

SOUTHERN NEWS
24/05/2012



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1. Don't be a Drifter Herbicide spraying workshops 14/15 July

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? Are you working with herbicides as a landcarer in the ACT or in the Googong or Upper Murrumbidgee catchments south of the ACT? If you fall into any of these categories and want to upgrade your chemical application skills, ensure your machinery is working correctly, enable up to date records and gain accreditation or reaccreditation then read on.

Southern ACT Catchment Group is organising another herbicide use training course for the weekend 14/15 July 2012 to be held at Westwood Farm near Kambah. The concept is to deliver an advanced practical/theory session over the two days which will include using UV light to show droplets of water coloured with dye and applied to stubble, leaves or grasses at different rates, nozzles and pressures to show variables of application. 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 (AQF3/4) or reaccreditation is available if required. All course costs will be covered through funding to the catchment group from ActewAGL and the ACT NRM Council.

Bookings are essential and places are limited:

Contact Steve Welch on 6296 6400 or email info@sactcg.org.au

Further information on the course will then be provided.

2. ACT landcare book 'A Labour of Love'

The book celebrating over 20 years of Landcare in the ACT is being edited and written by volunteers. There are about 45 groups who have provided their contributions to the book and recently the Editorial Team have begun the process

of selecting the photos. We are still waiting on stories representing Aboriginal Landcare and further information from the rural community. We are hopeful for a launch (potentially by the Chief Minister) next March.

3. 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.

4. Catchment Group meeting

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

5. 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. At this stage the unit is booked out for all of June and all of November.



To find out more or book the spray unit contact Steve Welch or Martin Lind on 6296 6400.

6. Carbon Farming Initiative

The Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) is an Australian Government scheme to help farmers, forest growers and land managers earn income from reducing their greenhouse gas emissions through changes to agricultural and land management practices. Under the Carbon Farming Initiative farmers and land managers earn carbon credits by storing carbon or reducing greenhouse gas emissions. These credits can then be sold to businesses and individuals wishing to offset greenhouse gas emissions from their activities.

<http://www.climatechange.gov.au/cfi>

7. European Wasps

Philip Selmes, ACT Parkcare Coordinator recently reminded people of the dangers associated with European Wasps: *'Please look out for European Wasps. I think it's only a matter of time before someone is killed in Australia. A man was killed by European Wasps only recently in New Zealand when he was collecting firewood.*

See the link below to the most recent nest discovery – it's enormous!
http://www.flickr.com/photos/act_parks/7212607604/in/photostream

To find out how to Find a European Wasp Nest go to:

<http://umccc.org.au/node/126>

8. Free Tree Guards



Philip Selmes, ACT Parkcare Coordinator advises that he has been approached by Adam Burgess from the National Arboretum, who has 1000's of tree guards he'd like to pass on to be reused, as they're in pretty good condition although he cannot supply stakes. If you or your group or interested, please give Philip a call on 62057384.

9. UMCCC e-newsletter is now available on the web

The latest UMCCC e-newsletter is now available. It can be found at:
<http://umccc.org.au/taxonomy/term/126>

In this issue:

Funding Opportunities

- ActewAGL Source Water Protection Program Grants
- NSW Environmental Trust Community Education Grants
- Junior Landcare Grants

Events · Queanbeyan River Walk 19 May 2012

- Canberra Urban Regional Futures – Seminar Series - 21 May
- Carbon Farming Initiative Information Session 25 May
- Greening Australia's World Environment Day planting Sunday 3 June

- Feedback Forum for the Reform of Aboriginal Culture and Heritage Legislation in NSW 15 June 2012
- Public Forum on West Palerang's Water Future: Sustainability and Development
Wednesday 20th June 2012 6.30pm – 9pm
- Managing Horses on Small Properties Yass Golf Club 24 June 2012

News · Investigation into state of the Lake Burley Griffin water released

- DPI Factsheets on Rinsate and Spray Drift management

Diary Dates

- Greening Australia-Sunday 29 July – National Tree Day planting
- UMCCC Biennial Forum and Field Trip 23 and 24 October 2012

10. The Weeds News

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

11. Minister congratulates Australia's dedicated Landcare volunteers

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator Joe Ludwig, has marked National Volunteer Week by congratulating Australia's dedicated Landcare volunteers. Minister Ludwig said volunteers contribute significantly to changing the face of Australia's rural and urban landscapes, by protecting and restoring the environment and our natural resources.

"The Landcare initiative is a great example of communities working together and the spirit of volunteering," Minister Ludwig said.

"It brings people together regardless of their level of skill, gender, age or cultural background. Thanks to these volunteers, we now have vast areas of land

experiencing less erosion and better soil management. Our coasts are better protected through rehabilitated coastal dunes, and we see more rivers and creeks protected and remnants of native vegetation on farmland restored and connected."

The government's commitment to Landcare and natural resource management in Australia was strengthened last week with the announcement of a further \$2.2 billion to continue Caring for our Country.

Funded over five years, Caring for our Country will be delivered through two streams from July 2013. The first stream dedicated to sustainable agriculture, including Landcare, with the second stream focusing on the environment.

"Australian farmers manage more than 60 per cent of our land, with many of them implementing sustainable approaches to the management of soil, water and vegetation, ensuring that its future is secure," Minister Ludwig said.

"Landcare is one of the most enduring and recognisable movements in Australia and I urge all Australians to support it in whatever capacity they can."

12. Winner of the Environment Category ACT Volunteer of the Year Awards

Congratulations to Frank Brown, Chairman of Lion's Youth Haven who was announced winner of the Environment Category of the 2012 ACT Volunteer of the Year Awards at a ceremony conducted at Gold Creek by Volunteering ACT on May 15. After the ceremony Frank said *'I got to shake a lot of hands and both Lions and Lions Youth Haven gained a lot of publicity which will hopefully be spread around the wider ACT community. My nomination was very kindly put forward by the Southern Area Catchment Group, who are important partners, hence the environment category award.'*

13. A message from The Friends of Fetherston Gardens

Yes it's that time again, when we can catch up and garden a little, chat a lot, and rest for morning tea. Sounds like an activity for you, then we would enjoy your company at Fetherston Gardens from 10.00am this Sunday.

TAMS have supplied some lovely mulch to blanket our gardening efforts for the winter. We have some light weeding in the Woodland garden and some returned ivy that we want to tackle with, on Sunday. Also the leaves are falling, adding valuable mulch to the areas we have already weeded. The Autumn carpet is looking lovely but has strayed on to the paths, so they need a rake and the paved areas a sweep. So as always, we have jobs that suit all capabilities, or you can just come, sit and relax in the gardens, enjoy the wildlife, have a walk, it's up to you. Bring your smile, gardening gloves, and your favorite weapon (Tools), if you prefer, or you can use our tools. Also the next newsletter for winter is coming soon, so if you have any community info or a gardening/ CIT/ Volunteer story let me know.

Contact Lesley Pattinson at lesley_pattinson@netspace.net.au

14. Smarter Transport

So you may have seen the issue of Light Rail for Canberra in the news over the last couple of days. Things are heating up and there is still time to heat it up more if you haven't already voted! [Smarter Transport: Vote now for Light Rail](#) For those who haven't kept up with the news, a [Civic-Gungahlin transit study draft has been released](#) stating a cost estimate for both Light Rail and Bus Rapid Transport options. This looks like a re-run of the same old argument for Canberra: "Light Rail is the best option for our city. But we can't find a way to make it happen." There are big doubts around the costs, particularly as the bus

option does not factor in the cost of any new buses, either now or into the future, and the costs for Light Rail are higher than any other system around the world (www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/light-rail-costs-off-the-tracks-peak-body-20120522-1z3hm.html).

All you need to do to make your voice heard to get Light Rail for Canberra is jump onto the consultation survey and vote!

[Smarter Transport: Vote now for Light Rail](#)

For more information visit: love40percent.org/2012/04/vote-now-light-rail-for-canberra-in-2012/

15.African Lovegrass posters and pamphlets

A reminder that the SACTCG posters and pamphlets on African Lovegrass are available 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>

16.Catchment Group Websites

Southern ACT: www.sactcg.org.au

Ginninderra: www.ginninderralandcare.org.au

Molonglo: www.molonglocatchment.com.au

17.New granular flupropanate product

There is a new granular flupropanate product able to be applied dry (in the granular form) by hand or air. With careful use this should add another tool to the tool box for dealing with serrated tussock.

If you would like to know more please go to the manufacturer's website:

www.granularproducts.com