

SOUTHERN NEWS
26/11/2012



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1. Draft ACT Nature Conservation Strategy

The Draft ACT Nature Conservation Strategy has been released for public comment. A community information session will be held on **Tuesday 27 November 2012 from 5.30pm to 7.30pm** at the Canberra Business Events Centre, Regatta Point. Martine will be attending on behalf of the SACTCG. The consultation period will run for three months and close on Monday 10 December 2012.

The Strategy is available for viewing and comment at:

<http://timetotalk.act.gov.au/community-engagements/?engagement=draft-nature-conservation-strategy>

If you would like to discuss the SACTCG submission, or any other issue regarding the strategy please contact Martine or Martin on 62966400.

2. Biodiversity and Farming Fair

Kosciuszko2Coast and the Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council are holding Biodiversity and Farming fair at Ryrie Park, Braidwood this Friday 30 November. It will offer:

Demonstrations & Free Tours

- Compost tea maker, tree planter, pig trap, & native grass seeder demo's
- Visit spectacular local grasslands with flora expert Rainer Rehwinkel

Stalls and Displays

- Visit industry, community and government stalls
- Discuss property management planning, erosion control options & plant identification
- View landscape scale and property scale maps
- Learn more about local bats, reptiles, frogs & funnel webs & see a native & pest fish display
- See bird migration patterns come alive
- Register expressions of interest in Landcare's 'Biodiversity for Carbon & Corridors' project
- Learn how to use the NSW BioNet and the Atlas of Living Australia portals
- Ferals calendar painting tent for kids

-Local food stalls & Lunch – Rabbit, roo, goat, venison & vegetarian

For further information contact: Felicity 0427 111 101 or Lauren 0411 402 978

THERE IS GOLD COIN DONATION ON THE DAY TO THE UPPER SHOALHAVEN LANDCARE COUNCIL

3. Parks and Conservation Service Rural Summer Workshop

The Parks and Conservation Service is hosting its twice yearly Rural Workshop on Friday the 30th of November 9:30 am – 12:30pm.

Topics being covered on the day are:

- Natural Resource Protection Unit Update - Parks and Conservation Service staff will provide an update on weeds and be available to answer questions.
 - Rural Landholders Association Update - Tom Allen, RLA President, will provide an update on recent and upcoming RLA events.
 - Drench products and worm resistance - Will Andrews, ACT Government Vet will provide the latest info and advice on worming issues and resistance.
 - Southern Livestock Adaptation Program and Sheep Trials - Phil Graham, NSW Department of Primary Industry will present the result of the research undertaken under the Southern Livestock Adaptation program and preparing livestock for a changing climate
 - Weed control trials, innovation in Bredbo - Martyn Noakes, property owner of Valley View in Bredbo will talk about some of the innovative approaches he is trialling on his farm to control serrated tussock and African lovegrass.
- As always, the workshop will be followed by a delicious BBQ lunch and the opportunity to talk to Natural Resource Protection Unit staff, other landholders and district rangers.

Where: Hunlty Shearing Shed, 790 Uriarra Road, Canberra
RSVP: Josh Clancy, josh.clancy@act.gov.au or Sally McIntosh, sally.mcintosh@act.gov.au

4. K2C Glossy Black Cockatoo Project

Greening Australia is holding a seed collection workshop and a Drooping Sheoak propagation event for the K2C Glossy Black Project. Play a part in improving the Endangered Glossy Black-Cockatoo's foraging habitat in our region.

Drooping Sheoak propagation event

Tuesday 27 Nov 2012 - 5:00pm - 7:00pm

When: 5 pm – 7 pm, Tuesday 27 November 2012

Where: Greening Australia Nursery, 1 Kubura Place, Aranda ACT

What to bring: A hat and enclosed footwear Light refreshments will be provided

Seed Collection Workshop

The workshop will include a demonstration of the correct Drooping Sheoak seed collection techniques and a short seed collection session for the Glossy Black-Cockatoo Project where seed is available and time permits.

When: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm, Thursday 29 November 2012, Where: Mount Majura, off Antill Street, Hackett ACT

RSVP: Numbers are limited for both so RSVP is essential. Please Contact: Joanne Johnson, GA Project Officer (02) 6253 3035 or 0431 701 209

JJohnson@act.greeningaustralia.org.au

5. Water Watch Winter Report

In General: As the weather returned to normal the focus of our catchment group turned to the up coming election in October. A number of public forums were held to discuss the blue/green algae blooms and other problems experienced in Lake Tuggeranong over summer and autumn.

The slower flows in the Murrumbidgee River gave the mud time to settle most sites recorded crystal clear waters all winter.

We also welcome Kyle Maley who usurps Josh and the boys with the honor of being our youngest volunteer. Kyle is in Year 7 this year and has taken ownership of Stranger Pond in Bonython.

The water test results for winter this year showed almost pristine conditions around most of our rivers as a result of high flows earlier in the year. While the Murrumbidgee was pretty clear this season, Paddy's River and the lower Cotter had pretty turbid conditions. Most of our water ways had acceptable pH, salinity, and oxygen levels for the whole season. Algae populations popped up in greater number than the last season, possibly due to the lower flows. High flows also flushed away a lot of the algae build up at many sites in autumn, and winter saw the re-emergence of diatom colonies at many sites as the single celled plants got to work absorbing silica to make new homes.

The Upper Murrumbidgee Actions for Clean Water (ACWA) plan was launched in August and heralds a big milestone in cross border partnerships as well as strong links between government, corporate and community bodies. Our Murrumbidgee Waterwatch data has been a key ingredient in this success.

Lake Tuggeranong made it into the local news more often than ever this season. There was an article in every edition of the Chronicle as well as appearances in The Canberra Times, Radio 2CC and ABC Radio and TV. She nearly took to wearing dark sunglasses to avoid the paparazzi. The blue green algal blooms earlier in the year leading to prolonged lake closures combined with similar events in Lake Burley-Griffin drove an unprecedented level of public interest. The SACTCG joined the Tuggeranong Community Council in hosting public forums on what should be done.

There were unusually high turbidity readings in the Paddy River throughout this season. Fleur and Maree noted some clearing up around Murray's Corner and the sites up stream also had high turbidity readings. I wonder if in-stream re-fencing work had been taking place on Paddy's River properties to repair damage by the floods.

A huge thank you to all those groups and individuals involved. Waterwatch volunteers provide vital and immediate information on the state of our waterways which is being increasingly used by government and corporations locally and nationally. For more information contact the SACTCG Waterwatch Coordinator on 62966400 or Waterwatch@sactcg.org.au

6. Greening Australia ACT Land keepers Program

There are a range of funding opportunities currently available to ACT rural landowners, landcare and parkcare groups through Greening Australia's **ACT Land Keepers** program. Please see list below.

- **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 Goorooyarroo** (woodland restoration)·
- **Whole of Paddock Rehabilitation** (WOPR)

For more information about any of the funding opportunities listed above please contact Angela Calliess, ph: Phone 6253 3035 Email: acalliess@act.greeningaustralia.org.au

7. ACT Centenary Bioblitz

Various stakeholders (CSIRO Atlas of Living Australia, ACT Government and Molonglo Catchment Group) have recently come together to help organise an ACT

Centenary Bioblitz for 22 - 24 March 2013! This exciting new event will record a snapshot of an area important for the region's biodiversity, Black Mountain Nature Reserve.

The aims of the Bioblitz will be to:

- Bring together and engage a range of local community stakeholders in biodiversity surveys,
- Collect and mobilize data on local wildlife species,
- Increase a sense of community engagement with and stewardship for local biodiversity,
- Provide a large quantity of rich information for a locality in a short space of time.

Data will be entered into Atlas of Living Australia which will allow the community to see the data and the photos they contributed.

The project is in the early stages of planning. If you would like to be involved please contact Anna See (Molonglo Catchment Coordinator) on 6299 2119.

8. Catchment Group Meeting

Our last general meeting for the year will be held on 4 December at the Southern ACT Catchment Group Offices. If you would like to put something on the Agenda please contact Martine ASAP. 6296 6400

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 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.

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. Bush Heritage through Southern ACT Catchment Group Inc. offers to lend this harvester on the understanding that the:

1. Unit is to be returned in the same condition as it was lent, empty and clean;
2. Maximum lending period is 5 days;
3. A donation of \$50 for the first day and \$25 per day of lending thereafter is requested to be paid to the Southern ACT Catchment Group to assist with unit maintenance, registration and insurance (wet/windy days excluded);
4. The borrower must use a vehicle with towing capacity >730kg, preferably a 4x4, to tow and operate the Harvester;
5. The borrower agrees to supply details to the Southern ACT Catchment Group as to what seeds and the quantity of seed that was collected.



If delivery and pick-up is required a donation based on 85 cents per kilometre is also requested. If any surplus funds are generated they will be used to purchase seed to give to Bush Heritage Australia to assist in Scottsdale regeneration work.

To find out more or book the Mobile Grass Seed Harvester email: info@sactcg.org.au or phone 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