

SOUTHERN NEWS 4/6/2010



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Living with Lovegrass

‘Living with Lovegrass’ a forum designed around learning from each other on how to manage African Lovegrass was held at the Namadgi Visitor Centre on Saturday 22nd May.

Around sixty people attended the forum and it was interesting to hear the range of views expressed about lovegrass. Some graziers expressed the view that lovegrass is here, cattle can use it, so perhaps we are better off devoting resources to Serrated Tussock. Others thought that lovegrass is potentially our worst environmental and agricultural weed species. Whatever the view there is no denying African lovegrass is a highly persistent, summer growing, perennial grass weed that is invading rural properties, urban parklands and roadsides and nature reserves across our region.

When the write-up of the forum is completed I will let you know that it is on our website. Anna Van Dugteren, Esther Duffy, Geoff Hyles, myself and potentially David Shorthouse will meet to discuss how we can promote recommendations out of the forum.

[If you attended the forum and left your notes behind contact Steve on 6296 6400 or email \[info@sactcg.org.au\]\(mailto:info@sactcg.org.au\)](#)

2010-2011 ACT Environment Grants

The ACT Environment Grants provides financial assistance to community-based, 'not-for-profit' environmental projects in the ACT. Applications closed 30 May. Southern ACT Catchment Group has applied for funds to assist weed control throughout the ACT. This project will provide strategic assistance for the control of weed species as part of integrated pest management in the ACT. The project will enhance the weed control resources and training available to land managers and associated groups by the provision of a trailer mounted spray unit and appropriate training.

SACTCG is sponsoring 'Brindabella Banding' - a long term bird banding site revisited: Monitoring post-fire changes to the bird and small mammal fauna of the Brindabella Ranges; survival, composition and migration in a changing climate.

We have supplied a letter of support for the Conservation Council ACT Region Inc. for the project 'Expansion of the Bush-on-the Boundary (BoB) Groups Network' which is looking to establish new BoB groups centred around Jerrabomberra-Eastlake and the Tuggeranong Valley (Murrumbidgee Corridor), based upon the model of the successful operation of BoB Gungahlin.

We have supplied a letter of support for the working group of the Tidbinbilla VIP program run by Conservation Volunteers Australia to produce the book *Tidbinbilla A to Z*. The CVA publication will be a 32 page book with each letter of the alphabet indicating something at Tidbinbilla beginning with that letter, eg: 'A' = 'Ants'. The 'children's book will have a short written text illustrated by a high quality engaging photograph taken at Tidbinbilla by volunteers and staff involved with the Volunteer Interpreter Program.

The Future - K2C Landholders – Links - Landscapes Expo

Sunday, 10th Oct 2010 at Bredbo Village

Over 25 stalls to field your questions and offer options for you on your land.

Key Presenter, Sam Archer - Cattle and Crop Farmer, MLA Nuffield Scholar

- Calling on all landholders in a 100km radius to head to Bredbo Village for this exciting event.
- 10 K2C Partners + many more industry and community groups will be there to discuss all types of land matters with you.
- Discover a range of sustainable land uses that can yield profits while enriching landscape health.
- Come on a visit to the Bush Heritage "Scottsdale" Property, listen and talk to presenters on land use, birds, reptiles, weeds, wattles and much more.
- Celebrate 2010 — Year of Biodiversity

Contact Lauren Van Dyke—K2C Project Facilitator facilitator@k2c.org.au
www.k2c.org.au

World Environment Day Trivia Fundraising Night

The Conservation Council invites you to join their World Environment Day Trivia Fundraising Night, on Saturday 5 June at the Majura Hall in Dickson.

All proceeds from the evening will go towards the Molongo Biodiversity Fund to raise money to hire a dedicated Biodiversity Campaigner. The trivia night will include 10 rounds of questions, mostly environmental, a silent auction, raffle prizes as well as some games. Some light refreshments (coffee, tea and cakes) will be provided. Please feel free to bring BYO alcohol, food and drink.

To book your table or purchase tickets, please call Susanna on 6229 3208 or email: communications@consact.org.au

‘the bidgee from behind the lens’ –

a photographic competition about valuing natural heritage

The Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority (MCMA) has announced the opening of ‘The Bidgee from Behind the Lens’ photographic competition to celebrate the Murrumbidgee catchment’s natural assets. The Murrumbidgee catchment has one of the most diverse climates in NSW – from alpine areas of Kosciuszko National Park, through to the rich grazing belts of the South-West Slopes and grasslands of the semi-arid western Riverina. The MCMA would like to capture the diversity, beauty and sustainable management of the Murrumbidgee catchment and invites entries that may include, but are not limited to, images of wildlife, flora, landscapes, wetlands and rivers, sustainable farming practices and communities living in and caring for the catchment.

There are four categories – Primary Student; Secondary Student; Open Amateur; and Open Professional. Photographs can be historic or recent, black and white or colour – but they must be from the Murrumbidgee catchment. Only digital entries will be accepted.

Cash prizes of \$250 will be offered for first place and \$100 for runner up in each category.

Entries close 5 pm, Friday 18 June 2010.

For more information visit www.murrumbidgee.cma.nsw.gov.au or contact Sue Buik, Murrumbidgee CMA on (02) 6940 2942.

NRM Council News

Jo Harding has advised she will soon be leaving the ACT NRM Council and DECCEW to take up a position with DEWHA (Commonwealth) where she has been offered an Assistant Director position within the Biological Resources Study Section of Parks Australia, specifically managing the Bush Blitz program. We wish Jo well in her new career move.

Position Vacant

ActewAGL Water Division is currently seeking a Source Water Protection Officer to join the Source Water Protection Program team. The focus of the role will be on providing assistance to Local Government, Emergency Services, community groups and all other catchment stakeholders, in implementing and monitoring programs that protect the ACT’s drinking water catchments.

Selection documentation is available by via email to advertised.vacancies@actewagl.com.au quoting Ref No. ER 62/2010 or visit the website: www.actewagl.com.au/careers Contact Belinda Green 6270 7978.

NSW/ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards 2010

Applications are invited for the NSW/ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards 2010. (Nominations close August 13)

Award categories include:

- The Land and Property Management Authority **Crown Reserve Trust Award**
- The Land and Property Management Auth. **Community of the Year Award**
- The Industry and Investment NSW **Business Enterprise Award**
- The Industry and Investment NSW **Events & Tourism Award**
- The Salvation Army Employment Plus **Employment & Training Award**
- The Peabody **Environment & Landcare Award**

Contact Kiri Lewis

Awards Coordinator- Awards Australia

NSW/ACT Regional Achievement & Community Awards

1300 735 445 www.awardsaustralia.com

Your vote needed

The Landcare Awards People's Choice voting website is now live and ready for you, your family, friends, community and networks to vote.

So vote for the wonderful ACT finalists, leave a message of support or be inspired by the other finalists that are all winners from their own states. You can access the website from www.landcareonline.com.au and click on the "People's Choice Awards

Volunteers for planting

Minders of Tuggeranong Homestead (MoTH) have been given some trees and understory plants (Cassinia and bursaria) left from the Scrivener Hill plantings. They are planning to put these in the damp ground this Saturday along the creekbank which MoTH have been rehabilitating at Tuggeranong Homestead. MoTH would welcome some support from other landcarers. They are meeting from 10 till 12, parking at the carpark out the front of the Homestead. Bring your own mattocks and spades if possible and gloves, water, snack etc. Contact Jenny Horsfield 6231 4535

National Environment Award Winners 2010: Provincial Plants and Landscapes

The Nursery and Garden Industry Awards recognise and praise outstanding businesses and individuals within the industry, who have shown excellent business practice in the past 12 months. The 'NGI Environment Award' is a highly competitive award that is open to all industry businesses Australia wide. It acknowledges business initiative in environmental management and community participation in relation to environmental issues.

Congratulations to Provincial Plants and Landscapes who were awarded the 'NGI National Environment Award' at the 2010 Nursery and Garden Industry

Conference and Awards held in Darwin 23rd April, for its outstanding environmental business practices and initiatives. Provincial Plants and Landscapes practice environmental strategies both internally and within the community. Practices in place include environmental audits to reduce their carbon footprint, certification as Carbon Neutral, use of renewable energy powers, making buildings energy efficient, rainwater harvesting, efficient watering practices, transport consciousness and efficiency, recycling and composting systems, growing and planting appropriate plant types, creation of ecologically sensitive landscapes, use of eco friendly products and methods and being pesticide and herbicide free. www.plantsandlandscapes.com.au