

News of our world

Date: 4/07/08

In the role as ACT Regional Natural Resource Management and Landcare Facilitator, I thought it appropriate to give you a bit of an update every month or so. I will keep comments to a minimum and rely on readers contacting me if they wish to know more. In the interests of brevity contributions are not individually acknowledged here. Please notify me of anyone who may wish to be added or removed from the distribution list. This newsletter will also appear on www.actlandcare.org

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Funding Opportunities

Caring for Our Country

www.nrm.gov.au/funding/open.html

Up to \$25 million for projects costing between \$80,000- \$400,000 that address identified national priorities. Applications must be received by 5.00 pm (AEST) Friday 1 August 2008. Applications being sought from a wide range of stakeholders including agencies, organisations and individuals. Projects must be completed within 12 months and can not devolve grants to other bodies.

Working on Country

www.environment.gov.au/indigenous/workingoncountry/index.html

Part of the Caring for our Country initiative that builds on Indigenous knowledge of protecting and managing land and sea country. It provides funding for Indigenous people to deliver environmental outcomes to the Australian Government. Working on Country applications are now being sought for 2008-09. A total of up to \$6 million will be available for on-ground work in 2008-2009, and funding for up to five years can be sought. Applications will close 5pm EST Monday 11 August 2008.

Community Grant – Australian Ethical

Australian Ethical donates 10% of its profit to useful charitable, benevolent and conservation projects. The grants are made from the shareholder profits of Australian Ethical Investment Ltd. The grants are not made from the investment trusts or superannuation fund managed by Australian Ethical.

The 2008 community grants will be announced in late September. All applications for the 2008 round must be received by Monday 14 July 2008.

www.austethical.com.au/company_information/community_grants/community_grants

Landcare Australia Ltd grants

Details of these grants can be accessed at www.landcareonline.com

- Australia Post Community Development Grants closes 19 Sep 2008
- Dilmah Water Quality Funding - closes 31 Oct 2008
- Westpac Operation Backyard employee grant program- no closing date applies
- Citipower/Powercor Junior Landcare Re-vegetation Grant - closes 27 June 2008
- Junior Landcare Grants Program - closes 1 Aug & 24 Oct 2008
- VISY Junior Landcare Recycling Grant
- Coles Junior Landcare School Garden Grant
- Australia Post Junior Landcare Biodiversity Grant

Youth Change Makers

Applications are now open for The Foundation for Young Australians Youth Change Makers grants. If you have a project you want to get going get in touch with ACT otherWISE and let us help you put together an application. Youth Change Makers is a grant round supporting young people who are advocates for change in their community, with assistance of up to \$10,000 per applicant group

Individuals or small groups of young people aged 12-25 may apply for a Youth Change Maker grant. This can be done with the support of an organisation, for example, a community organisation or school, enterprise, youth group, or local government.

Applications for Youth Change Makers are now open and close 6 October 2008. Further information, application forms and guidelines are available on The Foundation's website www.youngaustralians.org or by calling 1800 252 316.

Australia's Open Garden Scheme

Australia's Open Garden Scheme in association with ABC radio are proud to offer these grants to community organisations for the creation or improvement of a garden for a public or community outdoor space. Applications are invited from individuals, community groups and not-for-profit organisations. Three grants are available in the ACT & Southern NSW region - one grant of \$3000, two further grants of \$1000 each.

Application forms are available online at <http://www.opengarden.org.au>
Applications close on July 25th 2008.
For further details please phone Alison Stewart on 02 6230 3143.

Professional Advice and Planning Grant

Rural Financial Counsellors have lists of consultants who can provide advice using the Professional advice and training grants of up to \$5500 (Inc GST). Visit the RAA website www.raa.nsw.gov.au for a complete list of all rural counsellors.

The scope of the grants has been broadened to include the development of all risk management and business plans for a farm, NOT just a drought management plan. You do not have to be in receipt of other benefits through Centrelink. The aim of the grants is to assist farmers with planning and decision making processes during this difficult time. There is an off farm assets test limit of \$750,000 but NO Income test. Applicants must have been farmers for two years or more. Ring 13 23 16 for more information.

Catchment News

Molonglo Catchment Group

www.molonglocatchment.com.au

Molonglo Catchment Weed Information Pack

Chief Minister Jon Stanhope will launch the Molonglo Catchment Weed Information Pack on Sunday July 20th at the Majura Centre Hall in Dickson. Following the launch, community members are invited to attend a free information session on weed identification and control, which will be conducted by Jane Vincent of Quality Rural Solutions. The Weed Pack and information session

provide urban and rural residents the opportunity to equip themselves with the knowledge required to make a positive impact on the local environment and biodiversity of the region.

For more information, or to RSVP, contact Zoe Wood, Molonglo Catchment Coordinator, on 0408 475 970 or coordinator@molonglocatchment.com.au.

When: 1:30pm – 4:30pm, Sunday July 20th 2008

Where: Majura Centre Hall, Rosevear Place, Dickson, ACT

What to bring: Plants you believe are weeds that require identification. If your suspect plant is likely to be a native, just bring one a cutting / photo. Please ensure all plants with seeds are transported in a closed container / bag to avoid seed spread.

Burra Creek Planting day

Planting Day on July 11th with local partners at Jerrabomberra Creek at Little Burra, just off the Old Cooma Road. Please contact Zoe Wood, Molonglo Catchment Coordinator, on 0408 475 970 or coordinator@molonglocatchment.com.au.

Funding for revegetation works

The Molonglo Catchment Group has funding for riparian re-veg for landholders in the Molonglo catchment. If you know anyone who may be interested please direct them to Angela Calliess of Greening Australia. Funding does extend outside of riparian zones to include plantings such as windbreaks.

Ginninderra Catchment Group

www.ginninderralandcare.org.au

Nominate a Gungahlin site for Waterwatch

The Ginninderra Catchment Group is expanding its [Waterwatch](#) program across Gungahlin! Waterwatch is a community water monitoring program that engages and supports local community groups, residents, schools and landowners to regularly monitor the water quality of local creeks, wetlands, lakes, rivers and drainage lines. Currently there is only one site being monitored in Gungahlin, and **we want YOU to nominate more sites for monitoring**. You could name a favourite spot that you'd like to see kept in good nick, or a site where you think water quality is poor and needs attention. Sites can be within suburbs, nature reserves or any open space in the Gungahlin region. **Simply hit reply to this email to name a site!**

Ginninderra Catchment Group is also interested in running a short workshop on the identification of water weeds in Gungahlin. [Read more...](#)

Southern ACT Catchment Group

www.sactcg.org

Public Notices

Australian of the Year Awards 2009

The Australian of the Year Awards celebrate the contributions of those leading Australians who excel in their chosen field or who make outstanding achievements for the betterment of others.

The Australian of the Year Awards include four categories: Australian of the Year,

Young Australian of the year (16-30 years), Senior Australian of the Year (60+ years) and Local Hero.

You can obtain a nomination form from any branch of the Commonwealth Bank or contact Chief Minister's Support and Protocol on 6205 0192 or 6205 3031 or visit www.australianoftheyear.gov.au

NSW and ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards

It is that time of the year again when the nominations open for the NSW and ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards. We believe that you or your organisation may know of a deserving individual or organisation that deserves state wide recognition. Now is your chance to say a big Thanks!

The search is now on for individuals and groups in the following 6 categories:

- Business Enterprise Award
- Events & Tourism Award
- Crown Reserve Trust Award *NEW*
- Regional Service Award
- Environment & Landcare Award
- Community of the Year Award

Commonwealth Bank is offering cash prizes totalling \$30,000 for all winners in the Regional Service, Environment & Landcare, Community of the Year Award and Crown Reserve Trust categories.

Nominations Close 8th August 2008

Community Forums and Training Opportunities

Baselines: Colonisation to Conservation

Craft ACT is pleased to be holding the forum Baselines: colonisation to conservation, which we hope will become a community forum to addresses issues of preservation and care of the land, and the role of the arts as an advocate for change and renewal. To be held on near collector. More information contact: Diana Hare ph: 6262 9333 email: diana.hare@craftact.org.au

Masters of Deception. Fascinating Orchids

Dr Dean Rouse and Dr Peter Milburn from the ANU will be talking on the bizarre pollination techniques and unique ecology of orchids. Presented by the Friends of Mount Majura Parkcare Group, the talk will take place at the Blue Gum School Friends Lounge on Thursday 17 July from 7:30pm-9pm. Entry is free, however a gold coin donation will support volunteer work.

Launch of the Molonglo Catchment Weed Information Pack and free weed workshop

The ACT Chief Minister Mr Jon Stanhope MLA is launching a Weed Information Pack on Sunday 20 July at the Majura Centre Hall, Rosevear Place, Dickson commencing at 1:30pm. A weed workshop presented by Jane Vincent of Quality Rural Solutions will follow the launch. An RSVP is essential; contact Zoe Wood coordinator@molonglocatchment.com.au or phone 0408 475 970.

UMCCC General Meeting.

Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee meeting on 30 July where ActewAGL staff members Graham Crostin and Stacey Thompson will be talking about their work on the Murrumbidgee to Googong project. The meeting will be held in the Monaro Room at the Queanbeyan Community Centre in Crawford St, commencing at 9:30am.

Back Paddock Dreaming – Visions of Sustainable Landscapes

Greening Australia invites you to a free event hosted by James O’Loughlin from the ABC’s The New Inventors and a line-up of respected thinkers who will describe their visions of sustainable landscapes through personal stories encompassing water, climate change, conservation farming and biodiversity. The event will be held at Old Parliament House on Thursday 21 August from 2pm to 5 pm and is free. Bookings essential phone (02) 6523 3035 or email admin@act.greeningaustralia.org.au

Slippery Friends in our Backyards. About Frogs and Frog Habitats.

Dr Beth Mantle, ACT Frog Watch coordinator will talk about frogs of the ACT region. What makes them special? How can we help to protect them? How can we attract frogs to our own backyards? Presented by the Friends of Mount Majura Parkcare Group, the talk will take place at the Blue Gum School Friends Lounge on Thursday 21 August from 7:30pm–9pm. Entry is free, however a gold coin donation will support volunteer work.

Conservation Farming Systems Courses in Forbes/Parkes

The Lachlan CMA will be commencing Conservation Farming Systems Courses in August this year in both the Forbes and Parkes districts and possibly the Trundle area if there is enough interest. The course is practical and hands on and will appeal to both landholders new to conservation farming and those who simply need to finetune and better understand their existing systems.

For more information or to register please contact
Forbes: Emma Thomas on 6851 9507 or 0438 452 109
Parkes: Nina Hooper on 6816 3214 or 0447 452 362

Pasture Cropping Workshop

You are invited to a Pasture Cropping Workshop with The Advance Pasture Cropping Company. This practical and leading edge course covers the full theory and practice of both Pasture Cropping and No Kill Cropping. Economic analysis Cutting pasture establishment costs, improving grassland and soil health, Farm planning for perennial Profit.

The Lachlan CMA are offering this course fully subsidised, that's FREE, the usual cost for this course is \$500 per person.

Places are limited so bookings essential: please email to reserve you place to emma.thomas@cma.nsw.gov.au or call 6851 9507
Venue: Cowra
Date: Thursday 31st July and 1st August

Bridging the Cultural Divide

Working Successfully with Indigenous Communities

This seminar aims to provide people working in any area of Indigenous policy development, program implementation or direct service delivery with a deeper understanding of Indigenous culture.

Canberra 21-22 July

For bookings and enquiries, ph:(08) 8987 3910 or visit www.ards.com.au

Willow and Rivers Training Day – UMCCC

This free workshop looks at why willows can be weeds, how to identify willow species and methods of control.

Where: Queanbeyan Conference centre Crawford St, Queanbeyan

Date: Sunday 7th September 2008

Time: 10am to 3pm

More information contact Douglas Kerruish on 62052466.

Stories of Interest

ACT water contract goes to JH, Abigroup

Wednesday, 21 May 2008

ACT water contract goes to JH, Abigroup -- John Holland and Abigroup have been named contractor alliance partners on a major water security project in the ACT. The \$300 million project is being undertaken by the Bulk Water Alliance, which also includes energy and water service provider ACTEW and design partner GHD. John Holland Group MD David Stewart said the Bulk Water Alliance Program was critical to solving long-term water supply issues in the ACT. The BWA will undertake three separate projects including the Cotter Dam project – the construction of a 76m high roller compacted concrete wall with 50m wide crest and associated works, which will increase dam capacity from four to 78 GL. The two other projects include the Murrumbidgee to Googong project – the construction of a new pipeline, enabling the transfer of up to 100 ML of raw water per day; and the Googong Dam Spillway project – remedial works to the existing spillway adjacent to the main dam, which has been severely eroded as a result of spillway flow. John Holland parent company Leighton's shares dropped 88c to \$54.11 this morning. (*Courtesy of www.constructionindustrynews.net*)

<http://www.environmentalmanagementnews.net/StoryView.asp?StoryID=242384>

ABS Statistics Released for 06/07

Natural Resource Management on Australian Farms, 2006-07

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4620.0?OpenDocument>

National Greenhouse Accounts figures released

The Federal Government has released Australia's greenhouse emission results for 2006 and a preliminary result for 2007, showing that the national emissions are on target to meet the Kyoto Protocol requirements.

Australia's National Greenhouse Accounts shows that Australia's greenhouse emissions in 2007 were estimated to be 585 million tonnes or 106 per cent of 1990 levels. This is an increase of 1.6 per cent from 2006. In 2006, Australia's greenhouse emissions were 104.2 per cent of 1990 levels at 576 million tonnes.

The reports are available at <http://www.climatechange.gov.au/inventory/>

Report on Climate Change for regional NRM Bodies

The Department of Climate Change has recently published a report on climate change for regional NRM bodies.

To view or download a copy of 'Managing Australian landscapes in a changing climate - a climate change primer for regional natural resource management bodies 2008' go to

<http://www.climatechange.gov.au/impacts/publications/nrm.html>

New Greenhouse Emissions Reporting System

From next Tuesday (1 July), businesses emitting large amounts of greenhouse gases will be required to monitor and measure the emissions ahead of reporting them to the Government by October next year.

Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, said the requirements were part of Australia's new *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System*.

"The *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System* will be an important part of our efforts to tackle climate change as we move to establish an emissions trading scheme," Senator Wong said.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/wong/2008/pubs/mr20080626.pdf>

\$8.6 Million for Research on 'Win-Win' Water use

The Rudd Government has provided \$8.6 million for a new research project into how changed farming practices can simultaneously improve water use and productivity, while delivering better environmental outcomes.

"The Farms, Rivers and Markets Project will develop a 'how to' guide for farmers to integrate their farm water needs with broader environmental needs," Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, said.

"This project will involve farm-scale demonstrations exploring how the latest technology in water measurement and management, combined with better use of water markets, can boost farm profits and productivity, improve delivery of water to the farm gate, reduce leakage, and improve water use efficiency."

<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/wong/2008/pubs/mr20080622b.pdf>

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Regional facilitators are part of a national network funded through the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust to support community engagement in natural resource management.