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### **1. Call for action to Save Lake Tuggeranong**

A recent community forum called for government and community action to solve pollution problems in Lake Tuggeranong. The forum, held at the Tuggeranong Community Centre, was jointly hosted by the Southern ACT Catchment Group (SACTCG), Concerned Residents for West Kambah (CROWK) and the Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC). SACTG Chair, Glenys Patulny said the forum was attended by more than 40 local residents and organised in response to a recent study commissioned by SACTCG and undertaken by Dr Ian Lawrence of the Cooperative Research Centre into Water at the University of Canberra. The forum identified how important Lake Tuggeranong is to the lives of local residents. The Lake is seen as a regional icon and a base for recreational and family activities as well a habitat for wildlife. However, the study confirmed that Lake Tuggeranong was in very poor health and this was reinforced by attendees who all expressed their concerns about the Lake and repeated incidents of blue-green algae in the lake. The forum stressed the need for a master plan to manage the Lake and its catchment, including designing and constructing a series of wetlands to reduce pressure on the Lake. Initiatives considered by the forum were establishing a Friends of Lake Tuggeranong group to look at planting and clean up options and fostering community awareness of issues affecting the lake. A follow up forum to further develop proposals for action will be held on Wednesday 22 August at the Over 55 Club Tuggeranong. For further information contact: Martin Lind - 6296 6400, or Glenys Patulny - 0411 161948

### **2. Another successful 'Don't be a Drifter' herbicide spraying workshops 14/15 July**

18 people attended the two day course at Westwood Farm and by all reports learnt significant information and potential skills regarding all aspects of herbicide and other chemical use. All participants will shortly receive their AQF certification. The Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) is the national policy for regulated qualifications in Australian education and training. This newsletter will carry notification of any further 'Don't be a Drifter' courses we will organise. Thankyou to our sponsors: Actew Source Water Protection, the ACT Weeds of National Significance (WONS) grants, the ACT Natural Resource Management Council and Caring for Our Country.

### 3. ACT landcare book 'A Labour of Love'

Our first draft will soon be complete. When this occurs 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.

### 4. 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.

### 5. Conservation Council's July Member Forum

You are cordially invited to the Conservation Council's July Member Forum

What: Ensuring Environmental Outcomes through the Planning Process

When: 5.30 for 6pm, Thursday 26 July 2012

Where: Pilgrim House, cnr 69 Northbourne Ave and Rudd St Civic

The Conservation Council July Forum will be a discussion on the Nature Conservation Act and the Planning and Development Act led by Hanna Jaireth, Chair of the Board, ACT Environmental Defender's Office, with Camilla Taylor, the new EDO solicitor. The Nature Conservation Act is under review and an Exposure Draft is due to be released.

Issues to discuss include:

Does the Conservator's advice have to be acted on?

Are environmental issues adequately taken into account in planning decisions?

What are strategic assessments? Do they deliver environmental outcomes?

What changes are needed to the Nature Conservation Act or the Planning Act?

Please RSVP to: [communications@consact.org.au](mailto:communications@consact.org.au)

### 6. More News

The latest UMCCC Newsletter can be found at <http://umccc.org.au/files/e-news%2019%20July%202012.pdf> .

In this edition:

GA is on the lookout for a new bus:

Funding Opportunities

- ActewAGL Source Water Protection Program Grants
- Junior Landcare Grants
- Volunteer Grants 2012 NEW

Events

- BFA Biological Roadshow at Bungendore 21 July 2012 NEW
- 5th Fenner Forum: Water management use and conservation in a changing world 24 July 2012 NEW
- Grassland Society of NSW Annual Conference 25 and 26 July 2012
- Greening Australia National Tree Day planting Sunday 29 July 2012

UPDATED

- 3rd Murrumbidgee CMA Pest Animal Management Strategy Workshop Yass 31 July 2012

NEW

- National Cyanobacterial Workshop 23 August 2012 - 24 August 2012
- National Landcare Conference 3-5 September 2012
- UMCCC Biennial Forum and Field Trip 23 and 24 October 2012

## 7. Frogwatch Online and Waterwatch Online

Now you can navigate on the internet to Frogwatch and Waterwatch Online! People can follow the links from the GCG website (<http://www.ginninderralandcare.org.au/>), Waterwatch Online Data and Frogwatch Census, or go direct via the links below. Some portions are still under construction, so please be patient.

- Frogwatch Online - <http://frogwatch.ginninderralandcare.org.au/>
- Waterwatch Online - <http://waterwatch.ginninderralandcare.org.au/>

*Frogwatch will be hosting an international volunteer from Denmark in September 2012 for three months and are seeking accommodation for him. If you are willing to assist or for further information please contact Anke Maria on 6278 3309.*

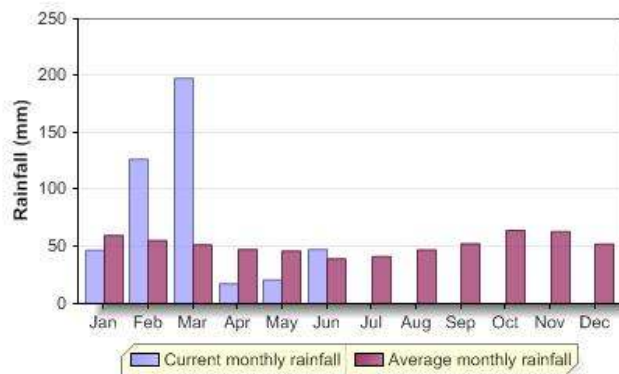
## 8. Southern ACT Waterwatch Autumn Report

In General:

'Canberra recorded its wettest week in 62 years' wrote Meredith Clisby from The Chronicle on the 6th March. Most of the month's 200 mm had fallen in that first week. The Cotter Dam was inundated with water pushing scaffolding and equipment hundreds of meters down stream. No monitoring occurred in the Cotter or Tidbinbilla sub-catchments that month and most of the Gudgenby sub-catchment was closed to vehicle access.

The Murrumbidgee saw flooding from as high up as Cooma. As this flowed north and west it brought masses of mud and debris as it wound its way to threaten Wagga Wagga and Narrandera. Waterwatchers in all of our sub-catchments recorded the dramatic affects of flooding in March.

The rainfall statistics below from ActewAGL say it all.



So, how did all this extra water affect our readings?

**Water Temp:** The high volumes and flows of March meant little difference around the region in early autumn. This later returned to the more normal pattern of cooler temperatures in the higher catchments.

**pH:** No readings of concern this season.

**E.C:** Wanniasa Creek (drain) got saltier as the season progressed, until the EPA were notified in May (E.C: 1010 uS)

**Turbidity:** The Murrumbidgee had a 'pulse' of mud travel through after the heavy rain. But Paddy's River copped the worst turbidity issue in the region. The readings jumped up over 30 at many sites along the river over this period.

**Dissolved Oxygen:** Most of the region had very good readings.

**Phosphates:** Good results at most sites from all the flushing. Point Hut Pond had a season of very high readings (**0.9**). The site below the dam on Tuggeranong Creek also had a spike in early March.

**Nitrates and Nitrites:** No readings of concern were recorded, however there was a recall on a number of kits that had contaminated strips.

**Algae:** Algae was either washed away or covered in mud in March. The growths returned later on as the water settled. Blue Green algae was still seen blooming in the gross pollution traps of Lake Tuggeranong and the diatoms resettled in the Murrumbidgee River.

Further information: [waterwatch@sactcg.org.au](mailto:waterwatch@sactcg.org.au)

## **9. 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.

## **10. Catchment Group meeting**

Our next Executive meeting will be 31 July, Urambi office, 4.30 pm.

## **11. 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>

## **12. 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).

## **13. Investing in services for Canberra's seniors**

Katy Gallagher invites you to a special forum focused on *Active Ageing* in our community. This forum is designed to be informal and create an opportunity to hear from you about how ACT Government can continue to support and invest in our senior citizens. The forum will be held on Wednesday 1 August 2012 at 2.00pm - 3.00pm at the Erindale Vikings Club, 6 Ricardo Street, Wanniasa. If you have any questions or to RSVP, please contact ACT Labor on 62474066 or [Katy.Gallagher@act.alp.org.au](mailto:Katy.Gallagher@act.alp.org.au)

## **14. Southern ACT Catchment Coordinator position**

As you may be aware Steve Welch is retiring at the end of September. The advertisement for a new coordinator will soon be finalised but if you know anyone who would be suitable and interested in the position please put them in touch with Steve.