

SOUTHERN NEWS
24/9/2010



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Tidbinbilla book launch

The launch by Simon Corbell (MLA) of our book *The World of Tidbinbilla* will occur 11am Saturday 9th October at Floriade. All welcome: Corporate Marquee near The World of Tidbinbilla is a user-friendly guide to the beauty, the riches and the history of Tidbinbilla. There are 5 sections:

1. Where to go: maps; 2. What to do: walks and activities; 3. How to find: the animals; 4. How to find: the plants and rocks; 5. People: the stories of Tidbinbilla.

The book allows you to enter the worlds of experts on plants, animals and rocks; bushwalkers and rangers; artists and map makers; pioneers and volunteers; the Ngunnawal people; and educators and managers who work at Tidbinbilla. Copies will be on sale for \$25.

UMCCC Forum 2010 - 'The Upper Murrumbidgee – Helping it Work'

Interested in how the Upper Murrumbidgee catchment is managed?

Ever thought what the catchment actually means to you and what values it embodies? High profile speakers at the UMCCC Forum on Friday October 29th have been asked to address this question as well as what does the catchment do well? what would you like to see it do better or differently? what needs to change for this to happen?

Friday October 29, 8.30am-4.30pm - The Common Room, University House, ANU.
For more information including a detailed program and accompanying half day field trip itinerary October 28 go to <http://umccc.org.au/> or contact Jo Perkins at joperkins@grapevine.com.au or 0424 208 003

Friends of Grasslands Events Calendar

Check out FOG's events calendar at <http://www.fog.org.au/activities.htm>

Vegetation monitoring training workshops

The *Vegetation Monitoring Manual, A Step-by-Step Guide to Monitoring Native Vegetation in the ACT* (Sarah Sharp and Lori Gould, 2010) has been developed to provide a consistent approach to monitoring and surveying vegetation, habitat and environmental condition.

Simple methods have been chosen so that natural resource managers, community volunteers and other individuals with only minimal skills will be able to carry out monitoring to get meaningful results and share information with other groups using the same methods.

Greening Australia Capital Region and Molonglo Catchment Group, with assistance from an ACT Government Environment Grant, are sponsoring monitoring workshops, to be run by Sarah Sharp, for community members and individuals who are involved in managing our natural resources.

The training will involve:

- A review of the manual and what it does
- Preparation for monitoring: deciding what to do
- Site visit to practice using all the methods
- Review to show how the data can be analysed and used.

Participants will be given instruction material, a set of recording sheets and a CD containing a copy of the manual. Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

The dates and venues are listed below. Each workshop will run from 9.30 to 4.00.

Saturday 23 Oct: Mugga Mugga Education Centre and Callum Brae Nature Reserve

Saturday 30 Oct: Carwoola Hall and a field site to be advised

Sunday 31 Oct: Mugga Mugga Education Centre and Callum Brae Nature Reserve

Thursday 4 Nov: Mugga Mugga Education Centre and Callum Brae Nature Reserve

Saturday 13 Nov: at a site on the northern side of Canberra (tba)

RSVP is essential. If you wish to attend one of these workshops, please email Sarah on sarahsharp@grapevine.net.au with the following information:

Name; Email; Preferred workshop date; 2nd preference date; Group you are representing.

Confirmation will be provided regarding the date that you have proposed to attend.

If you cannot attend one of these workshops, or wish to arrange a separate workshop for your group at a particular location, Sarah can be engaged to run additional workshops.

Park Carers help STILL needed for the Bill Kennedy Memorial Park

Many years ago the preschool in Stapylton Street, Holder needed a car park to make access safer for the children and their parents. Part of the Bill Kennedy Memorial Park was converted to a gravel surface car park with surrounding fence and exotic deciduous trees and screening shrubbery. After closure of the preschool the building was eventually utilised by Respite Care for several years and their staff and visitors used the car park extensively. Unfortunately so did the local hoons - for burnouts, druggies - for business, and burglars - for surveillance of nearby residences.

Years of drought and inappropriate tree selection have seen the demise of almost all the shrubs and trees that were planted around the car park. What once served a community need and had the support of neighbours, is now unnecessary, has significantly degraded a small community park and is a community irritant rather than asset.

Residents adjacent to the park would **appreciate your suggestions and advice** with regards selecting appropriate native groundcover, shrub and tree species to help restore this part of Bill Kennedy Memorial Park to minimal maintenance suburban bushland. ACT Parks will assist the community facilitate this rehabilitation if our plans meet with their approval. This may take some time but if we're lucky it may start this spring. So far there has been no response to this call for help. Please **contact Steve Welch if you can assist this worthwhile project.**

The Southern ACT Catchment Group AGM

There will be no formal Executive meeting in September.

The Annual General Meeting for the Southern ACT Catchment Group Inc. will be held on Tuesday 26 October at Tuggeranong Homestead, Richardson, 5.30pm to 8.30pm. All welcome. Apart from the election of office bearers, Jennie Gillies from TAMS will be outlining plans for water storage ponds in southern ACT.

For those interested there will be a stroll around the work undertaken by MOTH on the creek-line at 5pm before the meeting.

During a light supper, two short DVDs about Tuggeranong Homestead will be shown that were part of the Digital Stories heritage project at Tuggeranong Arts Centre last year.

Silver Medal Award at Floriade for Weedbusters Display Garden

Here's some excellent news for all present & past volunteers & supporters of the Weedbuster Garden at Floriade. This year the Weedbusters garden has won the Silver Medal for Display Gardens at Floriade. The Weedbusters garden gives examples of environmental weeds often planted in gardens and most importantly non-weedy alternative plants (both native and exotic). It is a very popular display garden and plays an important role in educating the public about 'weedy garden plants that can go bush'.

New member group for Southern ACT

Welcome to the Friends of Fetherston Gardens who have joined our catchment group. The Friends of Fetherston Gardens under the guidance of TAMS Park Care, are hosting a working bee at Fetherston Gardens, the former CIT school of horticulture in Weston on Sunday, 26 September 2010, from 10.00am to 1.00pm. This activity is part of the family and communities long weekend.

This is the first time the "Friends" are able to work in the garden. We are planning to clean up the paths and garden beds in the woodland area of the garden.

All welcome, please bring your own tools.

Contact Kirstin Linton, Convener – 62887760

Calling all Frogwatchers

It is almost monitoring time, and the frogs are calling up a storm already, so it sounds like it will be a great year for monitoring.

Quite a few people have contacted me to let me know the sites they would like to monitor, and this year you can do this online. The idea is that you register the site and days you plan to monitor to avoid duplication and to try to cover our key sites. Please have a look at the new system and contact me if you have any questions or issues.

[Frogwatch Online site registration, data entry, and field data sheets etc \(click here!\)](#)

Please 'Sign-up' to the new system and register your sites as soon as possible to help make this a smooth transition.

If you would like to borrow an audio recorder (we have MP3 and cassette recorders) please contact Emma Keightley, ACT and Region Frogwatch Coordinator,

Ginninderra Catchment Group 6278 3309 frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au

Web: www.ginninderralandcare.org.au

Farrer Ridge Nature Park SPRING WILDFLOWERS Walk

10 am – 12 noon, SUNDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER, 2010

Meet at top of Muresk street, Farrer.

Bring cameras, binoculars, hat & wear walking shoes.

More information: Sally Macintosh, Parks Stromlo depot: 6205 7384 or Wendy

Rainbird 6286 2057

On the Road Again

A half-day series of presentations from the Grassy Ecosystems Conservation Network about protecting and connecting fragments of biodiversity (such as travelling stock reserves) in landscapes that have lost biodiversity.

These presentations are on 30th September, at DEWHA, 33 Allara Street, Canberra,

9.00-12.30pm. <http://gbwcmn.net.au/node/1366> Please RSVP to John Vranjic

DEWHA (02) 6274-2897 or Toni McLeish GBW CMN 02 62297119 by 28th Sept

Southern Tablelands Community Weed Information Day

Goulburn Rotary and NSW Industry and Investment, are organising this free event on Friday, 15th October 2010 from 9.30am at Windellama Hall. (*Lunch & morning tea provided*).

The day will focus on Serrated Tussock and other emerging perennial grass weeds – Chilean Needle Grass and African Lovegrass

Speakers include:

- Carol James: Goulburn Rotary
- Luke Pope: NSW Industry and Investment
- Dale Chalker: NSW Industry and Investment
- Bill Johnston: Tablelands Livestock Health and Pest Authority
- Malcolm Ross: Goulburn Mulwaree Council
- Paul Brown: Upper Lachlan Shire Council

The day will also include practical demonstrations of weed control methods.

RSVP: Industry & Investment NSW

Ph: (02) 4828 6600 by Monday 11th October

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.



Inquiry into the ecological carrying capacity of the ACT and region

The Standing Committee on Climate Change, Environment and Water is conducting an inquiry into the ecological carrying capacity of the ACT and region. The Committee invites submissions from interested organisations and individuals. Submissions should address some or all of the terms of reference. The closing date for submissions is 12 November 2010. I have been invited to contribute to this important inquiry by making a submission so if you wish to add to such a submission please contact Steve Welch at info@sactcg.org.au

Terms of Reference

- a) The resources available to the ACT in terms of water, energy, and food sourced from within the Territory and outside it;
- b) Effective measures for assessing ecological footprint and carrying capacity;
- c) Current levels of resource use by ACT residents, including: The current size of the ACT urban, ecological and carbon footprints and how this compares to national averages and similar sized cities globally; and Trends in resource use in the ACT and the sustainability or otherwise of these trends continuing.

- d) A sustainable level of resource use, in terms of ACT urban, ecological and carbon footprints, for the ACT;
- e) Appropriate ecological carrying capacities based on current, higher and lower consumption models;
- f) Effective measures for reducing the ACT's ecological footprint;
- g) The environmental, economic and social impacts of reduced resource consumption and a sustainable population;
- h) The role of the ACT in the region in relation to population and resource use;
- i) Relevant infrastructure issues; and
- j) Any other relevant matter.

<http://www.parliament.act.gov.au/committees/index1.asp?committee=112&inquiry=975&category=13>