

SOUTHERN NEWS
31/10/2012



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1. Tuggeranong Lake and Catchment Carers Group (TLC)

Our new urban landcare group successfully held its first clean up of Lake Tuggeranong on the 21st Oct. An article of the event has been published in the latest edition of the Valley Voice <http://www.tuggcc.com/>. The group will be meeting at the SACTCG office tomorrow 31 October at 6:00pm to discuss future directions. If you would like to be involved in the group please contact Glenys on 6231 0603.

2. 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 and a Centenary BioBlitz Committee will be meeting Wednesday next week. If you would like to be involved please contact Anna See (Molonglo Catchment Coordinator) on 6299 2119.

3. ACT landcare book 'A Labour of Love'

'A labour of love' is due to be launched at the 2013 Canberra and Region Heritage Festival (13-28 April). Contributors who have not sent their approval forms please do so as soon as possible. Contact Wendy Rainbird on 6286 2057.

4. Draft ACT Nature Conservation Strategy

The Draft ACT Nature Conservation Strategy has been released for public comment. The consultation period will run for three months and close on Monday 10 December 2012. It is available for viewing and comment at:

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

The Strategy is "a document for all land management, planning, business and community sectors in the ACT to guide a coordinated and integrated approach to nature conservation. The Strategy will help guide future planning of the Territory's open spaces, rural areas, urban areas, riverine corridors, and nature reserves, and guide investment of funding and resources."

If you would like to discuss anything in the strategy with SACTCG please contact Martine or Martin on 62966400.

5. Weeds Information Day

Burra Landcare and the Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee will be holding a Weeds Information Day at London Bridge homestead (right at the end of London Bridge Road) 1pm – 3pm Saturday 10 November 2012. Palerang Weeds Officers and Googong Foreshores Rangers will answer all weedy questions including.

- What's That Weed?
- Will It Poison My Stock?
- Or My Neighbours' Stock?
- Am I Obligated to Control It?
- How Do I Manage It?

6. Catchment Group Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 30 October and we were pleased to see some new faces. All existing Senior Executives were returned to office unopposed. Our next general meeting is scheduled for 4 December 2012.

7. Farewell for Catchment Coordinator

After 5 years as the Southern ACT Catchment Coordinator Steve Welch has retired. SACTCG will be holding a farewell for Steve at the Tuggeranong Homestead on 16 November at 6:00pm. Please RSVP to this event to SACTCG office on 62966455.

8. Landholder Survey

In 2011 Greening Australia Capital Region partnered with ACTEW Water and the ACT Natural Resource Management Council to undertake a survey of landowners within the ACT and surrounding NSW. The results are now available and summaries of both the ACT only results and the overall results can be found at:

<http://www.greeningaustralia.org.au/community/news-item?newsItemId=441&state=5&newsListingUrl=community/capital-region&nationalId=7>

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. Tuggeranong Community Council

Minders of Tuggeranong Homestead have been invited to address the next meeting which will be held on Tuesday, 6th November 2012 at 7.30pm Tuggeranong Southern Cross Club. Contact Darryl Johnston 0431 235 970 president@tuggcc.com

12. 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.

13. 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