



1. [ACT landcare book](#)
2. [Southern ACT Catchment Group Meeting](#)
3. [Tuggeranong Lake and Catchment Carers \(TLC\)](#)
4. [Community Landcare Grants](#)
5. [ACTEW Water Source Water Protection Program Grants](#)
6. [Southern Tablelands Ecosystem Park \(STEP\)](#)
7. [The Canberra Centenary Trail](#)
8. [ACT Centenary Bioblitz](#)
9. [National Rural Women's Conference](#)
10. [K2C Grasslands Project](#)
11. [Art competition: "A Journey Along the Centenary Trail - Past, Present and Future"](#)
12. [Mobile QuikSpray Unit](#)
13. [Seed Harvester available](#)
14. [Field Naturalist association of Canberra \(FNAC\)](#)
15. [Invasive Animals CRC Update](#)
16. [Radio Landcare](#)
17. [African Lovegrass posters and pamphlets](#)
18. [The Weed's News](#)
19. [Waterwatch Update Spring 2012](#)

### 1. ACT landcare book 'A Labour of Love'

The soon to published book 'A Labour of Love' celebrating Landcare in the ACT will be launched during The Heritage Festival at Tuggeranong Homestead on 19 April. The launch will be a great opportunity to meet members from the 43 groups that are featured in the book and activities and celebrations will take place throughout the day celebrating Landcare in the ACT. Further details on the event will follow in our next newsletter.

[http://www.environment.act.gov.au/heritage/heritage\\_festival](http://www.environment.act.gov.au/heritage/heritage_festival)

### 2. Southern ACT Catchment Group Meeting

Southern ACT Catchment Group Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of every month. We have changed the format of meetings so we have the chance to showcase some of the great work our Parkcare and Landcarer's have been doing and to facilitate more sharing of ideas across groups. Every second monthly meeting will be an 'on site' visit to various locations and alternative meetings will be at the office.

The first of our on site meetings will be at **Casuarina Sands 4.30 pm 26 Feb**, with a BBQ and round-table sharing of what groups are up to and all are welcome.

If you would like to host a meeting at your groups site, or your property please call Martine Franco 62966400 to arrange.

### 3. Tuggeranong Lake and Catchment Carers (TLC)

The new group Tuggeranong Lake and Catchment Carers have been meeting regularly to address issues such as the annual lake closures due to blue green algae blooms and bad smells. To address these issues the TLC are considering more clean-ups, contributing to the development of wetlands in the Tuggeranong Catchment (proposed in the parliamentary agreement) and various community awareness raising activities, among others. In the near future a competition will be held for developing a logo for the group to be used on a brochure and other promotional information. The TLC feel that while it will take a long time to achieve the goal of a healthy Lake Tuggeranong they are on the right path. If you want to join the TLC Committee please ring Glenys on 6231 0603 or the SACTCG office on 6296 6400.

Please feel free to come to the **NEXT MEETING: 6pm, Thursday 21th February** 2013 at SACTCG offices.

#### **4. Community Landcare Grants**

New grants were announced by the Commonwealth on 24 January replacing the Community Action Grants. Community Landcare Grants will provide grants of between \$5 000 and \$50 000 to community groups under the [Caring for our Country](#) Sustainable Agriculture stream. The Grants may be used for demonstrating, trialling and adopting cropping, grazing and other farming practices that improve soil condition and reduce wind and water erosion as well as to demonstrate best fishing practices.

Groups may also apply for funding for projects that increase skills and capacity without the need for an associated on-ground target. Community Landcare Grant applications close at 5pm (AEDT) on **20 March 2013**.

For more information, visit [Caring for our Country](#), or call 1800 552 008.

If you or your group would like assistance with a grant application or have an idea for project on your property or Parkcare site please contact the SACTCG offices and talk to Martine Franco or Martin Lind 6296 6400.

#### **5. ACTEW Water Source Water Protection Program Grants**

The ACTEW Water Source Water Protection Program (SWPP) aims to reduce risks to water quality within the ACT's drinking water catchments. Community and non-government organisations, individual property owners, government agencies and local councils are eligible to apply for funding through the SWPP grants scheme.

The main benefits of the project must occur within the ACT drinking water catchments (this includes all groups under SACTCG). The applicant must have an ABN.

A maximum of \$25,000 is available for any given project.

For more information, guidelines and application documents please get in touch with the SWPP Project Team at sourcewater at actew.com.au or visit

[www.actew.com.au/Water and Sewerage Systems/ACT Water Supply System/The Water Network/Source water protection program.aspx](http://www.actew.com.au/Water and Sewerage Systems/ACT Water Supply System/The Water Network/Source water protection program.aspx)

#### **6. Southern Tablelands Ecosystem Park (STEP)**

STEP, is located on the side of the Arboretum site nearest to Mt Painter. It is being developed as a community-based regional botanic garden, education and ecosystem recovery centre for the Southern Tablelands, and will eventually be extended to include the remnant eucalypts on the adjoining farmland. On Saturday, 2 February, when the Arboretum Opening Festival is being held, there will be guided walks of the STEP site. More information can be found at:

<http://www.step.asn.au/2013/01/25/national-arboretum-opening-festival/#more-407>

#### **7. The Canberra Centenary Trail**

A new TAMS webpage for the Centenary Trail project is now available to provide project information and updates in one location online:

[http://www.tams.act.gov.au/play/pcl/parks\\_reserves\\_and\\_open\\_places/canberra\\_centenary\\_trail](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/play/pcl/parks_reserves_and_open_places/canberra_centenary_trail)

#### **8. 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. This exciting new event will record a snapshot of an area important for the region's biodiversity, Black Mountain Nature Reserve.

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

**Please note this event has been rescheduled to October 25-27 this year to avoid the fire season.**

If you would like to be involved please contact Anna See (Molonglo Catchment Coordinator) on 6299 2119.

### **9. National Rural Women's Conference**

Registrations are now open for the inaugural National Rural Women's Conference, an initiative of the National Rural Women's Coalition, being held in Canberra from 18-20 February 2013 is expected to bring more than 500 women from regional, rural and remote Australia to learn, discuss challenges, celebrate and share their vision for the future. To see a [program or for more information go to <http://www.nrwc.com.au/inagugural-national-rural-womens-coalition-conference-announced/>

### **10. K2C Grasslands Project**

Forum and workshops will be held Tuesday 19 & Wednesday 20 February. The K2C Myer Foundation Grasslands Project, encompassing four projects from Victoria, NSW and the ACT, will be hosting a two hour forum for grassland specialists and managers on the Tuesday. The forum will discuss grassland management issues and related projects. More specific site meetings and discussions will be held on the Wednesday. Venues and times will be advised. If you are interested, please contact John Fitz Gerald at [john.fitzgerald@fog.org.au](mailto:john.fitzgerald@fog.org.au)

### **11. Art competition: "A Journey Along the Centenary Trail - Past, Present and Future"**

The Molonglo Catchment Group and the Artists Society of Canberra are celebrating the Canberra Centenary by engaging all of the Catchment Groups of the ACT in this exciting Art Exhibition and Competition. The competition is open to all ASOC Members, and to non-members who are affiliates of the Catchment Groups, namely the Molonglo, Ginninderra and Southern ACT Catchment Groups. Artists are invited to portray their interpretation of the environment and sustainability in all the local catchment areas, and how these have changed over time. The Exhibition will also feature Art works from the local senior schools and colleges in a separate sponsored competition.

Prizes up to a value exceeding \$4,000 will be available to the winning entrants, including the Molonglo Art Prize. For more information see: [http://www.asoc.net.au/10856/Along\\_The\\_Molonglo\\_2013/](http://www.asoc.net.au/10856/Along_The_Molonglo_2013/)

### **12. 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.

### **13. 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

### **14. Field Naturalist association of Canberra (FNAC)**

The FNC will be holding a meeting on Thursday 7th February at 7.30 pm with speaker Scott Ryan, Senior Wildlife Officer on Southern Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby Research at Tidbinbilla. It will be held at the Gould Seminar Room, Building 116, Daley Road, ANU, ACT.

Scott will discuss Tidbinbilla's breeding program using Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies as foster mothers for the Southern Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby joeys. This enables more joeys to be produced by their original mothers.

This research is "part of a national recovery breeding program being undertaken between several agencies including the ACT Government (Tidbinbilla), Victorian Government (Department of Sustainability and Environment), Parks Victoria, Adelaide Zoo and Waterfall Springs Sanctuary."

<http://www.tidbinbilla.com.au/learn/tidbinbilla/breeding/>

### **15. Invasive Animals CRC Update**

The Invasive Animals CRC (IA CRC) has recently embarked on a further five years of work under the Commonwealth Government's Cooperative Research Centres program. We are continuing our investigation into new methods of detection and management of the impacts of Australia's key vertebrate pest species such as rabbits, wild dogs and carp. The IA CRC also has a national NRM facilitation and engagement project that helps deliver this research and knowledge to on ground practitioners and land managers through all the NRM agencies. The NRM facilitation and engagement team can also offer technical advice regarding regional vertebrate pest strategies and facilitate coordinated group management across various land tenure.

You can Subscribe to the IAC newsletters:

'NRM Notes' by emailing [jessica.marsh@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jessica.marsh@dpi.nsw.gov.au) and

'FeralFlyer' at <http://www.invasiveanimals.com/media-centre/subscribe/>

### **16. 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.

### **17. 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

### **18. 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)

### **19. Waterwatch Update Spring 2012**

In General: Last spring is becoming a distant fuzzy memory, especially with the current weather rubbing summer in our collective faces. However I do remember it as being a hectic time with major events and actions occurring right across the region as well as in our catchment. We had pleasing outcomes from the local election with the expansion of one Waterwatch group and the formation of a new Waterwatch team on the Murrumbidgee River. We had our first regional Waterwatch training event with our new facilitator **Woo O'Reilly**. This was timed to coincide with National Water Week along with the Frogwatch census week and an event staged by our latest urban Landcare group. The Upper Murrumbidgee & ACT Waterwatch coordinators aim to re-animate the local focus on the October Water Week, which had a much higher profile in the ACT some 20 years ago.

Rainfall statistics, apart from slightly above average falls in October, were a pretty normal affair.

#### ***Summary of water testing results around our catchment***

**Water Temperature:** The water temperatures gradually increased everywhere over spring as you'd expect. The lower Gudgenby and sites in the Naas catchment however reached the highest readings for the season in late November with nearly 30°C recorded in little Gudgenby Ck in the Naas Valley

**pH:** High pH readings were recorded at a number of sites, mostly in the urban settings.

**Salinity:** Only one reading of concern occurred during spring. This was at Wanniasa Ck which flows onto the top of Lake Tuggeranong.

**Turbidity:** Ponds and dams had higher readings than usual and a strange mud event was recorded at the Outward Bound site on the Murrumbidgee River in October. The Paddy's River also suffered cloudy water at a few sites over spring.

**Dissolved Oxygen:** Low oxygen readings, indicating possible stagnant water, were recorded at the Tidbinbilla and Paddy's Rivers on 2 separate occasions this spring. All other sites were OK.

**Nutrients:** Some extreme nutrient readings were encountered in dams and on Paddy's River. The highest was in Kathner Street Dam on Coleman Ridge.

**Algae:** Algal scores were moderate in most places where recorded. Degraded scores were seen in the Tuggeranong Catchment and blue green algae was recorded at Kathner Street dam probably in response to extreme nutrient loads and high pH. The Murrumbidgee became perfect for diatom colonies who made good use of the silica in the water to build their 'homes'. This is not a sign of good river health however as it shows that there is not enough flow.