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1. Don't be a Drifter Herbicide spraying workshops

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? Want to upgrade your chemical application skills, ensure your machinery is working correctly, you have up to date records to ensure you gain your reaccreditation? If so Southern ACT Catchment Group is organising a herbicide use training course for the 17/18 August to be held at Westwood Farm near Kambah. The concept is to deliver an advanced practical/theory session in one day, which will include observing, using UV light, droplets of water coloured with dye, applied to stubble, leaves or grasses at different rates, nozzles and pressures. To reinforce the workshop information the day will be followed by small group half day sessions where spray applicators can bring along their own equipment and have their questions answered, guided by an experienced operator. 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) or reaccreditation is available if required. All costs will be covered through funding to the catchment group from ActewAGL and the ACT NRM Council.

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

2. African Lovegrass

Your help is requested: We need high quality photos of African Lovegrass (ALG) to add to our collection of ALG photos on www.sactcg.org.au We particularly want:

- mower slashing lovegrass on a road verge;
- tall and short forms of ALG in all situations;
- cattle or sheep grazing around it.

email to: info@sactcg.org.au

3. Green Jobs Corps Team to assist Member groups

The 3 Catchment groups are combining with Job Futures to provide a Green Jobs Corps Team from September for six months that will be available to assist Park Care & Urban Landcare or other member groups undertaking work on public land. Green Jobs Corps works in communities with local people and local organisations. Groups of 10 young people work with a team leader and other support people over a 26 week period undertaking a mix of accredited training and other learning opportunities. Job Futures is hoping to commence at least 2 full teams of 10 participants on projects in and around the ACT before end of December. Job Futures provide supervision, vehicle and transport for the team to all project locations.

The Green Jobs Corps come with a team leader/supervisor along with a basic kit of tools and trailer for use on landcare type projects. Job Futures provide OH&S training, First Aid and training in Cert 2 in Conservation and Land management to all participants. The projects go for 6 months and the team work for 25 hrs per week.

Teams are able to move between project locations and sites depending on amount of project work required. Project tasks can include but are not limited to - tree planting, mulching, pruning, weed control, erosion control, fencing, repairs, fauna and flora surveys and data collection, water quality monitoring, seed collecting, plant propagation, track repairs, track maintenance, rock walls/drains construction or repairs, heritage building conservation work, environmental auditing, and so on.

To participate in this program please provide the following information to info@sactcg.org.au

- *Project site;*
- *Location/address:*
- *Catchment area where project location is part of;*
- *Activities that you want to have the team undertake eg: tree planting (include approx number of trees/plants that you think you might need to have planted) weed control (general species of main weeds, how they will be best controlled eg: cut and paint, spray, manual removal etc) track construction or repairs x number of metres length), fencing ((x number of metres length etc);*
- *While I do not need specific time lines for activities (that can be detailed later) it might be good to know how long you think you will need the team on each project location eg 1 week in a block or 1 day per fortnight for 26 weeks;*
- *The kind of assistance your group can provide eg materials, extra training and expertise, extra supervision with tasks, etc.*

4. 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 in the Googong or Upper Murrumbidgee catchments south of the ACT.

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

To find out more or book the spray unit contact: Steve Welch on 6296 6400

5. Don't be a Drifter Herbicide spraying workshops

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Are you a landholder in the ACT or in the Googong or Upper Murrumbidgee catchments south of the ACT? Want to upgrade your chemical application skills, ensure your machinery is working correctly, you have up to date records ensure you gain your reaccreditation? If so Southern ACT Catchment Group is organising a herbicide use training course for the 17/18 August to be held at Westwood Farm near Kambah. The concept is to deliver an advanced practical/theory session in one day, which will include observing, using UV light, droplets of water coloured with dye, applied to stubble, leaves or grasses at different rates, nozzles and pressures. To reinforce the workshop information the day will be followed by small group half day sessions where spray applicators can bring along their own equipment and have their questions answered, guided by an experienced operator. 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) or reaccreditation is available if required. All costs will be covered through funding to the catchment group from ActewAGL and the ACT NRM Council.
Bookings essential: Contact Steve Welch on 6296 6400 or email info@sactcg.org.au

6. Radio Landcare

For an interesting update on local landcare listen to Radio Landcare:
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.

7. Safety Alert

Parks & City services have issued the following safety alert that might be of interest to our members who may be using or near brush cutters:
A recent "Serious Event" (Dangerous Occurrence) was reported to WorkSafe ACT, involving activity with a worker operating plant (brush cutter) and the brush cutter blade coming into contact with another worker causing a severe laceration to the worker's arm. This is an appropriate time to highlight the requirements for workers (this involves contractors) to be aware of safe working systems when operating Plant & Equipment with co-workers on site.
Safety Considerations:

- Prior to any activity commencing, all workers (employees/contractors etc) must complete a mandatory induction into their workplace, including the safe use of specific plant & equipment (P&E).
All P&E must be maintained serviced and safe to use. If P&E is unsafe it must be tagged-out and not used.
- A communication system will need to be discussed prior to commencement of work; this can be hand signals, 2-way radio, waving arms, eye contact etc.
- If a co-worker needs to communicate with the plant operator, remain outside the plant operators working perimeter (safe zone) and use your preferred communication system.

- When operating and moving around with P&E, the operator must be aware of other workers and maintain a safe working distance for the particular operating P&E.
- Works Plans, Risks Assessments and SOP's should inform and direct workers to the safe distance perimeters and acceptable communication methods to be used.

Further information: Jenny Conolly 6205 7384 jenny.conolly@act.gov.au

8. ACT Weeds Strategy

The ACT Weeds Strategy that has the environmental danger rating and criteria in it is now available on the web: see Appendix 2 – ACTPCS Environmental Weed Danger Ratings (for the main species controlled). The 2011-2019 Weed Control Operations Plan is also available.

<http://www.tams.act.gov.au/play/pcl/pestsandweeds/managingpests>

9. Next Catchment Group meeting

The next SACTCG Executive meeting is on Wednesday 6th July at SACTCG Office starting at 4.30pm. The next General meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 26th July starting at 4.30pm at the SACTCG Office, 21 Snodgrass Crescent Kambah.

Agenda items to info@sactcg.org.au

10. Canon Australia Environmental Grant G04565

Each year Canon Australia awards five grants to the sum of \$5,000 to projects or organisations that can demonstrate a positive impact on Australia's natural environment and communities.

On awarding of the five grants, each recipient will be given their choice of \$5,000 of Canon equipment – including digital compact and DSLR cameras, video cameras, binoculars, projectors, multi-function printers, water-proof cameras and more. Selection is based on the environmental merits of each group's nominated project, as well as the importance of the products to realising its success.

Closes: 31 August 2011

Applicants may apply for a Grant in one or (where eligible) more of the following categories:

- National Award: for an environmental project with national significance and impact;
- Regional Award: for an environmental project based in a regional area with a regional impact. For the purposes of the Grant, a regional area is a location outside of an Australian capital city;
- Grassroots Award: for a community group with a registered gross income of \$25000 or less; or
- Youth Award: for a project led by an individual under 25 years of age (as at date of application).

<http://www.canon.com.au/en-AU/About-Canon/Sustainability-Environment/Environment/Environmental-Grants>

11. Solar Energy

Skymining is a commercial company specialising in solar panel installation. The founders of Skymining are interested in donating a percentage of solar panel sales to Landcare for land repair and community engagement activities. The donation is in exchange for providing information to the Landcare community about the existence of Skymining. The Catchment and Landcare Association (CLA)

would receive \$100 per kilowatt installed when CLA is mentioned as a source of information by the purchaser.

Information has been supplied by Sky Mining as part of a arrangement that supports Landcare in the ACT region; the Southern ACT Catchment Group does not necessarily endorse Sky Mining's business.

More information http://www.molonglocatchment.org.au/sky_mining.htm

12. DAFF News

- Mr Bill Farmer AO to conduct independent review into live export trade: Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator Joe Ludwig, has announced that an independent review has been appointed to report on Australia's livestock export trade. Read the [media release](#).
- Government support for rural R&D set to continue
The Australian Government has committed to maintaining government matching contributions to rural research and development corporations. [media release](#).
- Improved financial performance for beef farms in 2010-11:
Improved seasonal conditions are expected to result in an increase in projected farm cash incomes for beef cattle producers in 2010 11 according to Australian beef: Financial performance of beef cattle producing farms, 2008-09 to 2010 11, released by ABARES. [media release](#).
- Good start for winter crops: The winter cropping season in Australia's eastern states has started well, according to ABARES Australian Crop Report–No. 158 June Quarter. Read the [media release](#).
- Australia's energy and mineral export earnings fall on supply disruptions: Export earnings from Australia's energy and mineral commodities in the March quarter of 2011 was \$40.3 billion, 10 per cent lower than in the December quarter of 2010, according to Australian mineral statistics – March quarter 2011, released by ABARES. Read the [media release](#).

13. Landcare Week: 5th – 11th September 2011

With Landcare Week 2011 fast approaching, this year Landcare Australia will be encouraging people to care for their local environment by getting involved with their local community group and donating themselves as a volunteer.

Landcare Week is an awareness campaign for landcare and coastcare groups, farmers embracing sustainable farm management, 'friends of' groups, bushcare, rivercare, dunecare, Junior Landcare and any volunteer group that manages environmental issues at a local level. The purpose of the campaign is to assist groups in the landcare movement around Australia build capacity, create awareness in their community and encourage participation by attracting volunteers.

A Landcare Week Event Kit will be available for groups to use by July 14th. This kit will include branded templates so that your group can add their name and information, and will include a poster, template media release, flyers, email signature, website tile and local newspaper ad. The kit will be available on the Landcare Australia website for you to download. www.landcareonline.com.au/ If you are organising an event during Landcare Week, please register this by emailing events@landcareaustralia.com.au. Send us the date, time and location of your event, as well as a contact name and phone number or email address, and we will advertise this through our website. Please also include what type of event you are running and what people need to bring on the day.

14. Applications for Community Action Grants round now open

Community groups around Australia can now apply for small grants to help fund local environmental and sustainable agriculture projects.

Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Dr Mike Kelly, announced that \$5 million will be available through the 2011-12 Community Action Grants round.

Funding allows volunteers and local community groups to contribute to the Caring for our Country priority areas of protecting biodiversity and natural icons, coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats, and using sustainable farm practices. Applications for the 2011-12 Community Action Grants will close Monday 1 August 2011.

More information on Caring for our Country and Community Action Grants, including how to apply, is available at www.nrm.gov.au or by calling 1800 552 008. Contact Steve Welch if you want Catchment group assistance on a project application.

15. Tuggeranong Community Council Newsletter

Please find attached the link to the June 2011 issue of the Tuggeranong Community Council Newsletter, *Valley Voice*.

<http://bit.ly/valleyvoicejune2011>

16. Landcare online shop

Please be advised that the refreshed Landcare online shop is now live.

You can access this site via www.landcareonline.com.au – simply go to Resources/Online shop.

Groups and volunteers can purchase merchandise at cost with the Landcare Australia logo OR their group logo. The merchandise, sales enquiries and delivery of stock are managed by Creative Promotions. Other merchandise product not advertised on the online shop can be purchased, simply contact Creative Promotions for more information.

This online shop has been developed as a resource for groups to easily access merchandise for their volunteers and have product delivered anywhere in Australia. Landcare Australia does not receive an income from the sale of any product.