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### **1. Don’t be a Drifter Herbicide spraying workshops 14/15 July**

**Bookings are essential and only 2 places are left:**

Contact Steve Welch on 6296 6400 or email [info@sactcg.org.au](mailto:info@sactcg.org.au)

Further information on the course will then be provided.

### **2. ACT landcare book ‘A Labour of Love’**

There are about 45 groups who have provided their contributions to the book. We are still further information from the rural community. Recently the Editorial Team have begun the process of selecting the photos. The challenge the editors face is to not let all the contributions look and read too similar. One way to do this is via the photo and other images associated with each group. We don’t want every image to be of volunteers planting trees! With this in mind we are **still seeking quality photos that inspire**. So even if groups have already provided photos, if you have others that you think are great then please send them to Steve as low resolution jpegs for the initial draft (we would organise to get the originals later).

Contributors will be sent our edited version of their contribution with an author’s agreement that is a Memorandum of Agreement regarding transfer of rights. This will occur before the book goes to our professional editor and ACT Heritage.

### **3. 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 booking out fast for next Spring so **consider booking now** if you need it. To find out more or book the spray unit contact Steve Welch or Martin Lind on 6296 6400.

#### **4. Soil biology workshop**

NSW Department of Primary Industries and Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority invite you to a one-day soil biology workshop. This workshop will provide you with an opportunity to understand how soil organisms contribute to soil health and how to manage them to increase soil fertility and sustainability.

This workshop will be held in two locations, Yass on 26th June and Harden on 31st July. Contact Sari Glover Murrumbidgee CMA 0427 061 789 [sari.glover@cma.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sari.glover@cma.nsw.gov.au)

#### **5. 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 Steve or Martin if you have a desire to be involved.

#### **6. Catchment Group meeting**

Our next General meeting will be 26 June, Urambi office, 4.30 pm.

#### **7. Lake Burley Griffin Forum**

A Forum following the Report by The ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment on the state of watercourses and catchments for Lake Burley Griffin will be held at University of Canberra on 29 June. More information is available on the UMCCC website: [www.umccc.org.au](http://www.umccc.org.au)

#### **8. African Lovegrass posters and pamphlets**

A reminder that the SACTCG posters and pamphlets on in any quantity from our office at Kambah. Contact Steve on 6296 6400 Also check out the latest 'placestories' added to the African Lovegrass section on our website <http://sactcg.org.au/node/348>

#### **9. Voting is now open for the 2012 Landcare People's Choice Award**

You can now vote online for the ACT finalists in the 2012 Landcare People's Choice Award. Voting closes at 4pm (EST) on Tuesday, September 4th, with the winner announced that night at the 2012 National Landcare Awards gala dinner. To find out more about the finalists, get involved, and show your support by voting, please visit [www.landcareonline.com.au/nationalawards](http://www.landcareonline.com.au/nationalawards).

#### **10. Community planting day**

Lyneham Wetland Community Planting Day this Sunday 24 June 11am – 1pm Join volunteers to plant 1200 native grasses, groundcovers and shrubs on the west facing bank at the wetland. Wear covered shoes. Tools supplied. Come rain, hail or shine for this Winter Solstice activity. Stay home if there's thunder and lightning. Followed by a free BBQ.

RSVP's are useful to estimate sausage quantity (organic beef) and vego options. Parking is available on Goodwin Street. Contact Edwina Robinson 0466 153 641

### **11. 'Food production in the ACT region' forum**

Thursday 28 June, from 5:30-7:30 pm, in the ACT Assembly Reception Room. Food production is an issue for Canberrans because regional and global food insecurity has very real consequences. The ACT Greens want more food production in and around the ACT. This includes more community gardens, better use of nature strips, increased plantings of fruit trees, diversion of organic waste from landfill to compost for local food production, support for City Farms, and networking between local and regional growers and cooperation with neighbouring regions to enhance food security.

The aim of this event is to have a discussion on what is needed for more food production in the ACT region and we will commence with short presentations by:

- Peter O'Clery AM: Co-owner of Homeleigh Grove Olives Hall, ACT;
- Dr Lenore Coltheart: Canberra historian;
- Michael Croft: President of Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance, involved with national Local Food Hubs network and Slow Food Movement;
- Janet Jeffs: Award winning chef and Wessex Saddleback pig farmer, owner: Ginger Catering and Kitchen Cabinet at Old Parliament House.

RSVP to [LECOUTEUR@parliament.act.gov.au](mailto:LECOUTEUR@parliament.act.gov.au) or 6205 0051 for catering purposes.

### **12. Horse riders to be granted greater access to NSW National Parks**

(from the monthly e-newsletter of the National Parks Association ACT)

The NSW Government's Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), has put out a *Draft Strategic Directions for Horse Riding in NSW national parks and reserves* with comments due by 30 June 2012.

The *Draft Strategic Directions* is accessible on

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/policies/drafthrsridstrat.htm> and is a short document of 15 pages. The Horse Riding Code (7pp), a short relevant document you may wish to refer to, is available on

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/policies/HorseridingCOP.htm>

If you are concerned about the implications of the *Draft Strategic Directions for Horse Riding*, you are urged to send a brief submission on

[www.environment.nsw.gov.au/policies/drafthrsridstrat.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/policies/drafthrsridstrat.htm) by 30 June 2012.

Suggestions for points to include:

- horse riding is heavy impact recreation, causing trampling of vegetation, stream bank erosion, pollution of waterways, and the spreading of weeds via horse feed and manure; this will be further exacerbated when Endurance riding is permitted under OEH's "demand-based approach to the provision of new horse riding opportunities ..." (*Draft*, p.2).
- national parks and nature reserves in NSW do not have enough staff to monitor horse riding impacts and ensure that riders comply with the Horse Riding Code; staff will be placed under even greater pressure when required to work with regional working groups including relevant local horse riding stakeholders in the three "horse riding landscapes": Far South Coast and Ranges, Hunter and Northern Tablelands, Blue Mountains and Northern Sydney (*Draft*, p.8);

- the Horse Riding Code is itself questionable: it sets a limit of 40 people in a single group in a park (HRC, p.7,). This number is far too big for high impact recreation;
- horse riders already have access to over 100 national parks and reserves in NSW. "Horse riding is currently permitted on thousands of kilometres of trails across more than 110 reserves." (*Draft*, p.4). If this already extensive access is increased as proposed under the *Draft*, biodiversity and conservation of the natural environment in our NSW national parks and nature reserves, which should be the primary objective, will be very seriously threatened. Damage to subalpine and alpine areas in Kosziusko National Park (KNP) has already occurred in the northern section of the park. The situation will worsen and be impossible to rectify;
- climate change is placing considerable stress on the natural environment in Australia's national parks and nature reserves, with KNP at greatest risk. The *Draft* does not consider the impact of increased horse riding pressures on national parks and reserves in the context of climate change;
- Namadgi National Park is affected by the management of neighbouring KNP in NSW where feral horse population is now out of control; feral horses have entered Namadgi from KNP, and require management;
- greater numbers of horse riders in KNP will mean greater pressure for increased access to Namadgi.

### **13. Possums in our parks**

From Philip Selmes, ACT Parkcare Coordinator - a link to a lovely article about Canberra's 'creatures of the night'.

<http://m.canberratimes.com.au/environment/animals/creatures-of-the-night-20120619-20ltp.html>

### **14. UMCCC Newsletter**

There are lots of events happening in our region.

- Forum on Lake Burley Griffin Watercourses and Catchments 29 June
- Murrumbidgee CMA Pest Animal Management Strategy Workshop Bredbo
- Grassland Society of NSW Annual Conference 25 and 26 July
- 3rd National Cyanobacterial Workshop 23-24 August
- National Landcare Conference 3-5 September
- UMCCC Biennial Forum and Field Trip 23 and 24 October
- Voting is now open for the 2012 Landcare People's Choice Award
- Greening Australia-Sunday 29 July – National Tree Day planting

The newsletter is available at UMCCC's website [www.umccc.org.au](http://www.umccc.org.au)

### **15. The Weed's News**

*The Weed's News* can be read on-line by visiting <http://invasivespecies.org.au>

In the latest edition:

- UN report warns of unsustainable herbicide and pesticide use
- Relative competitiveness of glyphosate-resistant and glyphosate-susceptible populations of hairy fleabane, *Conyza bonariensis*
- Herbicides found in Melbourne's drinking water supply