2 will be presented at the forum along with the draft PDF, and a further opportunity will be provided for community review and input. This is the second of two community forums, which is part of the overall community engagement program for the Molonglo Valley stage 2 draft PDF. A report on the first community forum is also available on the ACTPLA website at <http://www.actpla.act.gov.au>

Date: Thursday 2 June 2011

Time: 3.00pm – 6.30pm Information Display

6.30pm – 8.30pm Workshop

Venue: St Peters Church Hall,

Cnr Watling Place and Parkinson Street, Weston.

RSVP: MolonlgoValleyStage2@act.gov.au

10. Conservation Council ACT Region Forum – 'Molonglo River Corridor - What do we want for its future management?'

Speakers will be Stuart Mackenzie from ACTPLA, Lynton Bond from Molonglo Catchment Group and Rob Thorman from LDA. Speakers will present for 5 - 10 min each after which the forum will be opened up for questions and discussion.

It will be held on Thursday 26th May at Havelock House, 85 Northbourne Ave, Turner at 5:30 for a 6pm start. Drinks and nibbles are provided.

Contact Anna See

Project Officer

Conservation Council ACT Region

6229 3210

bushcare@consact.org.au

11. FAHCSIA Grants open

The Volunteer Grants for 2011 are currently open through the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. The Department will be providing \$16 million to help organisations buy much needed equipment to support their volunteers throughout Australia. Organisation can apply for grant funding ranging from a minimum of \$1000 to a maximum of \$5000. Applications are to be lodged through FHCSIA.

Please see the web site below for information on how to apply:

http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/volunteers/funding/Pages/volunteer_grants2011.aspx

12. New Woolworths grants available

Woolworths is providing \$150,000 of funding towards a grants program to help farming groups develop or implement sustainable farming practices. This grant is for projects that would support farmers in the adoption of technology or practices to improve water use efficiency, nutrient management and their carbon footprint. The grants will be awarded to farming groups and each grant can be up to a maximum of \$10,000 to implement a project which addresses one of these key areas.

Applications close on Monday, May 30th and further information, criteria and application forms can be found on www.landcareonline.com.au

13. The ACT Landcare Awards are open for nominations

Southern ACT Catchment Group is nominating Lions Youth Haven at Westwood Farm under the Toshiba Community Group Award. We welcome any suggestions for nominations under the other categories. Nominations Close 5pm, Friday 10th June 2011.

Categories include:

1. Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award Local Government Landcare Partnership Award
2. Rural Press Primary Producer Award
3. Toshiba Community Group Award
4. Westpac Education Award
5. Urban Landcare Award
6. Leighton Holdings Indigenous Award
7. Be Natural Young Landcare Leader Award
8. The Quiet Achiever Award (category available in the ACT only)
9. The Environment Community Support Award (category available in the ACT only)

For more information on the awards go to www.actlandcare.org.au

14. World Environment Day Event

Simon Corbell MLA, Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, will unveil the sign on the Scrivener Hill project at 11.am on June 5, World Environment Day. All Welcome – contact info@sactcg.org.au for further details.

15. Next Catchment Group meeting

The next SACTCG general meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 31 May starting at 4.00pm at the SACTCG Office, 21 Snodgrass Crescent Kambah. Agenda items to info@sactcg.org.au