

News of our world

Date: August 2009

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

ACT NRM COMMUNIQUÉ No 4/2009

The ACT NRM Council's 20th meeting was held on Tuesday 28 July 2009.

Council is undertaking the assessment of ACT Environment Grant applications and providing advice to Minister Corbell. Applications for 2009/10 closed on 30 June 2009 and the assessment process is underway. Announcement of successful funding is expected by the end of August or early September 2009.

Although unsuccessful in the 2009-10 round of Caring for our Country Contestable bids, Council commended all those who had been involved in developing the Greater Gorooyarroo Box-Gum Woodland Landscape Recovery and Getting Back to Country project proposals. Elements of the Indigenous partnership project are being introduced to other potential partners in the ACT. Council will have the opportunity to provide formal feedback to the Federal Government on the contestable bidding process at a workshop with stakeholders on 3rd August 2009.

Council noted the progress of the ACT Landcare Awards which will be held on 10 September 2009. Nominations for the awards closed on 30 July 2009 and assessments have been completed.

There were presentations from Ms Belinda Green, Source Water Coordinator from ActewAGL Source Water Protection Program and Mr Dylan Kendall, Senior Fire Management Officer from Parks, Conservation and Lands.

Ms Green provided Council with an overview of the five year ACT Regional Source Water Protection Program including stakeholder engagement and actions that will be undertaken such as catchment condition assessments and development of incentive programs to support best land management practices.

Mr Kendall presented information about the Sub Regional Fire Management Plans developed to provide more detailed activities and direction in conjunction with the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan and the annual activity based land manager's Bushfire Plans.

Meetings are continuing with key stakeholders who had been unable to attend the inaugural Researcher's Roundtable held on 10 July 2009. Council intends progressing this work by developing a vision and outcomes statement about NRM Knowledge Management in the ACT.

One of the Council's priorities for 2009 is to work with the ACT's NRM community to look at optimal structures and relationships. Work is continuing on developing the scope of this exercise.

Council was informed about the 2009-10 work program for the National NRM Regions Working Group. The Group facilitates communication between the 56 NRM Regional Bodies as well as undertaking specific projects established at the 2009 NRM Chairs' forum. The ACT is represented by Dr Sarah Ryan as Deputy Chair.

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 6 October 2009.

ACT ENVIRONMENT GRANTS UPDATE

We are hoping to announce the results for the ACT Environment Grants in the next few weeks. The announcement date will be circulated as soon as this information becomes available.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE VOTING OPEN FOR THE ACT LANDCARE AWARDS

Voting is now open for the People's Choice Award for the ACT Landcare Awards. For the first time, the public get to choose each state's first winner of the People's Choice Award category. Decided by your votes, the inaugural ACT People's Choice winner will be announced alongside the judged winners at the awards ceremony on the 10th September.

It's easy to vote. Visit <http://act.landcareheroes.com/>, have a look at the nominees, then choose the "vote now" option to cast your votes.

NEWS

BUSHLAND SITE AT GOOROYARROO TO BECOME NATURE RESERVE

The Australian Government has gifted more than 24 hectares of land at Goorooyarroo to the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service, paving the way for it to become a nature reserve.

Download the media release at

<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/garrett/2009/mr20090813a.html>

TIME THE BIGGEST BARRIER TO WEED CONTROL ON URBAN FRINGE

ACT NRM Council employee Jo Harding was interviewed by ABC Rural Radio in Tasmania after attending a weeds conference. Jo was interviewed about research done on barriers to weed control on the urban fringe, and found that time, not knowledge, is the biggest barrier.

You can listen to the interview at

www.abc.net.au/rural/regions/content/2007/s2653301.htm

238 TONNES OF GREENHOUSE GASES SAVED UNDER ACT FEED-IN TARIFF

The ACT's nation leading Feed-In Tariff Scheme has had a strong start and has saved 238 tonnes of greenhouse gases since it started in March this year, Minister for Energy, Simon Corbell, said on the 11th August.

"Quarterly figures as at June 30, 2009 show since March this year, we have seen a very encouraging level of take-up in the community, with 163 new installations, an increase of 28.7%, and a total of 731 installations are currently feeding back into the grid," Mr Corbell said.

The full media release can be read at

<http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=8309&m=53>

BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE REPORT RELEASED

Environment Minister Peter Garrett and Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, released the report "*Australia's Biodiversity and Climate Change: a strategic assessment of the vulnerability of Australia's biodiversity to climate change.*"

The full media release can be viewed at

<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/garrett/2009/mr20090817.html>

To download the report, visit

<http://www.climatechange.gov.au/impacts/pubs/biodiversity-vulnerability-assessment.pdf>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES/GRANTS

VOLUNTEER GRANTS PROGRAM

Provider: Dept of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Region: National

Amounts: Min: \$1,000 Max: \$5,000

Total Pool: \$21,000,000

Closing Date: September 25, 2009

Purpose: To support volunteering, and to build social inclusion and community participation in Australian communities.

For information visit

http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/volunteers/funding/Pages/volunteer_grant09.aspx

SMALL GRANTS FOR SMALL RURAL COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

The Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal's Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program is now open and will benefit people in rural and remote communities.

Closing date is 30 September 2009. For details see

<http://www.frrr.org.au/programsDetail.asp?ProgramID=4>

2009 HABITAT ACTION GRANTS

Grants of up to \$30,000 are available to improve fish habitat in NSW and enhance recreational fishing.

The application forms are available on the DPI website at:

[http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/info/habitat-action-grants-funding-up-to-\\$30,000](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/info/habitat-action-grants-funding-up-to-$30,000)

Please note: preference is given to projects that are from, involve or are supported by recreational fishers.

Applications close on 16 October 2009.

JUNIOR LANDCARE GRANTS

Through the Junior Landcare Grants Program, any school or organisation that would like to involve their students in landcare projects, in conjunction with local landcare groups, can apply for grants to assist them with the cost of their projects.

Closing Dates:

Coles and Yates grants are awarded quarterly. Closing dates for 2009 are:

Round 4: Friday, 23rd October

For more information visit <http://www.juniorlandcare.com/Grants.htm>

THE MYER FOUNDATION – G4 FUND

Category: Environment Conservation & Heritage

Funding: Up to \$5000

Closes: 27 October

Priorities: The priority areas for the G4 Small Grants Program include but are not limited to:

- Capacity Building for youth organisations;
- Environmental education targeting and involving young people aged 12-25 years;
- Youth driven events;
- Activities and initiatives addressing the health of young people.

More information:

http://www.myerfoundation.org.au/download/download_centre.asp?ID=2

REBATES FOR RAINWATER AND GREYWATER SYSTEMS – COMMONWEALTH AND ACT

The Department of Environment, Heritage and the Arts is offering rebates for rainwater and greywater systems. Rebates of up to \$500 are available to households for either:

- The purchase and installation of a new rainwater tank which is connected for internal reuse of the water for toilet and/or laundry use; or
- The purchase and installation of a permanent greywater treatment system.

Full details can be found at

<http://www.environment.gov.au/water/programs/nrgi/index.html#households>

The ACT Government offers rebates of up to \$1000 for rainwater tanks through the Think Water Act Water program. For information visit

http://www.thinkwater.act.gov.au/tune-ups_rebates/rainwater_tank_rebate.shtml

EVENTS, COURSES AND VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

LANDCARE WEEK

Landcare week is from the 7th -13th September. See what's on at the Landcare Australia calendar <http://www.landcareweek.com/index.php?url=/default/activity>. If you or your group has an event for Landcare Week you can add it yourself to the calendar.

If you would like your event added to the ACT Landcare website, email details to Esther Duffy at esther.duffy@act.gov.au.

NATURAL SEQUENCE FARMING FIELD DAY

Natural Sequence Farming (NSF) is a rural landscape management technique developed by Peter Andrews aimed at restoring natural water cycles that allow the land to flourish despite drought conditions.

Meet Peter Andrews on farm at Yass.

29 August 2009

For details see <http://www.nsfarming.com/fielddays.htm>

LEAP INTO FROGWATCH THIS SPRING

Frogwatch is an exciting community activity that is open to everyone with an interest in frogs. Frogwatch aims to involve large numbers of volunteers to undertake frog monitoring in the ACT and region.

There are a number of events for Frogwatch this spring. Check out the variety of events and register at the Ginninderra Catchment Group website <http://www.ginninderralandcare.org.au/feature.php?id=8>

ENVIROLEARN – SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT FOR SMALL LANDHOLDERS

The Sustainable land management for small area landholders course will be run at Queanbeyan TAFE starting on September 4. This is a free, 12 week, entry level course aiming to look at integrating sustainability issues into small scale farm management for landholders or other interested parties. No former experience or study is required. The course runs for 12 weeks, from 9:30-3pm, every Friday (excluding school holidays) from 4 September to 4 December.

A flyer can be downloaded from:

<http://www.umlc.org.au/files/Elearn%20A4%20flyer%20sust%20small%20farm%20Omgmt.pdf>

AUSTRALIAN CONTROLLED TRAFFIC FARMING ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Hi-Tech, Low Emissions Cropping.
Canberra Rydges Lakeside
7 and 8 September 2009

For information visit <http://www.actfa.net/conferences/ctf2007/index.html>

SWITCH TO GREEN CONFERENCE

The United Nations of Australia (ACT) is pleased to announce the second annual Switch to Green Expo and Conference.

Following the success of last year's event, Switch to Green 2009 will take place on 10 – 12 September addressing Canberra's progress in its bid to become a **Carbon Neutral Capital**.

For information visit <http://www.switchtogreen.unaa.org.au/>

INVASIVE SPECIES AND BIOSECURITY SYMPOSIUM

2009 Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society National Symposium

Date: 10 - 11 September 2009

Venue: University House, Australian National University, Canberra

A two day program has been put together comprising presentations from senior policy makers from the relevant Commonwealth, State and New Zealand government agencies as well as leading research economists and bio-physical scientists.

For further information, refer to the Symposium brochure at http://www.aares.info/files/2009_symposium_brochure.pdf

INNER NORTH COMMUNITY FAIR

Ginninderra Catchment Group and Inner North SEE-Change invite you to celebrate the planned Banksia Street Wetland at the Inner North Community Fair.

Where: Banksia St, O'Connor (next to Tennis Club)

When: Sunday 20 September 11am - 3pm

To download the flyer visit <http://www.actlandcare.org.au/node/223>

If your organisation would like to have a stall at the fair, you can register in two ways:

1. Register online at

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=1FdEA1JhrWrkmEUif74bDO_3d_3d

2. Contact the organisers to receive a registration form. Email barbchev@gmail.com

For more information about the fair, contact: Edwina Richardson 6207 5520 or Bonnie Reynolds 6278 3309.

YOUR LAND, YOUR SOIL, YOUR FUTURE WORKSHOP

DATE: Wednesday 21 October

TIME: 9.00am to 5.00pm

VENUE: Yass

COST: \$25pp (Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea included)

Presenters include Dr Maarton Strapper (Farming Systems Agronomist), Dr Christine Jones (Founder, Amazing Carbon), and Raohelle Maddock (Nutrisoils) on topics which cover:

- The soil food web and the importance of organic carbon.
- Techniques from soil scientists, microbiologists and agronomists for improving soil health and soil carbon.
- Practical ways to improve soil health from progressive farmers.

For further information or a copy of the day's program, contact Melinda Johnson (T: 02 6118 6013 / E: melinda.johnson@cma.nsw.gov.au)

RESOURCES/INFORMATION

WATER MATTERS NEWSLETTER

The fifth issue of Water Matters includes articles on the outcome of the most recent round of water purchase tenders, bioremediation and revegetation around the Lower Lakes and the new [Water Recovery and Environmental Use Stakeholder Reference](#) panel.

You can download the newsletter at

<http://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/watermatters/water-matters-jul-2009.html>

BUREAU OF RURAL SCIENCES SOIL CARBON REVIEW AND FACTSHEET

The review "*Soil carbon for carbon sequestration and trading: a review of issues for agriculture and forestry*" can be downloaded from

http://adl.brs.gov.au/brsShop/html/brs_prod_90000004145.html .

This report aims to inform decision makers about soil carbon, its role in carbon cycling and the potential for increased sequestration of carbon in soil. This document identifies and examines the issues surrounding the inclusion of soil carbon in carbon trading schemes for agriculture and forestry.

A factsheet has been developed from the review. It can be downloaded from

http://adl.brs.gov.au/brsShop/data/sfdm_soil_carbon_mar09_cs3.pdf

NATIVE PLANTS FOR YOUR BACKYARD E-BOOKLET

Greening Australia has teamed up with First National Real Estate to produce an online resource for Australian gardeners called the Australian Native Plants for your Backyard booklet. The booklet has information from garden design and plant selection, to mulching, watering and weeding. You can access the booklet from:

http://issuu.com/fnenterprise/docs/nativeplants_web_?mode=embed&layout=http://skin.issuu.com/v/dark/layout.xml

CONSULTATIONS AND FEEDBACK OPPORTUNITIES

PUBLIC COMMENT WELCOMED ON MURRUMBIDGEE TO GOOGONG WATER TRANSFER

ACTEW Corporation has lodged a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer. The community is invited to attend drop-in sessions to view the document and ask questions.

To view details see <http://www.actew.com.au/news/ArticleDetail.aspx?id=1056>

REVIEW OF THE WEEDS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE PROGRAM

The Australian Weeds Committee (AWC) is currently undertaking a review of the Weeds of National Significance program (WoNS). The AWC has commissioned the Bureau of Rural Sciences to assess stakeholder views on the WoNS program and the progress against the strategic plans for each of the identified WoNS species.

If you are keen to have your views considered, please contact Bo Raphael by Wednesday 30th September on bo.raaphael@brs.gov.au or 02 6272 4556.

AUSTRALIAN FRAMEWORK FOR LANDCARE - YOUR FEEDBACK WELCOME

Community landcarers and stakeholders are invited to participate in the development of an Australian Framework for Landcare which will guide its direction over the next 20 years. Supported by the Australian government, it is intended that the consultation process for the framework is inclusive of all related community groups involved in sustainable resource management. A paper that starts the process, titled: "*Community Landcare Speaks: Realising our Future - The Beginnings of an Australian Landcare Framework for Landcare*," can be accessed on the National Landcare Facilitator website.

To view the *Community Landcare Speaks* paper and for further information on how to respond by email or post, visit www.landcarefacilitator.com.au All comments are welcome and should be provided by Fri 13 November 2009.

There will be opportunities for community input at state and territory conferences and forums over the next few months and dates and locations will be available on the website. A forum is being organised for the ACT and details will be circulated once dates are confirmed.

If you are interested in open discussion and comment on your ideas, a Landcare Speaks Blog has been set up. Visit <http://landcarespeaks.wordpress.com/about>

ACT PLASTIC BAG CONSULTATION

Plastic bags are widely used in all communities but can pose a threat to the environment. The ACT Government wants to know whether Canberrans are concerned by their use and if so what should be done about it. Do you want to ban them? Introduce a levy? Or encourage the use of other types of bags? Please have your say on this issue and help get the best policy in place.

The ACT Government is holding consultation sessions in shopping centres around the Territory for you to put forward your view. The dates and locations can be viewed at: http://www.environment.act.gov.au/environment/waste/plastic_bag_consultation

2009 ACT TRAVEL SURVEY

The Department of Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) is conducting a survey to understand the travel patterns of the Canberra community and is seeking your participation in the survey.

The survey will be used to obtain information on the travel patterns of Canberra households. This will help TAMS to shape future transport policy and planning to better address the community's travel needs. The outcomes will also assist the development of the Sustainable Transport Action Plan (2010-2016) (www.sustainabletransport.act.gov.au).

How can I have my say?

You can complete the survey by visiting www.rego.act.gov.au. The survey will take approximately thirty minutes to complete for a household of four persons.

When do I need to do this by?

The 2009 ACT Travel Survey is available to complete now until 31 October 2009. Make sure you don't miss out on helping to shape the future of transport in the ACT.

JOBS

PROJECT OFFICER, MOLONGLO CATCHMENT GROUP

The Molonglo Catchment Group Inc. requires a Project Officer to work with volunteers, community groups, government agencies and a wide range of other stakeholder organisations to continue the promotion and implementation of the [Molonglo River Rescue](#) project.

Applications due Friday 4th September. For details, visit <http://www.molonglocatchment.com.au/jobs.htm>

ENVIRONMENT OFFICER - ANUGREEN

The environmental management program of the Australian National University, ANUgreen, is seeking to fill a 12 month fixed term full time position for an Environment Officer specialising in student outreach and education. The position will coordinate activities to engage the campus community in sustainability initiatives including a variety of events and work experience programs for students. Experience with campus sustainability initiatives required. This position will ideally commence on or before 1 October 2009.

Full details including selection criteria and application instructions can be found at <http://jobs.anu.edu.au/PositionDetail.aspx?p=796>.

AWARDS, COMPETITIONS

JUNIOR LANDCARE PUMPKIN CHALLENGE



Did you know that the average Australian basket of groceries has travelled over 70,000km in 'food miles' from the paddock to your plate?

Junior Landcare and Yates are challenging Aussie kids to get growing over summer and see who can grow the biggest pumpkin. Yates will be sending free pumpkin seeds to people who register for the challenge. Not only is this a fun outdoors activity for kids, families, schools and groups, but it is a great way to learn about sustainability, the environment and "food miles". Go to www.juniorlandcarechallenge.com.

QUICK QUOTES

National Water Consumption:

1996/97 – 20,357 gigalitres

2004/05 - 16,606 gl (*Netbalance.*)

Throwaway Line Consumers in the UK throw away 15 million plastic bottles a day and in the US they throw away 2 million every 5 minutes (*Lush Fresh Handmade Cosmetics.*)

Australia Shoppers used nearly 3.92 billion plastic bags in 2005, most of which are now in landfill and will be for the next 1,000 years according to engineering and design experts, Hyder Consulting (*Voyeur*).

Paper Recycling Australia's recovery rate of 76% is at world's best practice (*Norske Skog*).

An uncontrolled domestic cat will kill on average 16 mammals, 8 birds and 8 reptiles per year (*Tamar NRM*).