

News of our world

Date: June 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

ACT NRM COUNCIL COMMUNIQUÉ No. 2/2010

The ACT NRM Council met for its second meeting of 2010 on 6th April.

Council further discussed the priorities set for the coming year and assigned subgroups to take responsibility for preparing action plans to achieve the following priorities:

- Review and redesign of the 2011-2013 Regional Investment Strategy;
- Continuing engagement and building environment and sustainable ACT community NRM networks,
- Environmental planning framework for the ACT;
- Relationship building with key ACT and regional stakeholders
- Broadening the NRM funding base in the ACT;
- Caring for our Country contestable bid;
- Knowledge management in the ACT.

Dr Ryan, Council Chair, reported on the success of the Knowledge Forum, held on 25 March 2010 at CSIRO headquarters in Campbell. The Forum attracted a good representation from ACT government agencies and authorities as well as representatives from local research institutions and community stakeholder groups. The forum's focus on knowledge management in the ACT, and current gaps in knowledge, gave participants the opportunity to raise concerns and provide suggestions into how this issue can be addressed. The outcomes of the forum will be distributed to all participants and other key stakeholders, and will provide recommendations about the way forward.

Members reported that their recent field trip to the Molonglo and Queanbeyan rivers to visit restoration sites and sites requiring further work was a valuable activity in both meeting those involved with the on-ground works, but in also identifying potential work which the Council could be involved with. Executive officers from the Department of Environment, Climate Change Energy and Water and representatives from the Australian Government NRM Liaison and Facilitation team also participated in the field trip.

Council was provided with a financial update indicating that all Caring for our Country progress and financial requirements had been fulfilled and corresponding 2009/10 payments received.

Council members and the NRM team are continuing to meet with partners to finalise an open competitive bid for submission for Caring for our Country funding by 15 April 2010. The project involves works in the Cotter Catchment.

Dr Ryan and representatives from the NRM team will attend the bi-annual National NRM Conference in Darwin on 19th and 20th April 2010. The NRM team will be presenting on Council's work in engagement and increasing participation of local indigenous people in NRM. Dr Ryan and Mr Feint, Council's Executive Officer, will also attend the National Chairs Forum on the 21st and 22nd of April. Dr Ryan will be presenting a paper on NRM Governance for their consideration and discussion. Council members had the opportunity to discuss and provide comment to Dr Ryan on her paper at the Council meeting.

ACT NRM COUNCIL COMMUNIQUÉ No. 3/2010

The ACT NRM Council met for its third meeting of 2010 on 1 June.

The Council welcomed Lynton Bond as an observer from the ACT and Region Catchment and Landcare Association. The Association has been invited to send a representative as observer to all regular Council meetings to assist in communicating the work of the Council to our stakeholders.

Council received a presentation on the ACT Government's review of the *Nature Conservation Act 1980* and the development of a new ACT Nature Conservation Strategy. The Council noted progress with this important work and was appreciative of the recognition this work was paying to the Council's 2009 natural resource management plan, *Bush Capital Legacy*.

Another major focus of the meeting was a presentation from Dr Anna Roberts, Department of Primary Industry, Victoria and Geoff Park, North Central Catchment Management on the Investment Framework for Environmental Resources (INFFER). The Council sought this presentation as part of its consideration of how to approach the development of a regional investment strategy for Caring for our Country co-investment in 2011-12 and 2012-13.

Dr Sarah Ryan, chair of the council reported on the recent NRM Region Chairs Forum in Darwin and the associated knowledge sharing conference involving staff and partners of regional NRM bodies around Australia. Chairs provided a report to NRM Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers meeting in Darwin on their priority issues: future NRM governance arrangements; the monitoring of resource condition and links to effective investment; landscape carbon and maximising its potential to contribute to ameliorating global warming and the relationship between regional NRM bodies and the Landcare movement. Council noted that the 2011 Forum will be held in Canberra and that Dr Ryan, as the Chair from the host State or Territory for this Forum was appointed Chair of the Regional NRM Chairs Working Group for the next 12 months.

The Council will assess applications for the 2010-11 ACT Environment Grants mid-June and make recommendations to the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water. The Council was encouraged by the number and diversity of applications submitted.

The Council noted the imminent departure of Ms Jo Harding, Council Investment Manager to a position with the Australian Government's Bushland Blitz program. The Council acknowledged the significant contribution that Ms Harding had made to the work of the Council, especially in the development and oversight of investments.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 3 August 2010.

JO HARDING LEAVING THE ACT NRM COUNCIL TEAM

Jo Harding, the investment manager with the ACT NRM Council, will be leaving the team to work with the Australian Government at the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. Jo will be the Assistant Director within the Biological Resources Study Section of Parks Australia, specifically managing the Bush Blitz program. We wish Jo all the best with the new job.

NEWS

2010 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS – PEOPLE’S CHOICE VOTING

The Landcare Awards People’s Choice voting website is now live and ready for you, your family, friends, community and networks to vote. Spread the word and hopefully an ACT finalist will be the winner of the People’s Choice Award.

Click [here](#) to vote, leave a message of support or be inspired by the other 87 finalists that are all winners from their own states. You can also access the website from www.landcareonline.com.au and click on the “People’s Choice Awards

The Awards will be held on 24 June with voting closing 12am EST Wednesday 23rd June 2010.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES/AWARDS

CVA GREEN SCHOOLS CONNECT – 30 JUNE 2010

Green Schools Connect is a partnership between Conservation Volunteers Australia and the Vodafone Australia Foundation. It enables schools to get the extra hands for their environmental projects such as creating a bush food garden, revegetation works or monitoring frog populations. For further information and application forms visit www.conservationvolunteers.com.au/greenschoolsconnect or phone 1800 032 501.

Closing date: Wednesday 30 June.

NORMAN WETTENHALL FOUNDATION GRANTS – 30 JUNE 2010

The Norman Wettenhall Foundation’s objective is to support projects that enhance or maintain the vitality and diversity of the Australian natural living environment.

The objectives of the Foundation are:

- to build capacity in local communities to effect long-term beneficial change in the natural environment
- to support and encourage research, monitoring and knowledge sharing relating to all aspects of Australia’s natural environment

Wherever possible, funded projects will:

- be innovative and serve as a model for future projects
- show collaboration with other groups, particularly community groups
- result in long term improvement of the natural environment
- indicate clearly, and thoughtfully, how advice of the project’s outcomes will be shared

The next grant round closes 30th June and the grants are awarded in August.

Information is available at <http://www.nwf.org.au/>

OPTUS CONNECTING COMMUNITIES GRANTS – 30 JULY 2010

Not-for-profit organisations are able to submit an application to Optus directly, for a grant of up to \$5,000 that will be used to address the Optus community investment focus areas.

The community investment focus areas are:

Building Social Inclusion:

- By providing access to communications.
- By connecting disengaged communities.

Supporting disengaged youth:

- By improving their education, life skills and knowledge.

Applications for 2010 open 9am (AEST) Monday, 3rd May and close 5pm (AEST), Friday 30th July 2010. Visit the [Optus Connecting Communities website](#) for details.

MAKE THE DIFFERENCE GRANTS – 31 JULY 2010

Future2's Make the Difference! Grants program was launched in 2007 and made three grants of up to \$10,000 in each of the first three years.

Future2's grants focus on the under 25s who may be financially disadvantaged, homeless, juvenile justice offenders, drug or alcohol dependent, disabled or Indigenous. Grants are awarded to projects and programs in the areas of financial literacy, skills training, work experience, community service or mentoring.

Applications for the 2010 Make the Difference! grants program open on 3 May and closes on 31 July. Grants will be announced on 25 November 2010.

For information visit the [Future2 Foundation website](#).

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.

Round 3 closing date is 5pm **Friday 6th August** (Yates and Coles). For information and to download applications forms, visit the [Junior Landcare website](#).

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

TRAINING FOR TRANSITION – 18-20 JUNE

The next "Training for Transition" course will be held on the 18-20 June, at "The Crossing" – Bermagui.

This course is for people looking for sustainable solutions and recognise the environmental, social and economic benefits that occur when communities work together to reach common goals.

DATE: Evening of Friday June 18th, all day Saturday June 19th and all day Sunday 20th.

COST: \$250 per person for the course (concessions available).

FOOD: All meals will be provided.

ACCOMMODATION: This is a "residential" course, sleeping on site in a converted railway carriage. Tent sites are available.

A web page with the details, a flyer and a map to get to "The Crossing" is at:

<http://nswcommunities.org.au/tttrain.html>

For further information and to RSVP, please contact John Barlow, 02 6492 0923, john.barlow@guru.com.au

FOOD FOREST COURSE – 19-20 JUNE

THE COURSE: Over a weekend, participants design and implement a full food forest system. The course includes drought-proofing practices and various techniques for effective water harvesting, how to manage the Forest through time; practical skills from cutting and joining pipe to improving soil through using compost teas, rock minerals and nutrient-accumulating companion plants, just to name a few. A weekend packed with practical information around a solid permaculture design framework that you can take home to adapt to your own garden. And lots of fun on the way!

WHEN: June 19-20

WHERE: The Yurt, Mulloon Creek Natural Farms, 11km past Bungendore towards Braidwood on the Kings Hwy.

COST: \$275 incl GST. Includes morning and afternoon tea, lunch and course notes.

CONTACT: cam@forestedgepermaculture.com or 0438 594 562

<http://www.forestedgepermaculture.com>

BIODYNAMIC FARMING AND GARDENING WORKSHOP – 20 JUNE

The Biodynamic approach to soil fertility is to enhance, strengthen and balance the life within the soil and impart this vitality to the plants that we grow. Further information can be found at www.biodynamiceducation.com.au

DATE: Sunday 20 June

VENUE: Bredbo

FURTHER INFO: Walter Kohler - kohler-bond@bigpond.com

RSVP: Friday 11 June

COST: \$66 (Half the cost of usual workshop).

This workshop is subsidized by Bredbo Landcare with funding from Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare and assistance from the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority

ADAPTING MIXED FARMS TO FUTURE ENVIRONMENTS CONFERENCE – 28 & 29 JULY

The Grassland Society of NSW annual conference will examine the issues faced by farmers and graziers on mixed farms in adapting our future farming environments. Conference speakers will target the management of prolonged drought and extreme climatic events, the influence of a carbon pollution reduction scheme (in whatever form is adopted) on farms and the legislative, environmental and animal welfare requirements on landholders. The preliminary program is available at: www.grasslandnsw.com.au.

Date: 28-29 July

Location: Dubbo

Earlybird discounts apply for registrations received before June 30

GREENING AUSTRALIA - NATIONAL TREE DAY PLANTING AND REGULAR VOLUNTEERING

Greening Australia's next planting day will be on the National Tree Day Sunday 1 August.

Greening Australia also has regular volunteering opportunities:

- Wednesday volunteers – Volunteers meet at the GA nursery in Aranda every Wednesday morning during school term from 9:00am to 12:00 noon to assist with plant propagation and maintenance. A delicious morning tea is provided.
- Green Team – Volunteers meet on Thursdays to head out in minibus to various sites in the ACT and surrounding area to assist with plantings, plant maintenance, hand seeding and site preparation.
- Adopt-A-Patch – This is a program where small teams of volunteers enhance and maintain sites by planting tubestock, seeding and weeding.

If you would like to be involved with any of these volunteer opportunities, please email admin@act.greeningaustralia.org.au or phone 6253 3035

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.

Calling on all landholders in a 100km radius to head to Bredbo Village for this exciting event. The day will include:

- Key Presenter, Sam Archer - Cattle and Crop Farmer, MLA Nuffield Scholar.
- Ten K2C Partners + many more industry and community groups will be there to discuss all types of land matters with you.
- A range of sustainable land uses that can yield profits while enriching landscape health.

- A visit to the Bush Heritage “Scottsdale” Property, listen and talk to presenters on land use, birds, reptiles, weeds, wattles and much more.
- Celebrations for 2010 — Year of Biodiversity.

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

www.k2c.org.au

COMPETITIONS/AWARDS

THE BIDGEE FROM BEHIND THE LENS – PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Entries close 5pm Friday 18 June.

THEME: Valuing natural heritage

CATEGORIES: Primary Student, Secondary Student, Open Amateur, & Open Professional. (Photos can be entered in any of the four categories).

PRIZES: Cash prizes of \$250 will be offered for first place and \$100 for runner up in each category, with all winning photos to be showcased at the Wagga Wagga City Library.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Sue Buik, Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority T: 02 6940 2942 / sue.buik@cma.nsw.gov.au , or check out [competition page on the Murrumbidgee CMA website](#)

FUTURE LEADERS AWARDS – ENVIRONMENT AWARD CLOSING 1 AUG 2010

The Future Leaders Awards recognise and reward young Australians who have shown strong leadership and potential. The Awards also aim to inspire others to engage in environmental and community issues and make a difference.

There are several categories in the Future Leaders Awards. The Future Leaders Awards recognise and reward young Australians who have shown strong leadership and potential. The Awards also aim to inspire others to engage in environmental and community issues and make a difference. Nominations for the Environment Award are open until 1 August 2010.

Information for all Future Leaders Awards are available at <http://www.futureleaders.com.au/awards/index.php>

BANKSIA AWARDS – 2 AUGUST

The 2010 Banksia Awards are open for nomination. The Awards are designed to recognise and reward environmental excellence and the contribution to a sustainable Australia.

There are 10 award categories:

- Education Award
- Water Award

- Land and Biodiversity Award
- Indigenous Award – Caring for Country
- Leading in Sustainability (large organisations)
- Leading in Sustainability (small to medium business)
- Built Environment Award
- Clean Technology
- Agriculture and Food
- Transportation, Warehousing and Logistics

For more information, visit the [Banksia Foundation website](#).

NSW/ACT REGIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AND COMMUNITY AWARDS 2010 – 13 AUGUST

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

RESOURCES

LIVING WITH LOVEGRASS FORUM REPORT

'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. *Steve Welch, Southern ACT Catchment Group*)

There will be a report available that summarises the discussion of the forum. When the report is complete, it will be available on the Southern ACT Catchment Group website at <http://www.sactcg.org.au/>.

COMMISSIONERS INVESTIGATIONS

The Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment is currently undertaking two investigations:

- Investigation into the Government's tree management practices and the renewal of Canberra's urban forest
- Investigation into the Canberra Nature Park (nature reserves); the Molonglo River Corridor (nature reserves) and Googong Foreshores

The Commissioner is required to report to the Minister for the Environment on the Urban Forest investigation by **30 June 2010**.

As part of the investigation into Canberra Nature Parks, three community forums were held in May for community members to express their views.

Information on these investigations and other work the Office of the Commissioner does (such as forums and State of the Environment Reports) is available on the [Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment's website](#).

The Government's response to the Commissioners report on the ACT Lowland Native Grassland investigation is available on the [Department of Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water's website](#).

NATIVE PLANT GUIDE

The Australian Native Plant Guide is ideal for home and landscape gardeners, farmers, government departments, Councils, Landcare groups, students and anyone interested in Australian Native plants. The new version has over 500 photographs of native plants and includes a filter to select species that meet your requirements. You can download a free copy of the Australian Native Plant Guide from the Native Shop website. Visit <http://nativegrowth.com.au/nativeguide>

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE GRASSES: A MANUAL FOR SOWING, GROWING AND USING THEM

For those interested in direct seeding with native grass seed, a new edition of *Australian Native Grasses: a manual for sowing, growing and using them*, has just been released. This full colour book comprises detailed information on 16 Australian native grasses - both warm and cool season - including information on a range of applications for their use. Each page has full colour photographs to assist in their identification. There is also information on seedling identification, seed storage and provenance. Cost is \$19.95.

The publication is available from the producers, Native Seeds:

<http://www.nativeseeds.com.au/categories.asp?cID=130>

T: 03 9555 1722

E: enquiries@nativeseeds.com.au

JOBS

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION OFFICER

Fixed Term Contract 3 years

ActewAGL Level 4 Zone A

Salary \$72,022

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.

The successful applicant will have:

- Qualifications or demonstrated experience in the field of environmental management would be an advantage.
- Possess an understanding of catchment management issues and their importance to the provision of safe drinking water. Knowledge of the application of the Framework for Management of Drinking Water Quality from the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines to catchment management would be an advantage.
- Proven experience in working with community organisations, private landholders, land managers. local government agencies and emergency services .
- Understanding of on-site sewage systems and best land management practices would be an advantage.
- Exceptional oral and written communication skills, including presentation skills, with an ability to interpret and analyse scientific information.

Selection documentation is available by via email to advertised.vacancies@actewagl.com.au, quoting Ref No. ER 62/2010 or on our website, www.actewagl.com.au/careers. After receiving the selection documentation, potential applicants may seek further information by contacting Belinda Green on 02 6270 7978.

Applications should be lodged by close of business 18 June 2010 Closing Date via email to advertised.vacancies@actewagl.com.au or by post to:

Employee Relations Adviser
ActewAGL, GPO Box 366
CANBERRA ACT 2601

OTHER

VOTE FOR LANDCARE AUSTRALIA TO HELP WOMEN IN LANDCARE

Landcare Australia has been selected as the environmental charity for Bayer who are celebrating "50 Years of the Pill" with a marketing campaign using Facebook. Other charities include Mission Australia, White Ribbon and International Women's' Development Agency.

For every vote cast on Facebook for Landcare Australia, Bayer will donate \$1.

The campaign 'Dreams for our Daughters' encourages Australian women to celebrate the launch of the Pill by voting on a vision for women over the next 50 years. Landcare Australia's dream is to help Australian women and their communities protect our natural environment for future generations.

To vote for Landcare Australia visit: www.facebook.com/50yearsofthepill

'Dreams for our Daughters' is a partnership between Sexual Health and Family Planning Australia (SH&FPA), and Bayer Schering Pharma, the company who first launched the Pill in Australia.

PEAK OIL

Peak oil is the term used to describe "the point when worldwide production of conventional crude oil peaks in volume, which is expected to result in an increase in oil prices from a decline in the availability of cheap and easily accessible oil sources." Business, researchers and some governments are urging much greater investment of resources in planning "for a world in which oil price shocks have the potential to destabilise economic, political and social activity." Many of the myriad impacts of peak oil will have major implications for the practice of natural resource management. Below are some links to publications which outline some of the latest thinking on when and how "peak oil" will emerge as an issue for our civilisation and links to local organisations attempting to address this challenge:

U.S. Joint Forces Command's Joint Operating Environment 2010 - an assessment of the future security environment facing the US military, written by the US military - pages 24-28 deal with the US Military assessment of when oil will run out and what the consequences might be for world security and geopolitics. To access this document: <http://www.peakoil.net/files/JOE2010.pdf>

The Oil Crunch: A wake-up call for the UK economy - second report of the UK Industry Taskforce on Peak Oil & Energy Security (ITPOES) (February 2010). This is an assessment of the future world oil supply and potential consequences for the UK of reductions in oil availability, prepared by British companies (includes Virgin and Scottish and Southern Energy) concerned that threats to energy security are not receiving sufficient attention from governments. To access this document. <http://peakoiltaskforce.net/download-the-report/2010-peak-oil-report/>

The status of conventional world oil reserves—Hype or cause for concern - an article published in the respected journal *Energy Policy* which "supports the contention held by many independent institutions that conventional oil production may soon go into decline and it is likely that the 'era of plentiful, low cost petroleum is coming to an end'. Significant supply challenges in the near future are compounded against a backdrop of rising demand and strengthening environmental policy". This article needs to be purchased - more information on the article can be found at <http://www.smithschool.ox.ac.uk/world-oil-reserves-at-tipping-point/>.

Further links to latest thinking on peak oil can be found at the **The Energy Bulletin** an international web-based clearinghouse for information on the peak in global energy supply. To access the website: <http://www.energybulletin.net/>

Organisations overseas and in our region (this is by no means comprehensive) which are developing community solutions to addressing peak oil and climate change include:

<http://www.transitionnetwork.org/> - a British organisation which has taken on the role of inspiring, encouraging connecting, supporting and training communities as they self-organise around the transition model, creating initiatives that rebuild resilience and reduce CO2 emissions.

<http://everydayecointheact.blogspot.com/search/label/Events> - a website which provides information about environmental activities/groups in the ACT, including the Transition Towns movement in the ACT

<http://www.see-change.org.au/> - SEE-Change is a community, not-for-profit group that supports and inspires people to join together and act in a sustainable way. Its activities are practical, and based on local Canberra realities. In addition, its aim is to create workable project models to be picked up by other community groups Australia-wide.

<http://sydneyfoodfairness.org.au/> THE ALLIANCE formed in Sydney in 2005 to coordinate the efforts of rural producers, health professionals, community workers and community-based advocates active in developing a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable food system in the Sydney region.

<http://canberra.climatexchange.org.au/> a source of information and views on climate change and sustainability solutions for Canberra and region.