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### **1. Information on the Clean Energy Future Land Sector package**

It is important that land owners, managers and others interested in land management and biodiversity stay informed on what is being done to deliver to the community the benefits of the Clean Energy Future land sector package.

In the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, work is already underway to ensure effective implementation of the Land Sector Carbon and Biodiversity Advisory Board, the Biodiversity Fund, the Indigenous Carbon Farming Fund and the Regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) Planning for Climate Change measure.

As part of this implementation process there will be a number of opportunities in the coming months for community comment and input.

Regular email updates will be one of the ways community can find out about these opportunities and the latest developments.

If you would like to receive email updates email your contact details to [cleanenergyenviro@environment.gov.au](mailto:cleanenergyenviro@environment.gov.au).

### **2. NSW Weeds Training Program**

Vegetation Survey and Assessment – 2 day Diploma level course (RTC5519A)  
This course is designed for land managers looking to accurately define the scale of a weed problem and determine its impact on the surrounding vegetation.

When: 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of October

Where: Queanbeyan, NSW

For more information on weeds training courses please contact: Annette ten Broeke, [annette.beer@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:annette.beer@industry.nsw.gov.au) or go to <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/weeds/training>

### **3. Managing Native Grasslands for Soil & Animal Health – Conference**

Stipa is holding the 7th National Grassland Conference in Holbrook this year. The theme of the conference is "Managing Native Grasslands for Soil and Animal Health.

**When:** 9 & 10 November

**Where:** Holbrook Town Hall, NSW

For further information [www.stipa.com.au/Events/Conferences.html](http://www.stipa.com.au/Events/Conferences.html)

### **4. African Lovegrass Field Day – 'Don't love this Grass'**

This workshop is hosted by the Australian Government, Bush Heritage Australia, Southern ACT Catchment Group, Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee, the ACT NRM Council and the ACT Regional Landcare Facilitator Initiative.

Come and hear how a local landholder, native plant experts, Bush Heritage Australia, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Cooma-Monaro Shire Council manage the scourge of the ACT/Monaro region – African Lovegrass.

The Field Day is on Saturday 22 October, 9.30am – 3pm at 'Scottsdale'

4km north of Bredbo on the Monaro Highway

The Field Day is free, and a BBQ lunch will be provided. Meet at the "Scottsdale" Shearing Shed. For catering purposes, please RSVP: [actlandcare@act.gov.au](mailto:actlandcare@act.gov.au) or phone Sally McIntosh 62052913 / 0435657429 or Anna van Dugteren 62052914 / 0434564089. More information: [www.umccc.org.au](http://www.umccc.org.au)

A further workshop aimed at the urban landcare community is currently being planned for Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> of November, 9:00am – 12:15pm followed by lunch. at Westwood Farm, 244 Kambah Pool Road. This workshop will explore the extent of the African Lovegrass problem, what is being done, what else can be done. Contact Sally McIntosh 62052913 / 0435657429 or Anna van Dugteren 62052914 / 0434564089 for more information.

### **5. 'The Story So Far' - A summary of the Caring for our Country review consultations**

The Caring for our Country Review Team have been busy pulling together the thoughts and suggestions collected during the consultation phase of the review, and we would now like to share with you a summary of the consultations – *The Story So Far*.

In compiling *The Story So Far* CfOC has pulled together key views and comments from 4000 community members, stakeholders and governments through online conversations, formal submissions, video segments, case studies, and face to face meetings. The Caring for our Country Review Team would like to thank everyone who contributed their thoughts, suggestions, ideas and feedback. <http://caringforourcountryreview.com.au/caring-for-our-country-review?module=news>

### **6. Don't be a Drifter Herbicide spraying workshops**

Southern ACT Catchment Group recently conducted another 'Don't Be A Drifter' herbicide use training course at Westwood Farm near Kambah. This is the second of these courses organised by the Southern ACT Catchment Group and run by Craig Day from 'Spray Safe and Save'. Craig adapts the course content to suit the requirements of the participants. I had the good fortune to attend the first course in May this year along with 16 other participants. I have been using herbicides for

over 30 years and have participated in a number of 'chemical use' courses yet I learnt more on this course than I would have thought possible. Craig is an excellent presenter with a truly in-depth knowledge of all aspects of herbicide use and the legislation surrounding it. The practical sessions clearly demonstrate the learning gained from the theory sessions. I firmly believe that all people using herbicides at any level could gain a greater understanding of all aspects of herbicide use by undertaking this course, whether they are seeking accreditation, reaccreditation or simply a better knowledge base to work from regarding drift reduction, nozzle selection, equipment selection and calibration and OH&S to name a just few aspects. (Steve Welch)

Twenty three participants undertook the advanced practical/theory sessions over two days. This included observing, using UV light, droplets of water coloured with dye, applied to leaves or grasses at different rates, nozzles and pressures. The workshops have a mixture of RELEVANT theory and practice. Assessment was 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 was achieved by the participants. All costs were covered through funding to the catchment group from ActewAGL and the ACT NRM Council. Our coordinator is currently pursuing funding to provide more of these courses, including one aimed at urban, landcarers / Park Carers.

## **7. Tuggeranong Community Council Newsletter September 2011**

Valley Voice Issue 8 will shortly be available at [www.tuggcc.com](http://www.tuggcc.com)

This issue contains the following article on Westwood Farm.

*Nominated by the Southern ACT Catchment Group, Lions Youth Haven at Westwood Farm in Kambah was a finalist for the Toshiba Community Group Award in the recent ACT Landcare Awards.*

*Lions Youth Haven is a community based organisation dedicated to providing Canberra's youth at risk with a sup-ported, learning outdoor environment at Westwood Farm. While significant areas of the farm are managed for conservation, most of the farm is used for horse agistment.*

*Gerry Nussio, Manager of Westwood Farm has devised an efficient, cost effective barrier designed to protect paddock trees from horses, and is involving school students in their construction.*

*The 'Trees in Trouble' program at West-wood Farm aims to conserve the remnant Yellow box/Red gum paddock trees, while maintaining agricultural production.*

*The program involves students, who were not engaging well at school, constructing tree guards to prevent horses from damaging paddock trees. Horses tend to chew the bark of accessible trees in paddocks, sometimes ring-barking the tree causing it to eventually die. Horses also tend to compact the soil around the roots, making the ground less porous and bare of grass cover.*

*The protection of remnant paddock trees in horse paddocks remains a concern and priority for Westwood Farm and the organisation has responded by supporting the design and construction of custom made tree guards to prevent horses from chewing, rubbing and ring-barking remnant trees.*

*These tree guards are a proven cost- effective solution to protecting these iconic and highly threatened features of our landscape. Their design solves the problem of horses attacking paddock trees while still allowing access to the tree by wildlife. The guards are a simple design based on the fact that horses do not like anything above their heads. One of the program's objectives is to make this design freely available to the wider rural and equestrian community. The guards use readily available materials (pipe and fittings) and are easily constructed.*

*Lions Youth Haven at Westwood farm has been an active member of the Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch program for a number of years. As well as providing important data on rural waterway conditions in the ACT Lion's Youth Haven has successfully incorporated the Waterwatch program into their education package offered to schools in Canberra. This rural education package combines cattle husbandry, farm safety and skills with broader landscape conservation values to deliver a unique and extremely progressive and valuable approach to rural land use practice.*

*Lion's Youth Haven are also working in partnership with The ACT & Region Chamber of Commerce & Industry, the ACT Department of Education and Training, Greening Australia, the Southern ACT Catchment Group and 'LEAD Employment' to deliver a special program for ACT senior students to attain recognised competencies in environmental monitoring and landscape improvement.*

*This program will include invasive weed removal, propagation and planting of native species to improve an area of Yellow box/Red gum woodland. Students will also be undertaking a range of Waterwatch tests and assessments to monitor this habitat. By targeting young people, who are otherwise disengaged with mainstream education Lion's Youth Haven hope to ignite within them a passion for involvement in community and environmental action.*

## **8. ACT Landcare Award Winners Announced**

Congratulations to our own Steve Welch, Deputy Chair of UMCCC and SACTCG Coordinator for winning a 2011 ACT Landcare Award. Steve took out *The Environment Community Support Award*. To see the full list of winners, go to the UMCCC website: <http://umccc.org.au/node/476>

## **9. Investigation into the state of water courses and catchments for Lake Burley Griffin**

The Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment has invited community members to take part in the Investigation into the state of water courses and catchment for Lake Burley Griffin. Submissions close on 30 September 2011. For Terms of Reference visit the website:

[http://www.envcomm.act.gov.au/investigations/lake\\_burley\\_griffin\\_investigation](http://www.envcomm.act.gov.au/investigations/lake_burley_griffin_investigation)

## **10. This Land Our Water: Water Challenges for the 21st Century – a new book by Peter Cullen**

The late Peter Cullen, widely recognised as an adviser in water management and policy, speaks again today, through his recently published book sponsored by the Peter Cullen Trust.

'This Land Our Water: Water Challenges for the 21st Century' is a beautifully presented volume that, for the first time, publishes Peter Cullen's last writings and speeches. It also reminds us of the man, through vignettes by colleagues, friends and family. Copies can be bought for \$79.95 (+ postage) from the Peter Cullen Trust by emailing [office@petercullentrust.com.au](mailto:office@petercullentrust.com.au)

## **11. Centenary Trail in Canberra**

The idea for a Centenary Trail in Canberra arose from community submissions received in 2009 as part of the Canberra 100 call for Centenary projects. The Trail is intended to be a showcase of Canberra, taking users on a seamless journey between urban and rural environs and incorporating the ACT's iconic sites and hidden treasures. A Canberra Centenary Trail Feasibility Report was prepared for

Parks and Conservation Service, which assesses the feasibility of the proposal in terms of estimated costs and predicted benefits.  
Comments and suggestions about the trail or the report are welcome at any time and can be sent to [TAMSCentenaryTrail@act.gov.au](mailto:TAMSCentenaryTrail@act.gov.au)  
More information including maps of the proposed trail can be found at [http://www.tams.act.gov.au/live/about\\_our\\_department/community\\_engagement/community\\_engagement\\_activities\\_and\\_events/canberra\\_centenary\\_trails](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/live/about_our_department/community_engagement/community_engagement_activities_and_events/canberra_centenary_trails)

### **12. 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.

### **13. Next Catchment Group meeting**

The next SACTCG Executive meeting is on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October at SACTCG Office starting at 4.30pm. Agenda items to [info@sactcg.org.au](mailto:info@sactcg.org.au)  
The Annual General Meeting is planned for 25 October at Tuggeranong Homestead. Join us at 4.30 for a walk around the creek and woodland.

### **14. Mobile QuikSpray Unit available**

The Southern ACT Catchment Group supported by an ACT Environment Grant and sponsored by ActewAGL has available a QuikSpray unit 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. The unit has 2 hand held spray guns each with 100 metres of push-button retractable hose and a small selection of spray nozzles.

The Southern ACT Catchment Group Inc. offers to lend its mobile Quikspray Unit under the following conditions:

- Unit is to be returned in the same condition as it was lent;
- Tank is to be returned empty and clean – flushed with clean water &/or 'Quik Flush' (not within 50 metres of a waterway);
- Only clean water is to be used in herbicide tank;
- A donation of \$25 for the first day and \$15 per day of lending thereafter is requested to be paid to the Southern ACT Catchment Group to assist with unit maintenance, registration and insurance;
- Maximum lending period is 5 days;
- Jerry can & pump fuel tank are to be returned full of unleaded fuel;
- The borrower must have Chemical user accreditation (AQF3);
- The borrower agrees to supply details to the Southern ACT Catchment Group as to what weeds were targeted, herbicide, dye and surfactant types and rates and volumes used.



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

### **15. Greening Australia and UMCCC WOPR Field Day, Weilora Homestead, Wednesday 12 October 2011**

Greening Australia Capital Region and UMCCC will be hosting a field day at Weilora Homestead on Wednesday 12 October 2011.

Information about the day and registration details are available on UMCCC's website at: <http://umccc.org.au/node/467>

UMCCC will organise carpooling of 4WDs from GA's headquarters in Aranda.

### **16. National Green Jobs Corps project underway**

The National Green Jobs Corps project is underway and Job Futures would like to invite you and your group members to the launch.

Deb Kellock is the team leader and trainer for this project, which runs from late September 2011 to March 2012. NGJC participants will gain a Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management if they complete the course. Job Futures are currently recruiting for the project.

National Green Jobs Corps is a 26-week environmental training program that offers young people, aged 17 to 24 years, a combination of work experience, skill development and accredited training to ensure they are ready for employment in emerging green and climate change industries.

National Green Jobs Corps projects are team based activities developed in conjunction with local communities and groups, representatives from the environment and climate change sector, local government and relevant training providers. Participants have the opportunity to participate in hands-on work experience activities and accredited training.

The launch of the ACT Community Green Skills Project will be on Tuesday 4th October at Black Mountain Peninsula (Garryowen Drive) from 11am till 12pm

Please contact Deb Kellock from JOB FUTURES SEQ on 02 6251 3388 to confirm your attendance or if you have any questions about the launch.

### **17. 2011 National Volunteer Awards Campaign**

Volunteering ACT would like to invite you to nominate your volunteers for the Environment category of the 2011 National Volunteer Awards 2011 marks the 10th anniversary of the United Nations International Year of Volunteers IYV+10.

To mark this special year and to recognise those volunteers who make an outstanding contribution to their local community, each Member of Parliament will participate in a nationwide local awards campaign in their electorate. Volunteering ACT is pleased to host the ceremony for these awards at a public event on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December.

To nominate a volunteer for these awards simply fill in the nomination form by the 21/10/2011 and return to Volunteering ACT via email:

[customer.service@volunteeract.org.au](mailto:customer.service@volunteeract.org.au)

For more information please contact Customer Service Officer on 6251 4060

[www.volunteeract.org.au](http://www.volunteeract.org.au)