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1. ‘The World of Tidbinbilla’; a resource and memento for Tidbinbilla visitors’

Sales of this wonderful book have been constant. The first print run of 1000 books is almost sold out and we are in the process of ordering another 1000. Copies can be purchased (\$25 rrp) by contacting the SACTCG office.

2. Expressions of Interest – ACT Natural Resource Management Projects

The ACT Natural Resource Management Council is seeking Expressions of Interest in natural resource management projects to be undertaken in the ACT and immediate region as part of a regional investment strategy for 2011-12 to 2012-13. Funding for successful projects will come from the Australian Government’s Caring for our Country (CfoC) and ACT Government complementary funding. Expressions of Interest will be evaluated by the Council using the following criteria:

- degree of contribution towards CfoC and ACT priorities and targets in delivering on-ground outcomes;
- innovation in approach;
- demonstrated strong partnerships and collaboration between organisations;
- degree of leverage to other investments; and
- demonstrated community engagement and capacity building.

Expressions of interest open on 15 January 2011 and close on 18 February 2011. A public meeting will be held on Thursday 3 February 2011 at the Woden Seniors Club, 12 Corinna Street, Phillip, ACT from 4.30-6.30pm to provide information on the Council’s priorities and the Expression of Interest process, and to assist proponents with their proposals. The 2011-12 to 2012-13 Regional Investment Strategy Expressions of Interest Prospectus and Form are available from the ACT NRM Council website:

<http://www.actnrmcouncil.org.au/>. If you require further information, please email actnrmcouncil@act.gov.au or telephone 6205 2914.

To pursue the application for funding of the Catchment Coordination and Waterwatch projects for Southern ACT Glenys, Martin and I will attend a public meeting on Thursday 3 February (Woden Seniors Club 4.30 to 6.30) aimed at providing information on the NRM Council's priorities & expression of interest process. Other members are more than welcome to attend. We are then holding a meeting at Glenys' place (44 McGivern Cr) on Tuesday 8th at 4.30 pm to determine what will go into our application.

3. How important is biodiversity to the ACT? How are we going to manage and protect our native wildlife and ecosystems in the future?

The *Nature Conservation Act 1980* is the primary legislation for the protection of native plants and animals in the ACT and for the management of the conservation reserve network. The Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water is undertaking a review of the Act. A community forum has been scheduled which will incorporate a discussion panel of organisations and individuals speaking on a range of issues that relate to the Review:

When: Tuesday 1 February, 6-7.30pm

Where: Canberra Business Event Centre, Regatta Point, Commonwealth Park.
RSVP DECCEWEnvironment@act.gov.au or call 02 6207 2464. For further information on the review of the *Nature Conservation Act 1980* and how to provide a submission visit www.environment.act.gov.au

4. Training for members of the Park Care community

A chemcert training course is taking place on the 15th of February at the Queanbeyan Bowling Club. Parks and Conservation are happy to fund training for members of the Park Care community. Please take into consideration the cost of training when nominating or suggesting members for the course and nominate long term members who are most likely to utilise the training. Chemcert accreditation allows volunteers to use certain herbicides on ACT Government land for the purpose of weed control. Volunteers with a particular interest in weed control and an ongoing commitment to Park Care may be interested in this training. For more information go to the following website <http://www.chemcert.org.au/index.html>

Contact: *Community Programs Officer, Parks, Conservation and Lands*
Ph: (02) 6205 7384 communityprograms@act.gov.au

5. Renewal after Fire – Bushfire management workshop

You're invited to join the Nature Conservation Council of NSW for an informative two day workshop exploring the recovery of the natural environment following the Canberra bushfires in 2003. The strategies that native flora and fauna use to recover from large bushfires will be described by expert speakers from the CSIRO, ACT National Parks Association, ACT Parks, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Conservation and Lands and the Australian National Botanic Gardens. In addition, changes that were made to fire management planning following the Canberra fires will be discussed. The workshop will be held on Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 February, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm at Tuggeranong Community Centre

Contact: Anne Miehs on 9516 1488 or email amiehs@nccnsw.org.au

A field trip will be held on Sunday to Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. Lunch and afternoon tea will be provided. Limited places - RSVP by January 28 on 9516 1488 or amiehs@nccnsw.org.au

6. Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach online

All information, progress, plans, brochures, maps and newsletters produced for the Upper Murrumbidgee Reach are now on-line at www.upperbidgeereach.org.au

This website allows you to easily access background information about the reach and history behind demonstration reaches through the Native Fish Strategy as well as find out what's happening in the reach, download plans, maps and other documents.

7. 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.

8. Mobile Quikspray unit available to landholders

The Southern ACT Catchment Group supported by an ACT Environment Grant has purchased a trailer mounted QuikSpray unit to assist landholders across the ACT to undertake weed control. The 600lt dual hose unit is now available to any rural lease in the ACT and those properties adjacent to the ACT border.

The Southern ACT Catchment Group Inc. offers to lend its mobile Quikspray Unit under a limited number of simple conditions:

1. Unit is to be returned in the same condition as it was lent;
2. Only clean water is to be used in herbicide tank;
3. A small donation per day of lending is requested to be paid to the Southern ACT Catchment Group to assist with unit maintenance, registration and insurance;
4. The borrower agrees to supply as to what weeds were targeted, herbicide, rates and volumes used and the location.

Additionally we are currently in talks with ActewAGL and the ACT NRM Council who are to provide funding for herbicide use training. Through the catchment group, rural landholders will have free access to high quality chemical use training that will result in more efficient and safe use of herbicide for weed control in rural ACT. The proposed training package with the 'Spray Safe and Save' Company will provide training to land managers in the most efficient weed control practices as well as the economic, health and environmental benefits associated with correct use of chemicals (see below). This training will take the form of a 1½ day course for up to 25 ACT landholders. Dates are yet to be confirmed but will probably be sometime next April/May.

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

9. Community meetings to discuss Koalas surveys on the Monaro

The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) will be holding public meetings in Bredbo, Cooma and Numeralla, primarily to provide information about koala surveys to be undertaken in parts of the Southern Tablelands in coming months and to recruit volunteers to assist with surveys.

Details of the meetings are as follows:

Tuesday 1st February at Bredbo Community Hall, Monaro Hwy, Bredbo

Wednesday 2nd February at Cooma Public School, Commissioner St Cooma;

Thursday 3rd February at Numeralla Hall, Maclean St Numeralla.

All meetings will start at 6pm. Please attend a meeting closest to you or otherwise contact:

Luke McLachlan

Ranger, Snowy River Area

National Parks & Wildlife Service

PO Box 2228, Jindabyne NSW 2627

Ph: 02 6450 5559 Mob: 0409 078 548 Fax: 02 6456 2291

10. Coles Junior Landcare School Garden Grant

Since 2008 Coles has been providing School Garden Grants of up to \$1,000 to schools and youth groups to help create gardens in their grounds or community, such as bush tucker gardens, water wise gardens or veggie gardens.

These programs encourage students to learn about the environment through "outdoor learning" and interaction in developing their own school gardens.

2011 Closing Dates

- Round 1: Friday 25th February, 5pm (EST)
- Round 2: Friday 13th May, 5pm (EST)
- Round 3: Friday 5th August, 5pm (EST)

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

11. Landshare Australia - Connecting growers to people

Landshare Australia brings together people who have a passion for home-grown food, connecting those who have land to share with those who need land for cultivating food. The concept of Landshare began in the UK, launched through the River Cottage television program in 2009, and has since grown into a thriving community of more than 57,000 growers, sharers and helpers across the country. Now that Landshare is here in Australia, we welcome you to come and take part in this fantastic initiative. Landshare is for people who:

- * Want to grow vegetables but don't have anywhere to do it;
- * Have a spare bit of land they're prepared to share;
- * Can help in some way - sharing knowledge, lending tools, etc;
- * Support the idea of freeing up more land for growing;
- * Are already growing and want to join in the community;

<http://www.landshareaustralia.com.au/>

12. Inquiry into the 'Social and economic impact of rural wind farms

The Federal Senate's Committee on Community Affairs is undertaking an Inquiry into the 'Social and economic impact of rural wind farms'. The Inquiry will cover the following key issues:

- any adverse health effects for people living in close proximity to wind farms;

- concerns over the excessive noise and vibrations emitted by wind farms, which are in close proximity to people's homes;
- the impact of rural wind farms on property values, employment opportunities and farm income;
- the interface between Commonwealth, State and Local planning laws as they pertain to wind farms; and
- any other relevant matters.

The Committee aims to provide its report by 30 April 2011, and is seeking submissions by 10 February 2011.

Anyone from the community can make a submission to the Committee, not just those who have concerns about wind farms. A number of surveys show that some 8/10 of people support wind energy. The concern however is that the Committee will not be provided with this view as only those who oppose wind energy are currently making submissions. It is very powerful for the Committee to hear the voices of real people who have had a positive experience and it is vital that if you support wind energy that you share this with them.

Your submission to the Senate Committee can be made via an email to community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au.

Alternatively you can send mail to:

Department of the Senate
Community Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Further details about the Senate Committee Inquiry and submissions can be found at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac_ctte/impact_rural_wind_farms/info.htm

13. Controversial 'fracking' gas-extraction free film

On 23 February the Nature and Society Forum will be holding a public showing of 'Gasland', a film about 'fracking'. More on Gasland at

<http://video.pbs.org/video/1452296560/>

The film will be at the CSIRO Discovery Centre, Acton at 7:30 pm. Contact Keith Thomas, www.natsoc.org.au 02-6125 2526 (Mon & Wed mornings)

14. Websites

The following local websites may interest our members:

- ACT NRM Council - www.actnrmcouncil.org.au
- UMCCC - www.umccc.org.au
- ACT Landcare - www.actlandcare.org.au
- Southern ACT Catchment Group www.sactcg.org.au
- Molonglo Catchment Group www.molonglocatchment.com.au
- Ginninderra Catchment Group www.ginninderralandcare.org.au
- Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach www.upperbidgeereach.org.au