

# News of our world

Date: January 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](http://www.actlandcare.org.au)**

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## **NEWS FROM THE ACT NRM COUNCIL**

### **COMMUNIQUÉ No. 6/2009**

Council hosted the launch of the ACT Natural Resource Management Plan - *Bush Capital Legacy: iconic city, iconic natural assets* by Simon Corbell MLA, Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water on 21 October 2009 at Greening Australia's Community Nursery in Aranda. The event was also an opportunity for the recent success of Greening Australia's ACT Land Keepers Program at the 2009 Banksia Awards to be formally acknowledged.

The ACT NRM Council met for its final meeting of 2009 on Tuesday, 1 December 2009.

Council continued discussions around identifying new and alternative mechanisms for increasing investment in natural resource management in the Territory. Council has requested further development of options for establishing an independent environment trust for the ACT and developing packages of projects suitable for marketing to companies and organisations be prepared for consideration at their next meeting.

Council reviewed progress against the priorities areas identified in February 2009. Some of Councils' major achievements include:

- Hosting of the Inaugural Knowledge Roundtable in July and development of a knowledge forum to be held in early 2010;
- Programs and workshops being undertaken with the Indigenous community, including the development of NRM Indigenous curriculum for ACT schools in partnership with the ACT Department the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water and the Department of Education and Training;
- Ongoing dialogue with key Government and community partners;
- Implementation of a project reporting data base; and
- Research and development of alternative mechanisms to attract funding to natural resource management in the ACT.

Council will develop a new set of priorities for 2010 at its first meeting in 2010.

Council considered a revised draft of the Terms of Reference and further refined the content to include suggestions from Australian Government representatives. Once finalised and agreed to by all members the Terms of Reference will be submitted to Minister Corbell for consideration and endorsement.

In partnership with the United Ngunnawal Elders Council, the Council, the Department of Environment Climate Change Energy and Water and the ACT Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs will be hosting an Indigenous Cultural Heritage and Natural Resource Management Site Awareness workshop from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> December. The workshop will cover traditional culture and life, Indigenous cultural landscapes and Indigenous Natural Resource Management. Interpretative field trips to sites of Aboriginal significance will be included.

Council will meet again on Tuesday, 16 February 2009.

## **NEWS**

### **COMMUNITY ACTION GRANT SUCCESS IN THE ACT**

Congratulations to the Molonglo Catchment Group, Southern ACT Catchment Group and Ginninderra Catchment Group who each secured a grant from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country Community Action Grants program.

The Molonglo Catchment Group will support the ACT Rural Landholders Association with the project *Sustainable Farming in the Majura Valley*. The project aims to develop and provide advice on sustainable farming practices to landholders in the 8,000ha Majura Valley.

The Southern ACT Catchment Group's project *Restoring the remnant Yellow Box/Red Gum woodland at Tuggeranong Homestead* will conserve and enhance this small area of the nationally endangered, ecological community.

The Ginninderra Catchment Group will develop a "Welcome to your Catchment" information brochure which will aim to raise awareness and increase community involvement in landcare in the Ginninderra Catchment.

More information about successful Community Action Grants can be found at <http://www.nrm.gov.au/cag/>

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES/GRANTS**

### **CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY BUSINESS PLAN**

The Australian Government's Caring for our Country Business Plan for 2010/11 has been released. Caring for our Country funding is available to legal entities for work that will contribute to achieving one or more of the Caring for our Country targets.

All information is available at <http://www.nrm.gov.au/business-plan/10-11/>

Mike Schultz, the ACT and Murrumbidgee NRM Facilitator with the Australian Government, is available to meet with organisations about the Business Plan. If you would like to arrange a meeting with Mike, please contact him directly on:  
Phone: 02 6272 3305  
Email: [Michael.schultz@nrm.gov.au](mailto:Michael.schultz@nrm.gov.au).

### **ACT HEALTH PROMOTION GRANTS**

*Applications close 5.00pm Monday 25 January 2010*

Funding for organisations to achieve positive health outcomes. There are no restrictions on the amount for which one organisation can apply for funding.

The 2010/11 Community Funding Round is open to community-based groups, not-for-profit organisations and government agencies. The aim of the 2010/11 funding round is to support activities that promote good health and chronic disease prevention. Funding will be provided to organisations to develop partnerships that strengthen the capacity of individuals and communities to make healthy choices. The funding round also aims to

build the capability of organisations to adopt health promotion principles and practices and deliver a range of health promotion strategies.

The Community Funding Round calls for projects that place an emphasis on ACT Health's key priorities. These include: physical activity, ***environmental sustainability and health***, healthy nutrition, smoking reduction, chronic disease prevention and mental health promotion. The funding guidelines will be applied flexibly to project applications received from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations.

The application form is available from the ACT Health Promotion Grants Program website at [www.health.act.gov.au/hpgrants](http://www.health.act.gov.au/hpgrants)

## **EVENTS AND COURSES**

### **RANGER GUIDED ACTIVITIES**

There is a variety of ranger guided activities available in the ACT in January 2010. To see the program of activities visit:

[http://www.tams.act.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0017/175004/RGA\\_Explore\\_Jan\\_2010.pdf](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/175004/RGA_Explore_Jan_2010.pdf)

### **NATIONAL LANDCARE FORUM – MARCH 2010**

*- Landcare celebrates 20 years of achievements and looks at future challenges.*

Are you are interested in protecting the environment and creating sustainable landscapes, lifestyles and livelihoods for the 21st century?

The Australian Government invites community groups, farmers, Indigenous land managers, researchers and interested individuals to attend the National Landcare Forum which is being held at the Allan Scott Park, Morphettville from 22nd -25th March 2010. Over 400 delegates are expected to attend.

The National Landcare Forum will include workshops, presentations, demonstrations, a gala forum dinner, and an exhibition including displays from around Australia.

Delegates will have the opportunity to learn about the latest research developments in Natural Resource Management and sustainable agriculture, develop new networks and new skills; celebrate 20 years of achievements and recognises the significant contribution the community has made over the last 20 years.

Sessions will cover current issues including climate change, carbon sequestration, volunteering, succession planning and food security.

On 25 March delegates can visit a range of landcare projects and restoration sites in the Barossa Valley, the Lower Lakes and urban areas.

To register or find out more please go to: <http://www.nationallandcareforum.com.au>

## **SNAKES ALIVE**

The annual Snakes Alive! exhibition for 2010 will again be organised by ACT Herpetological Association (ACTHA) in collaboration with the Australian National Botanic Gardens. The theme this year will be 'Back from the Brink: Survival of the Highly Endangered Corroboree Frog'. Make sure you tell your family and friends about this wonderful event, where you can see and interact with many different species of reptiles and amphibians while learning more about them in a friendly and educational environment. If you would like to help ACTHA by volunteering at Snakes Alive! please contact us at [info@actha.org.au](mailto:info@actha.org.au).

Where: Crosbie Morrison Building, Australian National Botanic Gardens

Time: 18 - 24 January, 10 am – 4 pm weekdays, 10 am – 6 pm Saturday and Sunday

Cost: Adults \$5, concessions \$4, children \$2

## **LOCAL CLIMATE, LOCAL CHANGE CONFERENCE – APRIL 2010**

This conference is an all encompassing forum for climate change adaptation and mitigation actions, attitudes and information that showcase Australian Frontline Community Action that is occurring at 'grass roots'.

From the 18-21 April, the Conference will relate to all those interested in the efforts of local communities in adapting and mitigating for climate change including: professional practitioners, local, state and federal government officers, academics, community climate change organisations, eco-ambassadors and the community, to name a few.

For full conference information or to submit an abstract, visit

<http://www.localclimatechangeconference.com/>

## **RESOURCES/INFORMATION**

### **ADAPTING AGRICULTURE TO CLIMATE CHANGE – BOOK BY CSIRO**

*Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change* is a fundamental resource for primary industry professionals, land managers, policy makers, researchers and students involved in preparing Australia's primary industries for the challenges and opportunities of climate change.

More than 30 authors have contributed to this book, which moves beyond describing the causes and consequences of climate change to providing options for people to work towards adaptation action. Climate change implications and adaptation options are given for the key Australian primary industries of horticulture, forestry, grains, rice, sugarcane, cotton, viticulture, broadacre grazing, intensive livestock industries, marine fisheries, and aquaculture and water resources. Case studies demonstrate the options for each industry.

For information visit <http://www.publish.csiro.au/pid/6170.htm>

## **NSW STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT 2009**

The NSW State of the Environment Report for 2009 has been released. The report was prepared by the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water with information provided from across government and guidance from the State of the Environment Advisory Council and independent experts.

To see more information, or to download the report, visit <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/soe/soe2009/>

## **PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS/COMMENTS**

### **URBAN TREE RENEWAL PROGRAM - INVESTIGATION**

The Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment is conducting an investigation into the ACT Government's tree management practices and the renewal of Canberra's urban forest.

The Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment invites members of the community to:

- register their name and email address to be informed about consultation during the investigation by 22 January 2010; or/and
- lodge a submission with respect to the [terms of reference](#) for the Investigation by 26 February 2010.

For more information visit:

[http://www.environmentcommissioner.act.gov.au/investigations\\_and\\_consultation/canberra\\_urban\\_forest](http://www.environmentcommissioner.act.gov.au/investigations_and_consultation/canberra_urban_forest)

*This Office is independent of, but funded by, the ACT Government.*

### **ELECTRICITY FEED-IN TARIFF STAGE 2 PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

The ACT Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water invites your comment on a Discussion Paper on the possible expansion of the ACT Electricity Feed-in Tariff Scheme.

For information visit <http://www.environment.act.gov.au/energy/fit>.

### **DRAFT SUSTAINABLE ENERGY POLICY 2010–2020 – PUBLIC COMMENT**

Combating climate change means a drastic reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases. In response, the ACT Government has adopted a Territory-wide target of zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2060.

The ACT Government encourages members of the public to provide comments on the draft Sustainable Energy Policy 2010–2020.

For information visit <http://www.environment.act.gov.au/energy/energypolicy>

## **SPECIAL**

### **FAREWELL FROM THE NATIONAL LANDCARE FACILITATOR, CORAL LOVE**

The time has come after seven and a half years to step down from the role of National Landcare Facilitator. This comes with mixed feelings of course but that usually comes with any change... you would think I would have a handle on change by now!

I am pleased to be continuing my involvement into 2010 on the Australian Framework for Landcare reference group and the National Landcare Forum steering committee and I am keen to see these to fruition.

Landcarer groups have proven community Landcare's resilience through the highs and the lows of the past 20 years and they are continuing to build on their achievements. At the same time situations have been continually evolving and changing due to emerging issues such as climate adaptation, bio-security, demographics in rural areas, bush fires of a catastrophic level and the recent global financial crisis. The same can be said for national, state and regional natural resource management policies, programs and structures. Change seems to be moving at a faster pace too these days and the youth of today have a whole new view of the world and ways of doing things - does this view come with getting older or is it really the globalisation influence?

I have considered for a long time now that strong leadership at a national level, would best assist community Landcare realise its potential and enable the sights to be set on a steady progression towards achieving its goals. For this to occur, many 'planets need to align' and hold fast to a universal vision (a term coined in a Landcare context by the former Australian Council Chair, Bobbie Brazil). This has not been as easy in reality, as one would have hoped.

I have always believed that community Landcare is a valuable part of Australia's fabric and well worth acknowledgement of what it is and what it has contributed, as well its potential for the future. Landcarers know that they have an important and often multi-faceted role in their local communities and, as well as leading by example as volunteer custodians of the land, they also support local economic, social and cultural outcomes. It is important to articulate these attributes clearly and for Governments to understand, value, utilise and maximise the multi-benefits that can come from this.

A universal understanding of why Landcare is important to all Australians could assist community Landcare to improve its operations and build on its achievements, ultimately delivering outcomes into the future. In my role as National Landcare Facilitator, I have always been a strong advocate for this and I believe that the development of an Australian Framework for Landcare will have the potential to make a difference. I am encouraged that the Australian Government Minister for Agriculture, The Hon Tony Burke, has encouraged a vision for Landcare within his portfolio.

I expect it is with a degree of trust that Minister Burke and the Land & Coasts Landcare Futures team have supported the Australian Framework for Landcare initiative. It is based on the understanding that community Landcare wants to be responsible for directing its own future but needs assistance to draw everything together. A national strategy to articulate its aspirations, values and capacity while potentially attracting partners and investors within today's highly competitive market, should ensure the good work and involvement of volunteer custodians of the land continues. At the same time, community Landcare has a degree of reliance on the leadership and directions of all

levels of Government to remain an important player and partner in achieving sustainable resource management.

When deliberating on future directions, it would be helpful to think of community Landcare in terms of the following key areas:

- operations - including health of group, capacity and skills, governance, vision & local plans, structure, health of partnerships & networks, quality of communication system, status in community and on-ground works.
- resources to operate - including money, support staff (facilitators and coordinators), equipment, training, communication and partnerships.

So, with 20 years and a wealth of knowledge and experience under the belt, now is a great time to do some navel gazing and fine tune the 'engine'. Wouldn't it be great to have some solidarity on Landcare's relevance for the next 20 years? Then landcarers would be able to do what they are keen to do most and that is to just get on with it.

Ultimately, it is important for community Landcare and Governments to work together with mutual respect and understanding as there is enormous value to be gained for both. Groups are more likely to reach their goals with assistance from government at national, state and regional levels. They in turn contribute in a cost effective way building the social capital that is required to achieve long term sustainable resource management.

**The National Landcare Facilitator team - Coral Love, Paul Carroll and Ian Linley,** wish to acknowledge the many thousands of people involved in community Landcare across the country, for their long term dedication, commitment and tireless efforts.

During our travels we have enjoyed meeting with and learning from many landcarers at a range of events as well as meeting with groups and visiting their projects.

A special thankyou to:

- those landcarer groups and support staff (facilitators and coordinators) we were able to visit, for their enthusiasm, generosity and hospitality while giving their time to share their experiences and show us the projects they are involved in
- the many support staff who coordinated the itineraries and arrangements for our group and site visits. Your efforts have been most appreciated
- the many people met along the way including staff from departmental agencies, NRM Regions, local government and NGOs

The National Landcare Facilitator team acknowledges the support and cooperation provided by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry staff over the last four and a half years of this contract and three years of my previous term. These include Ian Thompson, Executive Manager of Sustainable Resource Management in the Land & Coasts team; Charles Willcocks & Rod Shaw, former General Managers of the Landcare & Sustainable Agriculture Branch & Margaret Allan, current General Manager; Rod Lynch & Sue Yates and staff of the former National Landcare Program team, Gail Stevenson and staff of the former Land & Coasts Landcare Futures team, Desley Darby, Brad Thomas and staff of the current Land & Coasts Landcare Futures team and many people who operate across the country in Australian Government facilitator roles.

Special thanks also to our colleagues who made up the State Landcare Coordinator network for their valuable contribution to this project during 1 August 2005 - 30 June 2008.

Particular thanks and acknowledgement to:

- Bruce Lloyd & Bobbie Brazil - Chairs, together with members and Secretariat of the Australian Landcare Council
- John Claringbould & Jerry Ellis - Chairs, and the Advisory Committee and staff of Landcare Australia Ltd

Paul and I would particularly like to thank Ian Linley who we have worked with for a number of years now in his roles as State Landcare Facilitator for the National Landcare Program followed by Australian Government facilitator, before joining our team in July 2009 to work with us over the past 6 months. Ian has carried out his role in true professional form and we have appreciated his assistance with the forums and workshops across the country to start discussions for the Australian Framework for Landcare, as well as his management of some of the difficulties that were outside his control during that time.

I would also like to thank Paul for his tremendous support during some very hectic schedules and deadlines and the excellent skills and understandings he has brought to this project.

Paul and I, operating as Marian Partners Australia, plan a break over January. I will continue to be involved in the Australian Framework for Landcare and National Landcare Forum. Paul and I will support the new National Landcare Facilitator during the transition period. The Australian Government will make an announcement about the National Landcare Facilitator role for 2010 shortly.

Again, thankyou all, it has certainly been a great honour and pleasure to be in this role and I will be proud to champion Landcare into the future.

Kind regards  
Coral Love

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