

News of our world

Date: October 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

COTTER DAM EXPANSION APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

Environment Minister Peter Garrett has approved the expansion of the Cotter Dam near Canberra with strict environmental conditions.

The media release can be viewed at

<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/garrett/2009/mr20091022a.html>.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES/GRANTS

WOOLWORTHS SUSTAINABLE FARMING PROGRAM – GRANTS OPEN

The Woolworths Sustainable Farming Program is a collaboration between Landcare Australia and Woolworths to develop, improve and encourage sustainable farming practices. They are seeking applications from farmer groups, farming organisations and Landcare groups who wish to undertake projects in any primary production industry.

Grants of up to \$22,000 (GST inclusive) are now available to Australian farmers.

These grants are aimed at supporting farmers develop or implement good ideas to improve the sustainability of farming practices. The projects should develop or support the adoption of improved farming practices, production techniques, technology or products. Projects could focus on issues such as climate change adaptation, crop or animal production, water or nutrient use efficiency, management of waste or salinity. The projects should also provide results of interest and benefit to other farmers. Innovative ideas that will share information about successful strategies for adapting to climate change and managing under variable rainfall are most welcome.

For more information and to download the application forms, visit the [Landcare Australia website](#).

Closing date for applications – Monday, 9th November.

2010 HEALTHY SCHOOLS HEALTHY CHILDREN FUNDING ROUND IS NOW OPEN

This Funding Round supports children and young people in school communities to live a healthy, active life.

The ACT Health Promotion Grants Program 2010 Healthy Schools Healthy Children Funding Round is open to members of the ACT school community including: early childhood facilities, pre-schools, primary schools, high schools, colleges, after school care programs, school clusters, and community groups working in an agreed partnership with a school community.

The funding round, previously known as the Health Promoting Schools Funding Round, provides applicants with the opportunity to access funds to purchase equipment and implement projects that align with key ACT Government supported healthy eating and physical activity policies, programs and frameworks within school communities.

A general Information Session on the Healthy Schools Healthy Children Funding Round will be conducted on Tuesday 20 October 2009, from 4.00 - 5.00pm in the Seminar Room at the Rheinberger Centre, Cnr Weston and Loch Streets, Yarralumla. This session will clarify the changes to the round including the new format of the application form.

Applications close: **5.00pm Monday 9 November 2009**

Application forms are available from the ACT Health Promotion Grants Program website at www.health.act.gov.au/hpgrants or by contacting the ACT Health Promotion Grants Program office on 6205 1325.

ON-FARM IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

The On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program is part of the \$5.8 billion Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure component of *Water for the Future*.

This new \$300 million Program is aimed at assisting irrigators in the Lachlan and southern connected system of the Murray-Darling Basin to modernise their on-farm irrigation infrastructure while returning water savings to the environment.

Applications close **4pm Eastern Daylight Time Tuesday, 17 November 2009**.

For more information visit <http://www.environment.gov.au/water/programs/srwui/on-farm.html>

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS PROJECT (MURRUMBIDGEE CMA)

This program by the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority aims to empower Landcare groups and other community groups to undertake NRM projects including on-ground activities and training and awareness programs. The grants are open to any community group (Landcare, traditional owners, schools, farming groups) within the Murrumbidgee Catchment.

Projects can be up to \$10,000 (GST inclusive) and could include:

- On-farm demonstration sites Seminars/events
- Revegetation sites
- Restocking waterways with native fish
- Riverbank restoration
- Training

Applications are now open, application forms can be downloaded from the [Murrumbidgee CMA website](#).

Applications close 27th November 2009.

LIVING GREENER INITIATIVE

A range of opportunities are available under the Dept Environment Water Heritage & Arts' *Living Greener* initiative. These include assistance for ceiling insulation, solar hot water and rainwater & greywater usage. Further details can be accessed at www.livinggreener.gov.au.

EVENTS AND COURSES

ACT LANDCARE FRAMEWORK FORUM

There will be a forum on the Australian Framework for Landcare in the ACT:

Date: Thursday 29th October

Time: 4pm - 6pm

Venue: Rydges Capital Hill (Corner of Canberra Avenue and National Circuit)

This is an opportunity for the community to have their say on Landcare and design a pathway for the future. Anyone working with the environment, including Landcare, Parkcare, Friends of groups etc is encouraged to attend the forum. Alternatively you can provide a written response as detailed in the Landcare Speaks Paper available for download from

<http://www.landcarefacilitator.com.au/public/content/ViewCategory.aspx?id=48>. This paper also gives background on the framework, lists questions for you to respond to and includes responses from a workshop held in April.

Please RSVP for catering purposes to Esther Duffy by calling 02 6205 2913 or emailing esther.duffy@act.gov.au.

WEED SWAP 2009

We now know some plants widely used in Canberra Gardens decades ago have a tendency to invade surrounding gardens and bushland.

When birds eat the berries from these plants they spread the seed. The seedlings grow quickly and compete with native plants, threatening our bush Capital and the garden city image for which the ACT is famous.

Weed Swap 2009 is a joint initiative of the Australian Native Plants Society and the ACT Department of Territory and Municipal Services to encourage ACT residents to remove these plants from their gardens, safely dispose of them and then select a free Australian native plant as an appropriate alternative.

The target plants are the woody weeds - cotoneaster, privet, firethorn and broom. Seedlings can found growing along garden fence lines, under powerlines, and near other trees and shrubs.

You can actively contribute to Weed Swap 2009 by removing any cotoneaster, privet, firethorn and broom from your garden. Bring the remains of the woody weeds to the green waste recycling centre at either Canberra Sand and Gravel near the end of Southern Cross Drive, Belconnen or Corkhill Bros near Mugga Lane Tip. Then visit the weed swap stall at these locations and select from a range of Australian native plant alternatives (complete with advice and instructions).

When:	Saturday 31 October 8.30 am - 4.45 pm Sunday 1 November 8.30 am - 4.45 pm
Where:	<i>Canberra Sand and Gravel</i> near the end of Southern Cross Drive, Belconnen or <i>Corkhill Bros</i> near Mugga Lane Tip

More Information:	Canberra Connect 13 22 81 www.tams.act.gov.au Australian Native Plants Society Canberra Region Inc. PO Box 217 Civic Square ACT 2608
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TRAINING FOR TRANSITION

This two day 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: October 31 and November 1 2009

Venue: Canberra Environment and Sustainability Resource Centre

Cost: \$180 per person for the course, concession is available.

For more information or to register, contact the Canberra Environment Centre on info@ecoaction.com.au or 6248 0885.

AUSTRALIAN NETWORK FOR PLANT CONSERVATION WORKSHOPS

10 November 2009 Grass Identification for beginners

11 November 2009 Plants of Grassy Ecosystems for beginners

Aims:

Workshop 1 - To introduce participants to the characteristics of grasses

Workshop 2 - To introduce participants to grassy ecosystems, their diversity and ecology.

Canberra: Australian National Botanic Gardens & an ACT conservation reserve

Course fee

\$120 per day or \$110 for financial members of the ANPC.

Includes catering, transport, information pack, hand-lens & GST.

Concessions are available for the non-employed and full-time students and pensioners.

Visit http://www.anbg.gov.au/anpc/canbplantid_20091110.html for more information and registration.

CONSERVATION COUNCIL MEMBER FORUM

Each month, the Conservation Council ACT Region is holding a forum to discuss a variety of fascinating topics relating to our local environment. These fora are open to ALL member groups and their guests. The next forum will be:

Date: 12th November 2009

Topic: *The Next 30 Years - Our Vision/Blueprint for an Ecologically Sustainable ACT* (combined with AGM and a workshop on CONSACT's Strategic Plan)

Venue: Havelock House

Time: 5.30 for a 6pm start

The flyer will be available for download from the [Conservation Council website](#) within the next few days.

BOTTLES FROM THE BASIN – AN INVITATION

On 8 December 2009 the National Museum of Australia will launch a major international exhibition called *Water: H₂O = Life*.

To coincide with *Water: H₂O = Life*, the National Museum of Australia is undertaking a number of public events and programs. One of these, in partnership with ACT Waterwatch, is an exciting outreach project that invites members of communities along the Murray Darling Basin (MDB) to contribute a water sample from their local river, lake, wetlands or other source together with a water analysis and accompanying words and images.

For more information visit the [ACT Waterwatch website](#) or email bottles@nma.gov.au.

RESOURCES/INFORMATION

CPA PUBLICATION: GRANTS IN AUSTRALIA

Grants in Australia; management and accountability made easy for not-for-profit organisations is a straightforward guide for not-for-profit bodies to manage grants and satisfy accountability requirements.

The manual can be downloaded from the [CPA Australia website](#).

AUSTRALIAN BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES STUDY

A report has been released by Environment Minister Peter Garrett called *Numbers of Living Species in Australia and the World*. The publication is the only report to document the worlds known animal and plant species. The report can be downloaded from the [Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts website](#).

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION CALCULATOR ONLINE

The Australian Farm Institute has released the FarmGAS Calculator, an online tool that enables farmers to model both the financial and greenhouse gas implications of decisions about different farm enterprises. To access the free calculator visit www.farminstitute.org.au

PUBLICATIONS ON THE TOPIC OF LANDCARE

An extensive range of landcare publications can be accessed on the Australian Agriculture and Natural Resources On-line (AANRO) website. Visit www.aanro.net/HOME.html and type in "landcare" as a key word.

LITERATURE REVIEW ON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CONCEPTS AND TOOLS

The Bureau of Rural Sciences has released a report: *Engaging in Biosecurity: Literature Review on Community Engagement Approaches*. To access the free report visit http://adl.brs.gov.au/brsShop/html/brs_prod_90000004153.html

NOXIOUS AND ENVIRONMENTAL WEED CONTROL HANDBOOK

This handbook is useful for both small and large landholders alike to determine the best method of controlling weeds in non-crop, aquatic and bushland situations. It contains useful information on cultural methods of weed control like slashing, biological control agents and grazing through to specific spot spray herbicide mixes for harder to control weeds. The publication is easy to follow, with plants listed alphabetically.

If you would like a copy of the handbook, contact Industry and Innovation (formally the Department of Primary Industries):

Goulburn office: 02 4828 6600

Cooma office: 02 6452 3411.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

VOLUNTEER INTERPRETER PROGRAM – TIDBINBILLA NATURE RESERVE

Become part of a team of trained volunteer interpreters who help visitors at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve to better understand and appreciate the natural world. The Volunteer Interpreter Program is managed by Conservation Volunteers Australia.

Information sessions are being held over October and November on how to become a Volunteer Interpreter. Applications are being received until the 17th November 2009.

For more information visit the [Conservation Volunteers Australia website](#). To attend an information session, contact 6205 3664 or email vip@conservationvolunteers.com.au.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO TRANSPLANT SEEDLINGS AT HOME

Greening Australia is looking for volunteers to transplant native plants at home. Since 2002, Greening Australia volunteer Vic Grosvenor has been transplanting very small seedlings from trays into forestry pots. The process is called 'pricking out', and is used with high value seed or species that cannot easily be propagated directly into pots such as *Bursaria* or *Lomandra*. Vic recently clocked over 107,500 plants!

Vic's work is so valuable to Greening Australia that they are looking for another Vic or two. If you would like to volunteer for Greening Australia from the comfort of your own backyard, please contact Haydn on 6253 3035 or hburgess@act.greeningaustralia.org.au. This opportunity would suit volunteers in the Belconnen area.

For other volunteer opportunities with Greening Australia, visit the [Greening Australia events calendar](#).