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### 1. Southern ACT Catchment Group Meeting

SACTCG are holding onsite meetings/field trips every 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting and this month had a very interesting tour around the ACTEW water treatment plant. If you would like to host a meeting at your groups site, or your property please call Martine Franco 62966400 to arrange. Meetings are held the 1st Tuesday of every month. The next meeting will be at the Kambah Office's **30<sup>th</sup> July 4.30 to 6.00pm** and Joslyn van der Moolen, the Acting Regional Landcare Facilitator will be joining us.

### 2. ACT Natural Resource Management Council

Nominations for membership of The Natural Resource Management (NRM) Council close **Fri 28 June**, so there is still a chance to apply. Community representation on this Council is imperative in influencing funding directions for the community in NRM.

The Council provides independent strategic advice to the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate on Australian Government funding for ACT Natural Resource Management investments. Expressions of interest are sought for NRM Council members with relevant experience, skills and knowledge in areas such as:

- sustainable agriculture
- biodiversity and nature conservation
- Indigenous land management
- rural land management
- natural resource management science
- biosecurity
- catchment, parkcare and landcare management
- community engagement
- environmental, social and economic analysis.

Members are appointed by the Director-General of the ACT Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate for a period of up to three years. The Council will meet quarterly with additional meetings as required. Members receive a per diem sitting fee. Written expressions of interest no longer than two pages, should be submitted to: Senior Manager, Natural Conservation Policy, Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate, GPO Box 158, Canberra, ACT, or [heather.tomlinson@act.gov.au](mailto:heather.tomlinson@act.gov.au). The link on the ESDD website is: [http://www.environment.act.gov.au/environment/natural\\_resource\\_management/natural\\_resource\\_management\\_council](http://www.environment.act.gov.au/environment/natural_resource_management/natural_resource_management_council)

### 3. Waterwatch Update

*This is the report from our Waterwatch Coordinator for last summer for those who have not seen it. These reports are compiled from data from 60 waterwatch sites from volunteers and as such can take a while to collate. Autumn's report will be coming soon.*

We had the driest summer in six years. Only 142 mm fell over the three months and a third of that fell in one day! (Late January). January was also the hottest on record with an average maximum of 32.3 degrees.

Lots of sites recorded drops in water flows and levels. Plants started dying and creek banks became crusty. Then it poured just after Australia day and lots of rubbish got deposited in the gross pollution traps and around the urban ponds and lakes.

It was almost warm enough to take a bath at many sites. In January only 2 sites out of the 35 monitored recorded temperatures below the mid 20's. The hottest was 29°C at Point Hut Ponds. The high temperatures are also suspected of being responsible for fish kills in the region.

High pH readings (>9) were recorded at a number new sites around Lake Tuggeranong and at a Lions Youth Haven site in Kambah.

The worst turbidity reading was on the Paddy's River after the January storms; 150NTUs. The higher sites in most sub-catchments remained clear as well as the two southern catchments; Gudgenby and Naas. Lower down the waterways all became cloudier than they had been for many months.

Some extremely stagnant readings were recorded around Lake Tuggeranong and in the Paddy's River this summer. The lowest oxygen reading was at Miowera Homestead in February which recorded only 2.0 mg/L!

Point Hut Pond and the Cooleman Ridge dams all had twice the amount of phosphorus than would be considered tolerable. The gong goes to Pond Hut Pond with a reading of 0.35 mg/L in January.

On the algae front Diatoms were enjoying the low flows in the rivers and were generally be the most evident algae around. Westwood Farm experience a bright red bloom I have only ever seen in amazing 'YouTube' clips from overseas.

One long standing member Ian Long as well as a fantastic team 'Yurung Dhuara', bade us farewell after their water-watching this summer

#### **4. Invasive Animals CRC news**

##### ***Photo Competition***

The Invasive Animals CRC (IA CRC) are once again searching for your photographs of pest or 'feral' animals. They are looking for photos showing pest animals living in the wild, the damage caused by pest animals, and also photos that demonstrate the various methods that are available for pest monitoring and humane control.

Entries into this year's competition can be submitted online via the Invasive Animals CRC website. There is a limit of five (5) photo entries per person and a range of great prizes will be on offer. Visit the website for more information:

[www.invasiveanimals.com/feral-photos](http://www.invasiveanimals.com/feral-photos). The competition closes on **30 September 2013**. For more information, contact Jessica Marsh at: [jessica.marsh@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jessica.marsh@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or on **0400 586 060**.

##### ***New App Field Guide to Pest Animals***

For those of you with an Apple device you may be interested in the Field Guide to Pest Animals of Australia App recently released by the Invasive Animals CRC. This is available as a free download from iTunes (see <https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/field-guide-to-pest-animals/id634197149?mt=8>)

#### **5. Murrumbidgee Landcare Annual Forum**

The 16th Murrumbidgee Landcare Annual Forum is being hosted by the Junee Area Landcare Network. **22 - 23 August 2013**

- Cross property planning in the Junee district
  - Pest animal management
  - Managing Salinity at a landscape scale
  - Community environmental action across the catchment.
  - Why paddock trees matter
  - Joining the dots: networking Landcare in schools
- Keynote Speaker: Paul Gibson-Roy on restoring grasslands

REGISTRATION

**SOUTHERN NEWS**

Landcare members & community volunteers - \$40 per day/\$60 for two days  
Non-members - \$60 per day/\$100 for two days  
Dinner - \$35 per head. Bar provided - purchase your own drinks. More information can be found at <http://www.murrumbidgeelandcare.org.au/forum/2013>

## **6. Awards**

### **2013 ACT Landcare Awards** Closing date: **Sunday 30 June**

The Landcare Awards honour the invaluable work undertaken by the Landcare community. Winners from these bi-annual awards become finalists in the 2014 National Landcare Awards. There are eight categories and individuals, schools, community groups, Indigenous groups and networks working to protect or restore local environments, farms, wetlands, waterways, and more, can be nominated. In the ACT there are also two extra ACT Government-sponsored awards, The Quiet Achiever Award for volunteers and The Environment Community Support Award for community coordinators. Details at <http://www.landcareonline.com.au/2013-state-territory-landcare-award> For assistance with ACT nominations contact Joslyn 6205 2913.

## **7. Funding Opportunities**

### **Community Food Grants Program Grants** Closing date: **Thursday 4 July 2013**

The Australian Government is investing \$1.5 million in the new Community Food Grants program—a key initiative of the National Food Plan. Community gardens, food cooperatives, farmers' markets, food rescue services or groups with an idea for community food initiatives may be interested in applying for funding under the program, which is now open for applications. Visit [daff.gov.au/community-food-grants](http://daff.gov.au/community-food-grants).

### **New Innovation Grants of up to \$1.5 million** Closing date: **2pm Thursday 4 July 2013**

Grants from \$250 000 to \$1.5 million are available for the development and adoption of innovative practices and technologies across our agriculture, fishing, aquaculture and farm forestry industries.

A range of innovative projects may be eligible, including:

- o projects that promote the uptake of new and innovative practices such as permanent bed vegetable production
- o projects that use new technology including digital information systems such as smart phone and notepad applications to deliver timely information to farmers to facilitate informed natural resource decision making
- o institutional and market based approaches that involve the whole supply chain and will increase the adoption of sustainable production practices.

Farming system groups, industry, agribusinesses, companies in the food supply chain, research bodies, community groups, universities and individuals are encouraged to apply. Partnerships or consortiums are also encouraged. For more information visit [www.nrm.gov.au](http://www.nrm.gov.au) or call 1800 552 008.

### **Junior Landcare Grants Program**

Sponsorship/Funding arranged by Landcare Australia

Through the Junior Landcare Grants Program, any school or organisation that would like to involve their students in landcare projects, in conjunction with local landcare groups, can apply for grants to assist them with the cost of their projects. The program targets major issues relevant to our natural environment including:

- Water quality/conservation
- Waste reduction/recycling
- School Gardens
- Biodiversity
- Land

**Closing dates remaining for 2013 are:**

Round 3: 2 August (Coles School Garden Grants)

**SOUTHERN NEWS**

Applications forms can be downloaded from the Landcare Online website.

<http://www.juniorlandcare.com.au/grants-2>

### **Greening Australia funding opportunities**

Funding is currently available to ACT rural landowners, landcare and parkcare groups through Greening Australia's ACT Land Keepers program.

- Biodiversity Incentives – funding to assist ACT rural landowners with revegetation, remnant protection/enhancement and riparian restoration.
- Veglink – providing tubestock/guards/seed for ACT community/landcare/parkcare groups to undertake small conservation projects.

There are also other projects that may be able to assist landowners with funding for more specific projects:

- ACT Woodlands / Greater Goorooyaroo (woodland restoration)
- Whole of Paddock Rehabilitation (WOPR) available to ACT and NSW landholders.

For further details about any of the above projects please call Angela Calliess at Greening Australia Capital Region 6253 3035 or mobile 0413 921 28

### **8. The ACT landcare book 'A Labour of Love'**

Following the successful launch of 'A Labour of Love: Celebrating Landcare in the ACT' congratulations to the editors and volunteer contributors have been rolling in for producing such a lovely visual history and recognition of the work of environmental volunteers in this region, and copies of the book are selling fast. If you are yet to get your copy, you can purchase one from the SACTCG Offices, Botanic Gardens bookshop, Arboritum, National library or the ANPS.

### **9. 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 very popular so **consider booking now** if you need it for next spring. To find out more or book the spray unit contact Martine Franco or Martin Lind on 6296 6400.

### **10. Seed Harvester available**

Bush Heritage Australia supported by The Southern ACT Catchment Group has available a Mobile Grass Seed Harvester to assist environment groups, landholders and managers across the ACT and surrounding regions to harvest native grass seed. This rotating brush style harvester is road registered and is fitted with electric brakes. To find out more or book the Mobile Grass Seed Harvester email: [info@sactcg.org.au](mailto:info@sactcg.org.au) or phone Martine Franco on 6296 6400

### **11. 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 Martine or Martin if you have a desire to be involved.

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

A reminder that the SACTCG posters and pamphlets are available in any quantity from our office at Kambah. Contact Martine on 6296 6400

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

The Weed's News can be read on-line at any time by visiting [www.weedsnetwork.com](http://www.weedsnetwork.com)