

SOUTHERN NEWS 22/4/2010



1. [Living with Lovegrass](#)
2. [Next Meeting including a Waterwatch workshop on turtles](#)
3. [Congratulations to Fiona Spier](#)
4. [UMCCC Biennial Forum](#)
5. [GA Tree planting](#)
6. [WED Trivia night](#)
7. [Anzac Day at Tuggeranong Homestead](#)
8. [Book launch](#)
9. [Establishing a regional sustainability hub](#)
10. [Carp Fishing](#)
11. [Weston Creek Community Council meetings: CIT Park meeting & General meeting](#)
12. [Tuggeranong Community Council Special meeting](#)
13. [Scrivener Hill Project](#)
14. [Namadgi Feral Pig Control](#)
15. [Our urban forest - Key issues](#)
16. [NPA Symposium: 'National Parks – Can they take the heat?'](#)
17. [Media Release on the Hume Data Centre](#)

Living with Lovegrass

Southern ACT Catchment Group will host 'Living with Lovegrass - *Learning from each other on how to manage African Lovegrass.*' The workshop will be held on Saturday 22nd May at Namadgi Visitor Centre, Tharwa, commencing at 9am and finishing with a barbeque lunch. For more information or to book a place contact Steve Welch on 6296 6400 or email info@sactcg.org.au

Next Meeting

The next general meeting of the Southern ACT Catchment Group will be on Tuesday 27th April at the Urambi Primary School from 4pm. The agenda will include Michael Mulvaney of Red Hill Regenerators Park Care Group speaking on why they want people to protest about incursions into the Red Hill Nature Reserve, and the reasons why this may occur.

Members of the United Ngunnawal Elders Council have been invited to attend this meeting to speak about their aims for Miowera Station.

A **Waterwatch workshop on turtles** in the ACT will follow the General meeting and all are welcome. 7:00pm to 8:30pm

New Volunteer

Congratulations to Fiona Spier and her family whose little girl came a little earlier than expected, on the 4th April 2010. Maya Elise Stephenson was born at 12.54pm weighing 3390g. All doing well and apparently Connor seems pretty impressed with his little sister.

Diary Date

UMCCC will hold their Biennial Forum on 27 October 2010. Please make a note for your diaries. More details to follow soon.

Centenary of Canberra Tree Planting

Greening Australia will host this event on 2 May, 2010, 9am to 12pm at Pierces Creek.

A bus will pick up volunteers at the City West bus terminal on Marcus Clarke St (between University Ave and Allsop St) at 8:30am and then pick up volunteers at Deeks Forest Park on Uriarra Rd at 8:45am. RSVP essential for bus seats.

If driving from north and central Canberra, head west on Cotter Rd, cross the Murrumbidgee and Cotter Rivers, drive 2.7km past the Cotter Reserve (picnic area) towards Tidbinbilla, then turn right onto Vanity's Crossing Rd. Follow the GA directional signs to the site.

If driving from Tuggeranong, head for Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve and keep driving on Tidbinbilla Rd/Paddy's River Rd for 15km towards the Cotter until you get to Vanity's Crossing Rd on your left. Look for GA directional signs.

Please RSVP to admin@act.greeningaustralia.org.au or 6253 3145

World Environment Day Trivia Fundraising Night

The Conservation Council invites you to join their World Environment Day Trivia Fundraising Night, on Saturday 5 June at the Majura Hall in Dickson.

All proceeds from the evening will go towards the Molongo Biodiversity Fund to raise money to hire a dedicated Biodiversity Campaigner. The trivia night will include 10 rounds of questions, mostly environmental, a silent auction, raffle prizes as well as some games. Some light refreshments (coffee, tea and cakes) will be provided. Please feel free to bring BYO alcohol, food and drink.

Places are limited, so BOOK EARLY and get a discount off the ticket price.

Tickets purchased before 23 May will be \$20. Tickets after this date will be \$25.

How Member Groups can be involved:

- Book a table of 8 for your members?
- Sponsor a round of questions for \$50 and receive:

Free advertising for your group on the answer sheets and during our slideshow presentation.

o Announcement by the MC during the round

This Trivia Night is open to Member Groups, EcoActivists and their friends and family. It will be open to the general public, depending on the number of remaining places available after Mother's Day, 9th May.

To book your table or purchase tickets, please call Susanna on 6229 3208 or email: communications@consact.org.au

Anzac Day Event at Tuggeranong Homestead

Anzac Day this year marks the 95th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing. National Museum of Australia Curator, Anne-Marie Conde, will be giving a talk at 2pm on Anzac Day at Tuggeranong Homestead, where Charles Bean wrote the 'Anzac Story', the first two volumes of the official history of the war. Her talk is entitled, 'A gift to the nation: the diaries and notebooks of C.E.W.Bean'. Bookings to Minders of Tuggeranong Homestead on 6231 4535. Entry of \$10 includes afternoon tea.

Book launch:

Remote and wild: seeking the unknown Australia by Richard and Carolyn Green
6.30 pm to 7.30 pm 29 April at the National Library of Australia
Some of you may have seen the exhibition at the National Library of Richard Green's truly amazing and extraordinarily beautiful photographs of Australian wilderness a year or so ago. A unique and awe-inspiring experience. Richard and Carolyn reached the remote areas by helicopter. Richard and Carolyn have now produced a remarkable book containing many of these pictures - beautifully presented.
This book will be launched at the National Library on 29 April (6.00 pm – 7.00 pm) by Alec Marr, Executive Director of the Wilderness Society. Richard will then give a 35 minute illustrated talk on their heli-camping activities and his photography. RSVP on 9450 2747 or rg@richardgreen.net.au

Establishing a regional Sustainability Hub

South East Resource Recovery Regional Organisation of Councils
Thursday April 29th 10.30 – 2.00 pm, including lunch at Airport International Motel 57-73 Yass Rd Queanbeyan.
A forum to develop the case for a regional sustainability hub where visitors see resource recovery in practice, hands-on education is fun, food matters are addressed, sustainable design is on display and research occurs on waste stream products for new business opportunities.
Keynote speakers:
Mr Eric Bottomly – CERES Melbourne
(Helped found and manage this Melbourne-based, successful, 30 year operating precinct)
Mr David Walker – The Gould League, (CEO of an innovative waste educator)
Queanbeyan City Council Mayor Tim Overall – Queanbeyan and sustainability

There will be a discussion period to investigate the themes and issues raised by speakers. A Discussion paper is found on the SERRROC web site at www.serrroc.nsw.gov.au – go to Resources section.
RSVP: Geoff Pryor - SERRROC Coordinator, 6298 0272
geoffrey.pryor@qcc.nsw.gov.au

Carp Fishing with Greening Australia

Just for something different...you are invited to participate in a Carp Fishing Competition in Boorowa as part of the Boorowa River Recovery project at Dr Kelf Park, Boorowa on Saturday 1st May. A bus will be leaving Aranda at 8.30am sharp and will be returning by 2.30pm. Lunch and morning tea will be provided. For further information call Lori Gould on 0439 030 058.

Weston Creek Community Council Meetings:

CIT Park/Garden Working Committee

The First Official Meeting of the Community Council Working Group on the CIT Park and Garden is on Thursday, 22 April 2010 at 7.30pm in the Hawkes room at the Weston Club (1 Liardet St, Weston). Stephen Alegria from Parks, Conservation and Lands will talk about how we can work together to achieve a great park for the community.

WCCC Meeting

The next Public meeting will be held on Wednesday 28 April 2010 at 7.30 pm at the Weston Club. The Topic is the Cotter Dam and Water Security. Zarmina Nasir, Community Engagement and Stakeholder Leader for the Cotter Projects, will speak about:

- The enlarged Cotter Dam Project - Why it is being built
- Where the Project is up to, who is building it, and the time frames.

www.wccc.com.au

Tuggeranong Community Council Special Meeting

The Tuggeranong Community Council Executive has called a Special Meeting of all current financial members to consider the expulsion of a member.

The meeting has been called under the provisions of Section 33 of the TCC Constitution. See: <http://www.tuggcc.com/constitution/>

The meeting will be held on Wednesday 28 April 2010 in the Balcony Room of the Tuggeranong Community Centre (Communities@Work) It will commence at 8.30pm. (The late start is due to a previous booking at the meeting venue) It is requested that you attend the meeting to consider this very important issue.

www.tuggcc.com

Scrivener Hill Project

Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard at the Isaacs Ridge/Mt Mugga Mugga ParkCare Group's tree planting activity on Scrivener Hill on Saturday 17, Sunday 18 and Monday 19 April. The 'tree planters' were Ted Fleming, Alan Vidler, Brigitte Davis, Jane Baba and her grandson Amran, Jennie Widdowson, Arminel Ryan, Syd Comfort, Tas (from Conservation Volunteers Australia), Ken (also from CVA) and the 3 teams of volunteers from CVA. And Tas (CVA) also carted buckets of water to almost all of the new plants! The task was challenging, the ground was extremely rocky at times but new skills were learnt. The Isaacs

Ridge/Mt Mugga Mugga ParkCare Group are most grateful for the help given by all these people to this project - to enhance the woodland setting of the nearby suburb of east O'Malley.

This project has been assisted by a Mobile Muster grant through Landcare Australia and an ACT Environment Grant from the ACT Government. Global Land Repair supplied their Plant Pink Tree Planting System which included the digging of holes by tractor/auger, plant starter, fertilizer, stakes, mulch mats and tree protectors and Matt Kilby demonstrated his planting system to the volunteers.

Conservation Volunteers Australia sent teams of volunteers to assist the local ParkCare Group.

ActewAGL provided on-site access to water for this major tree planting project.

Sally McIntosh, Community Liaison Officer, Parks, Conservation and Lands, also gave support to the project.

Namadgi Feral Pig Control

From the morning of Thursday the 6th of May until the end of Friday the 21st May 2010, Namadgi National Park will be conducting its annual Feral Pig - Poison Baiting Program. Depending on animal activity, the program may be extended until Friday to 28th May in selected areas of the park.

This program has been run every year for the last 15 years and in the past has been highly successful in reducing pig numbers and the ecological damage they cause within the park.

The continued success of the program depends largely on areas of operation being relatively undisturbed so that pigs in the area feel comfortable enough to approach bait stations and take the offered poisoned baits.

In response to this, a notification of closure was released earlier this week giving notice that without consultation with Namadgi National Park, vehicle access to all non public roads and fire trails within the park would be restricted to essential services and park staff for the duration of the program.

The notification also advises people of the presence of toxic baits within the park and the danger to humans and domestic animals of these baits. All baits will be removed at the end of operations.

Areas of operation will be clearly marked at each end with conspicuous red on white "1080 Poison" signs. The green, cylindrical shaped baits will be placed under red plastic tubs anchored to the ground in such a way that will prevent animals other than pigs accessing the baits.

If at all, the program will have minimal negative impact on visitor access within the park and all fire and management trails will remain open to bushwalkers and recreation groups.

For further information or vehicle access to areas of operation, please contact the Namadgi Visitor Centre on 6207 2900 or the program coordinator, Mike Rawnsley on 6207 2903 or 0418 548 957.

Trees and Urban ACT, what is the forest and what are its problems?

29 April 2010 1-2pm

Forestry Lecture Theatre, Forestry Building 48, Linnaeus Way, ANU

Dr Maxine Cooper, the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment will briefly outline some of the key issues that have been raised regarding our urban forest.

The Commissioner is undertaking an Investigation into the Government's tree management practices and the renewal of Canberra's urban forest with a report due by the end of June 2010. The investigation has broad terms of reference ranging across existing tree management programs; the relationship with climate change; communication and consultation with the community; environmental values and solar access and parks; the reuse of timber; replanting; contractor behaviour; decision-making about trees; changes to legislation and regulation; and resourcing the above.

The Commissioner will briefly outline some of the key issues that have been raised. A discussion on the reuse of timber, solar access and management of remnant trees will be encouraged. Please

http://fennerschool.anu.edu.au/news_events/seminars/2010/cooperm_apr2010.php

Symposium – ‘National Parks - Can they take the Heat’

The National Parks Association of the ACT Inc. (NPA ACT) is hosting a symposium in Canberra on 7 - 8 May 2010. This symposium to celebrate The NPA ACT's golden anniversary will focus on the future of national parks in a changing world, and problems posed by changing climate and urbanisation.

<http://www.npaact.org.au>

Media release on the Hume Data Centre

forwarded to the TCC by Joy Burch MLA:

Challenger funds land purchase for Canberra Technology Centre

Challenger Financial Services Group Limited (ASX: CGF) today announced the purchase of a 12.7 hectare, development-approved greenfields site in Hume from the ACT government for \$5.273 million (ex GST).

Acquired by Challenger-funded TRE Data Centres Canberra Pty Limited, Block 20 Section 23 in Hume will be progressively developed over the next ten years, eventually becoming home to the Canberra Technology Centre (CTC), a world-class, 14,000 square metre (sqm) data centre powered by a 28 megawatt gas-fired co-generation facility.

Designed to meet escalating computing infrastructure demand from government, financial services and technology companies, the CTC be project-financed on a staged pre-commitment basis.

Challenger Head of Real Estate Trent Alston said: “When complete, this visionary project should set new national benchmarks in secure and environmentally sustainable data centres, cementing the ACT’s position as leader in data centre technology.

“By housing consolidated, critical IT infrastructure for secure, long-term tenants, the CTC represents a new class of commercial property investment that institutional investors will find increasingly attractive when compared to the usual office, retail or logistics assets”.

The CTC has the capacity to host fourteen separate data facilities. The use of dedicated co-generation will reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by up to 70%. The project will also deliver significant savings in operating costs to tenants.

The project has the potential to create 400 jobs in the ACT and contribute \$31 million per annum to the economy. The advanced nature of the facility and its planned training partnership with universities in Canberra will also ensure it is a centre of ICT excellence.

“Our intention is that the CTC’s long-term, reliable cash flows will eventually back annuities written by Challenger’s Life Company”, said Mr Alston.

Acting chief executive of the ACT’s Department of Lands and Property Services, Mr David Dawes, said: “The CTC’s new-generation technology will result in lower energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. It is a significant and positive outcome for the Territory and reinforces the ACT as a recognised ICT hub.”