

News of our world

Date: April 2010

NRM news, events, funding and training opportunities, forums and conferences of interest to people living in the ACT and nearby regions, prepared by the ACT Natural Resources Management Facilitator.

ACT NRM Council

This newsletter will also appear on www.actlandcare.org.au

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NEWS FROM THE ACT NRM COUNCIL

COMMUNIQUE No. 1/2010

The first meeting of the ACT NRM Council for 2010 was held on 16 February.

Council commenced with a planning session which involved revisiting the Governance Assessment Framework used by Council in February 2009 to identify areas of strength and areas requiring further attention. Council identified areas which would benefit from further review, whilst also highlighting improvement in areas that had previously indicated need for further attention.

Council identified the need and desire to continue with a number of focus areas from priorities set in February 2009. A new area of focus was identified by Council and will involve the review and refinement of the Regional Investment Strategy for the 2011-2013 with the view to encouraging new and innovative NRM activities and methods of program delivery.

Council is finalising a revision of its Terms of Reference after receiving input from the Department of Environment, Climate Change Energy and Water.

During March 2010 Council members will visit on-ground works along the Molonglo and Queanbeyan Rivers. Council will also co-host and facilitate a Knowledge Forum for ACT researchers and government users of research to further address the priority of better NRM Knowledge management in the ACT. The Forum will be conducted in partnership with ANU's Institute for Climate Change.

Council received a briefing from Mr Rob Thorman from the ACT Planning and Land Authority on the proposed urban development in the Molonglo Valley, beginning with the planning of the suburbs of Coombs and Wright and the associated environment challenges.

An update on Council's sponsored "Building Environment and Sustainability ACT Community Networks" project was provided. The next stage in this project will be a facilitated workshop for members of the NRM community to discuss areas of mutual involvement and ways of working together to bring about better NRM outcomes for the ACT.

Ongoing engagement is continuing with the sectors of the Indigenous community including Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation, Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and the United Ngunnawal Elders Council. Council has also supported in partnership with Department of Environment, Climate Change and Energy, and the Department of Education, the development of a Aboriginal Natural Resource Management Curriculum for inclusion in the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative program in the ACT.

Council has commenced development of potential applications for the upcoming Caring for our Country 2010 contestable funding round.

Council Chair and the NRM Programs support team will participate in the National NRM Chairs meeting and National Knowledge Forum in Darwin in April 2010.

Council will join with other ACT agencies in an expo to promote World Environment Day on 4 June 2010, to be held in during the day in Garema Place, CIVIC.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 6 April 2010.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES/GRANTS

2010-2011 ACT ENVIRONMENT GRANTS – CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The ACT Environment Grants provides financial assistance to community-based, 'not-for-profit' environmental projects in the ACT.

Applications are invited from individuals, community organisations and groups.

Information and application forms can be obtained by phoning 6205 2989 or by visiting the Department of Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water website at www.environment.gov.au

Applications close 5 pm on 30 May 2010.

To assist in developing applications, an information session will be held by Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water at the Reception Room in the ACT Legislative Assembly, Civic from 5.30pm to 7pm on Tuesday, 11 May.

To reserve a place, please email esther.duffy@act.gov.au or phone 6205 2913 by the close of business on Monday, 10 May.

FARMREADY GRANTS

The Australian Government has allocated \$26.5 million over four years to boost training opportunities for primary producers, and to enable industry, farming groups and natural resource management groups develop strategies to adapt and respond to the impacts of climate change.

Managed by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, further information, application and claim forms can be accessed at www.farmready.gov.au

EVENTS AND COURSES

PIALLIGO APPLES FIELD DAY – 8 MAY 2010

Saturday, 8 May 2010

9.30am-12.30pm followed by a light lunch

10 Beltana Rd, Pialligo, ACT

Hosted by Jonathan Banks, Pialligo Apples in association with the ACT Rural Landholder's Association, the ACT Natural Resource Management Council and the Molonglo Catchment Group.

Speakers:

Jonathan Banks

Jonathan has been producing organic apples from his Pialligo Apples orchard since 1994, without the use of conventional pesticides, herbicides or synthetic fertilisers. Jonathan the transition to an organic system and the trials and tribulations of organic farming.

David Dumaresq

Convenor of Graduate Coursework for the Fenner School for the Environment and

Society, ANU David has been researching the sustainability of alternative farming systems, in particular organic farming. He will speak about organic farming, the value of sustainable agricultural practices and the move to local food.

David Pearson

David Pearson is responsible for the Advertising and Marketing Communications discipline and the Sustainable Food Futures Research Cluster at the University of Canberra and is an Adjunct Fellow at the ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society. David's research interests are in societal marketing and sustainable consumption with a particular focus on Food Futures. David will speak on the opportunities and challenges of local organic food production and the role of communications in this.

There is limited space so please RSVP by Wednesday 5th May, to Anna van Dugteren, ACT NRM Council, ph: 6205 2914 or email: anna.vandugteren@act.gov.au.

There is no cost for the day and morning tea and lunch are provided.

TREES AND URBAN ACT, WHAT IS THE FOREST AND WHAT ARE ITS PROBLEMS? – 29 APRIL 29 April 2010 1-2pm

Forestry Lecture Theatre, Forestry Building 48, Linnaeus Way, ANU

Dr Maxine Cooper, the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment will briefly outline some of the key issues that have been raised regarding our urban forest.

The Commissioner is undertaking an Investigation into the Government's tree management practices and the renewal of Canberra's urban forest with a report due by the end of June 2010. The investigation has broad terms of reference ranging across existing tree management programs; the relationship with climate change; communication and consultation with the community; environmental values and solar access and parks; the reuse of timber; replanting; contractor behaviour; decision-making about trees; changes to legislation and regulation; and resourcing the above.

The Commissioner will briefly outline some of the key issues that have been raised. A discussion on the reuse of timber, solar access and management of remnant trees will be encouraged. Please

http://fennerschool.anu.edu.au/news_events/seminars/2010/cooperm_apr2010.php

CARP FISHING WITH GREENING AUSTRALIA – 1 MAY 2010

Just for something different...you are invited to participate in a Carp Fishing Competition in Boorowa as part of the Boorowa River Recovery project at Dr Kelf Park, Boorowa on Saturday 1st May. A bus will be leaving Aranda at 8.30am sharp and will be returning by 2.30pm. Lunch and morning tea will be provided. For further information call Lori Gould on 0439 030 058.

CENTENARY OF CANBERRA TREE PLANTING – 2 MAY 2010

Greening Australia will host this event on 2 May, 2010, 9am to 12pm at Pierces Creek.

A bus will pick up volunteers at the City West bus terminal on Marcus Clarke St (between University Ave and Allsop St) at 8:30am and then pick up volunteers at Deeks Forest Park on Uriarra Rd at 8:45am. RSVP essential for bus seats.

If driving from north and central Canberra, head west on Cotter Rd, cross the Murrumbidgee and Cotter Rivers, drive 2.7km past the Cotter Reserve (picnic area) towards Tidbinbilla, then turn right onto Vanity's Crossing Rd. Follow the GA directional signs to the site.

If driving from Tuggeranong, head for Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve and keep driving on Tidbinbilla Rd/Paddy's River Rd for 15km towards the Cotter until you get to Vanity's Crossing Rd on your left. Look for GA directional signs.

Please RSVP to admin@act.greeningaustralia.org.au or 6253 3145

SYMPOSIUM – 'NATIONAL PARKS - CAN THEY TAKE THE HEAT' 7-8 MAY

The National Parks Association of the ACT Inc. (NPA ACT) is hosting a symposium in Canberra on 7 - 8 May 2010. This symposium to celebrate The NPA ACT's golden anniversary will focus on the future of national parks in a changing world, and problems posed by changing climate and urbanisation. <http://www.npaact.org.au>

LOWER MOLONGLO CORRIDOR – WALK AND TALK 16 MAY

It's not often that we get an opportunity to learn about a little known part of the Molonglo Valley – the Lower Molonglo River Corridor, the section of the Molonglo River just above where it joins the Murrumbidgee. It is precious because it contains rare flora and fauna, and significant geological features; it is also rare for raptors to nest in an area so close to a large city. And yet an entirely new urban development is planned upstream.

Join a Parks Conservation and Lands Ranger for a walk along part of the lower Molonglo River Corridor. Learn about current river management issues along this section of the Molonglo, including weeds, native vegetation, threatened species and water quality. The walk will require a moderate level of fitness. Morning tea provided.

When:	Sunday 16 May, 8.30am - 10.30am (to be confirmed)
Where:	Meet at Stockdill Drive, Holt, opposite entry to water treatment plant.
What to bring/wear:	sturdy shoes or walking boots, wear a hat, bring sunscreen, and water. The path is quite steep in places and suitable for the more sure-footed.
Booking essential:	Molonglo Catchment Coordinator, Andy Westcott coordinator at molonglocatchment.com.au or 6299 2119

PLATYPUS IN THE QUEANBEYAN RIVER – 21-23 MAY

Queanbeyan City Council's Environmental Services Division has been having discussions with ACT Waterwatch and the Australian Platypus Conservancy about conserving local platypus and water-rat populations. A Platypus Count program has commenced with public information sessions and a substantial number of volunteers have enrolled from the ACT and surrounding area, including Queanbeyan. Interesting results are now starting to emerge, outlining some of the trends for the Queanbeyan River. The work has also established that the Queanbeyan River has a fairly sizeable platypus population - compared to, for example, the Yarra River and some other waterways included in the program.

For full information on the program, visit

[http://www.molonglocatchment.com.au/news & events.htm#Platypus in the ACT Region](http://www.molonglocatchment.com.au/news_and_events.htm#Platypus_in_the_ACT_Region)

LIVING WITH LOVEGRASS WORKSHOP – 22 MAY 2010

Southern ACT Catchment Group will host 'Living with Lovegrass - Learning from each other on how to manage African Lovegrass.' The workshop will be held on Saturday 22nd May at Namadgi Visitor Centre, Tharwa, commencing at 9am and finishing with a barbeque lunch. For more information or to book a place contact Steve Welch on 6296 6400 or email info@sactcg.org.au

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY TRIVIA NIGHT – 5 JUNE 2010

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.

Places are limited, so BOOK EARLY and get a discount off the ticket price. Tickets purchased before 23 May will be \$20. Tickets after this date will be \$25.

How Member Groups can be involved:

- Book a table of 8 for your members?
- Sponsor a round of questions for \$50 and receive:

Free advertising for your group on the answer sheets and during our slideshow presentation.

This Trivia Night is open to Member Groups, EcoActivists and their friends and family. It will be open to the general public, depending on the number of remaining places available after Mother's Day, 9th May.

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