

News of our world

Date: September 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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- [SOUTHERN ACT CATCHMENT GROUP: HTTP://WWW.SACTCG.ORG.AU/](http://www.sactcg.org.au/)
- [GINNINDERRA CATCHMENT GROUP: HTTP://WWW.GINNINDERRALANDCARE.ORG.AU/](http://www.ginninderralandcare.org.au/)

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NEWS

INVASIVE ANIMALS CRC NRM LIAISON PROJECT

Jessica Gibson, the NRM Liaison Officer with the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre in Orange, is employed to assist the 56 NRM regions in implementing best practice invasive animal control through strategic planning and monitor transfer. Jessica encouraged people working with invasive animals in the ACT and region to contact her for advice or to give her feedback about project outcomes.

Information about the NRM Liaison Project and Jessica's contact details can be found at

http://www.invasiveanimals.com/research/terrestrial_products_and_strategies/nrm_liaison.html.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY TO RECEIVE \$1 MILLION IN GREEN PRECINCTS FUNDING

The Australian National University (ANU) will receive \$1 million in Commonwealth Government funding to transform its iconic Canberra campus into a sustainable green hub.

A media release about this funding was released on the 23rd September from Minister Garrett's office and can be viewed at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/garrett/2009/mr20090923.html>.

DUSTWATCH REPORT

The DustWatch report is attached as a separate document to the email. This report provides fascinating reading as to the cause of last weeks dust storms across Australia. The findings indicate there were actually three separate dust storms:

The first hit Canberra on 22 September 2009.

The second hit Sydney and Brisbane on 23 September

The third hit Sydney and Brisbane on the 26 September.

These storms originated from huge areas across South Australia, Queensland and NSW. The report shows pictures of the storms and their movements across Australia.

The report states that the dust storms would have been much more severe without changes to land management practices over the last decade.

Along with the report, you can also see more images of the dust storms at NASA's website <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/NaturalHazards/view.php?id=40381>.

TONY BURKE CONGRATULATES LOCAL LANDCARE VOLUNTEERS DURING LANDCARE WEEK

Released from Minister Burke's office on 8 September 2009

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Tony Burke congratulated Landcare volunteers in the Queanbeyan region for their continuing hard work, at the start of National Landcare Week (7-13 September).

This year marks two decades since Landcare Australia began. National Landcare Week celebrates the essential role of the Landcare movement in protecting farmland, coastal areas, rivers and bushland.

More than 100,000 volunteers in around 4,500 local Landcare groups roll up their sleeves in communities each year to replant vegetation, repair erosion and improve agricultural productivity.

Currently around three-quarters of Australian farmers are involved in, or benefit from, Landcare. In July, Mr Burke announced \$99,000 for a Molonglo Catchment Group project to help farmers improve sustainability on their land and provide advice at local field days.

Contracts are expected to be signed soon for this project.

"For the last two decades, Landcare Australia volunteers have worked hard to deliver major improvements to our parks, farmland, reserves and waterways," Mr Burke said.

"The Molonglo Catchment Group is just one example of the many local groups making a real difference in the Queanbeyan region."

Federal Member for Eden Monaro, the Hon. Dr Mike Kelly AM, MP said the region was blessed with many dedicated and hard-working people who were committed to protecting the environment and enhancing the productivity of local fisheries and farms.

"The Landcare program has enabled the delivery of a number of important projects for our region, under the auspices of such organisations as the Bega Cooperative Society, the Sapphire Coast Marine Discovery Centre and the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority," he said.

"This has led to improvements in pasture management, the prevention of effluent and nutrient runoff and research into the protection of our oyster industry."

Molonglo Catchment Group President Lynton Bond said he was looking forward to getting the project underway.

“Many small farms managers in the Molonglo catchment are new to the land and lack experience - this is impacting adversely on sustainable agricultural practices and biodiversity protection, and collectively affecting large areas of the landscape,” Mr Bond said.

“We will be particularly concentrating on identifying areas of box-gum grassy woodland and also target control of serrated tussock.”

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES/GRANTS

COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS

Eligible community groups can apply for grants from \$5,000 to \$20,000 (GST exclusive) to take action to help protect and conserve Australia's environment.

Applications for a Community Action grant will be open from 1 October 2009 - 22 October 2009.

Eligible community groups include:

- community groups involved in coastal rehabilitation, restoration and conservation
- groups of farmers or land managers working on sustainable farming or improving natural resource management
- Indigenous partnerships involved in protecting or improving the environment
- community groups involved in biodiversity conservation, environmental protection or managing natural resources

Community Action Grants are only available to eligible community groups not individuals.

Eligible projects must:

- involve volunteers and communities in activities which work towards achieving outcomes in the Caring for our Country national priority areas of Biodiversity and Natural Icons, Coastal Environments and Critical Aquatic Habitats, and Sustainable Farm Practices
- be completed within 18 months or less

Visit <http://www.nrm.gov.au/funding/cag.html> for more information.

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

BOX GUM GRASSY WOODLAND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Private land managers within the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and Central West Catchment Management Authority boundaries in New South Wales who have the critically endangered White Box, Yellow Box and/or Blakely's Red Gum grassy woodland or derived grassland on their properties are currently being targeted under Caring for our Country - Environmental Stewardship.

Land managers wishing to participate in the Box Gum Grassy Woodland Project are required to submit a Request for Site Assessment Form to the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority by 31 October 2009.

For information visit <http://www.nrm.gov.au/stewardship/box-gum/lachlan-murrumbidgee-cw.html>.

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.

EVENTS AND COURSES

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RURAL AND REGIONAL AUSTRALIA SEMINAR SERIES

October's seminar topic will be "Will the last man standing please write the damn legislation: An intensely personal reflection on the past, present and future of rural research" by Dr Richard Price.

Friday 2 October
12:30 – 2:00pm
National Europe Centre, 1 Liversidge Street
The Australian National University

Enquiries and RSVPs to nirra@anu.edu.au by 30 September 2009.

FARMING 2020 & BEYOND - YLAD FIELD DAY

"Rebuilding the power of natural systems with Humus"

DATE: Friday 09 October

VENUE: Young S&C Club, with bus trip to local farms

Bookings Essential: Call: 02 6382 2165 / Email: admin@yladlivingsoils.com.au

Keynote speakers include:

Edwin Blosser (USA)

Dr Maarten Strapper

Hugh Lovel

Dr Ashley Martin

Rhonda Daly

Anthony Foo

Free entry includes an afternoon bus trip to see local farmers using Humus Soil Technology and Humus Compost Production, and a demonstration of the Aeromaster Composting Equipment.

For further information on YLAD Living Soils:

Call: 02 6382 2165

Web: www.yladlivingsoils.com.au

SOILS IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE - FREE WORKSHOPS

The Soils in Sustainable Agriculture program consists of two training workshops targeted for graziers and dry-land cropping landholders:

(1) HEALTHY SOILS, HEALTHY LANDSCAPES (scheduled from 1st September to 1st October, 2009). This workshop is designed to improve your understanding of the soils on your farm and to make informed decisions about their management.

(2) HEALTHY SOILS, HEALTHY CROPS (scheduled from 14th September to 1st December, 2009). This workshop will help improve your understanding of soil moisture management and crop nutrition.

Participants in these workshops will receive two free soil tests including the topsoil (0-10 cm) and subsoil (10-20 cm).

Places are strictly limited! Expressions of interest are called from individuals who would like to attend either or both of these workshops. Flyers can be downloaded from <http://www.actlandcare.org.au/node/234>.

If you have a group who wishes to participate, contact Simone Fuller (NSW DPI) directly on 02 6951 2544/ 0419 610 117 / simone.fuller@industry.nsw.gov.au.

These workshops are FREE to landholders within the Murrumbidgee Catchment.

Workshops are funded through the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority (CMA) by the Australian and NSW Governments.

NSW DPI is contracted to deliver the project.

NATURAL SEQUENCE FARMING DEMONSTRATION PROPERTY – FIELD TRIP

MULLOON CREEK NATURAL FARMS

Wednesday 14 October 2009

9:30am - 1pm

9:30am welcome and morning tea (provided)

10am presentations and walking tour

Speakers & Hosts: Mr Martin Royds & Mr Tony Coote

“Mulloon Creek Natural Farms” is a 5700 acre farm owned and operated by Tony Coote. The property sits in the headwaters of the Shoalhaven River Catchment.

The farm received a matching grant in 2007 to set up a demonstration site to test the principles of Mr Peter Andrews’ Natural Sequence Farming techniques.

UMCCC originally visited Mulloon Creek in September 2007. On this follow-up visit members and guests will be able to see how the site has changed since our previous field trip shortly after work was completed.

RSVP ESSENTIAL BY FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER

Contact Pauline Carder for more information and to register.

pauline.carder@act.gov.au

Phone 6207 2999

NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION RESEARCH PLAN INFORMATION SESSION

The National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility is seeking comments on the draft *National Climate Change Adaptation Research Plan: Terrestrial Biodiversity*. You can find more details on the consultation process under the [“Consultations and Feedback Opportunities”](#) on page 9 of this newsletter.

An information session on the NARP will be held in Canberra:

Tuesday, 20 October
10:30am – 1:00pm.
Department of Climate Change
2 Constitution Avenue, Canberra City.

To register, email k.fitzgerald@griffith.edu.au

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)

FOCUS ON COMMUNITY GROUPS WORKSHOPS

Conservation Volunteers Australia in partnership with Toyota Australia is proud to offer a series of free volunteer management workshops. In our region it will be held in Canberra on October 22 and the topic will be *Client Relationships in Community Groups*. The workshops are free to join, but numbers are strictly limited, so please book ASAP.

For information and registration, visit

<http://www.conservationvolunteers.com.au/toyota-community-workshops/>

STILL SERIOUS ABOUT SEED – FROM THE LABORATORY TO THE Paddock

Greening Australia invites you to a "Still Serious about Seed" Field Day to be hosted at "Lyndfield Park" Gunning.

Greening Australia Capital Region Field Day.

Date: Wednesday 28th October
Time: 9am – 4pm
RSVP Essential by Friday 23rd October

This is a great opportunity for farmers, seed collectors and suppliers, researchers and natural resource managers to network and learn more about native seed operations, research and innovations. Since Greening Australia first hosted a seed forum 3 years ago much has been achieved in coordinating local native seed supply

services, establishing native seed production areas, improving efficiencies in seed use and provenance research

The day will feature special presentations and equipment demonstrations from those-in-the-know, plus a tour of Lyndfield Park. This 300ha property has undertaken large scale revegetation works since the early 1980's and is the oldest known Seed Production Area in southern NSW.

Email Bindi Vanzella for a flyer or to RSVP: bvanzella@act.greeningaustralia.org.au

ACT LANDCARE FRAMEWORK FORUM

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

Date: Thursday 29 October 2009

Time: 4:00pm – 6:30pm

Location: To be determined.

For more information about the Framework and the consultation process, see the "[Australian Framework for Landcare](#)" under the Consultations and Feedback Opportunities section on page 10 of this newsletter.

If you would like to register interest in attending contact Esther Duffy on 02 6205 2913 or esther.duffy@act.gov.au.

RESOURCES/INFORMATION

LANDCARE NEW GROUP STARTER KIT NOW AVAILABLE

The kit, developed by Landcare Australia Ltd, was designed to assist those interested in setting up a community landcare group including the general steps involved and the formal requirements that need to be considered when starting a group. To download the free kit visit

http://www.landcareonline.com/news_details.asp?sType=news&news_id=245&from=archive.

CONSULTATIONS AND FEEDBACK OPPORTUNITIES

COMMENT INVITED ON NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION RESEARCH PLAN FOR TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY

The National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility is seeking comments on the draft *National Climate Change Adaptation Research Plan: Terrestrial Biodiversity*.

The draft *National Climate Change Adaptation Research Plan: Terrestrial Biodiversity* has been developed by an expert writing team. It is one of a number of research plans being developed by NCCARF and the Australian Government Department of Climate Change to guide and coordinate climate change adaptation research in Australia.

Download the draft plan at: <http://www.nccarf.edu.au/node/201>

Comments must be received by **Friday, 30 October 2009**. There will be an information session in Canberra on Tuesday 20th October from 10:30am to 1:00pm. Download the information flyer.

<http://www.nccarf.edu.au/userfiles/Consult%20Plan%20TB%20Attach%205%20-%20Open%20information%20sessions.pdf>

AUSTRALIAN FRAMEWORK FOR LANDCARE – ACT FORUM ON 29 OCTOBER

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 a forum in Canberra on Thursday 29 October from 4pm – 6pm. The location is still to be arranged. Email Esther Duffy if you are interested in more information: esther.duffy@act.gov.au.

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>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

FIELD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – ANU RESEARCH

"The interaction of fire and fragmentation"

WHERE?

Northern Eyre Peninsula (near Kimba – home of The Big Galah!)

WHY VOLUNTEER?

- Gain valuable field-based experience in setting up reptile surveys.
- Learn about modified mallee landscapes.
- Help contribute to research in fragmented landscapes.

WHAT IS SUPPLIED?

Food & accommodation, all work equipment & travel during fieldwork. You will need to get to Kimba* yourself where you will be picked up and dropped off and bring your swag/sleeping bag.

* Premier Stateliner buses 08 8415 3555 or www.premierstateliner.com.au (see Adelaide to Ceduna time-table).

Interested? Want more details? Email: Juliana.Lazzari@anu.edu.au or ring: 0438 837 251. No experience necessary but you must have a reasonable level of general fitness as the work will be physical.

WHEN? Soon! During October 2009 for a minimum of five days but you can stay longer.

HOUSEHOLD WATER DIARIES – CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Dr Kuntala Lahiri Dutt and Kate Harriden from the Australian National University have put a call out for volunteers to keep water diaries to aid their on-going research into household water use.

The diary will be run for the third year during National Water Week, Oct 18 – 24. The diaries are delivered to the households, with a stamped, addressed envelope to facilitate its return when complete.

If you would like more details or would like to participate in this project, contact:

Kate Harriden
Master of Geographical Sciences (candidate)
The Australian National University
P: 02 6282 2082
E: waterdiary@hotmail.com
B: <http://waterdiary09.spaces.live.com>

AWARDS, COMPETITIONS

THE AUSTRALIAN RIRDC RURAL WOMEN'S AWARD 2010 - APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Rural women are encouraged to enter themselves or nominate someone they think is up to a new and exciting challenge.

The 2010 Award will provide the winner of the NSW/ACT region \$10,000 bursary and the opportunity for the winners and runner-ups to participate in the RIRDC Australian Institute of Company Directors based leadership program.

The Award celebrates rural women and their contributions to primary industries. It gives rural women the chance to discover their strengths and build their capacity to contribute to primary industries and rural Australia. But just as importantly the Award opens up a positive and powerful network of like-minded women across the country who are passionate about primary industries and rural Australia.

Applications close on World Rural Women's Day - 15th October 2009.

Information packages are available from Allison Priest at Industry and Investment NSW on 02 6391 3620 or email allison.priest@industry.nsw.gov.au or by visiting <http://www.ruralwomensaward.gov.au/>.