

## News of our world

Date: November 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](http://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 FROM THE ACT NRM COUNCIL**

#### **ACT NRM COMMUNIQUÉ No 5/2009**

The ACT NRM Council met for its 21<sup>st</sup> meeting on Tuesday, 6 October 2009.

Council discussed mechanisms for increasing investment in natural resource management in the Territory and committed to further exploring mechanisms appropriate for the ACT including philanthropic options and strategies to attract corporate investment partnerships.

The Terms of Reference for the Council were considered and updated to reflect the changing funding environment and changing priorities of both Commonwealth and ACT Governments. The Terms of Reference will be further refined prior to consideration by Minister Corbell.

Commitment was made by Council to initiate discussions with relevant ACT Government agency heads to explore sub-catchment planning and management with the view to

raising the prospect of a trial exercise in resource management regardless of land tenure.

Council discussed and supported the concept of a proposal to engage landholders and government in a partnership project focused on the re-vitalisation of the Majura Valley.

Further to Councils' inaugural Researcher's Roundtable in July 2009 and ongoing discussions with key stakeholders, development of Council's Knowledge Strategy for NRM in the ACT is continuing. An NRM Researcher and Users Conference is planned for February 2010.

Council noted that applicants for the 2009-2010 Environment Grants have received notice in writing about their success or otherwise of their bids, and grant deeds are being prepared.

Council noted the success of the ACT Landcare Awards held on 10 September 2009. Council was awarded the Australian Government Landcare NRM Region Award.

Council has been successful in securing funding from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to support an ACT Landcare Facilitator position until December 2009. Council will apply for further funding of this position until 2013.

Council is progressing work with the ACT NRM community and environment groups to explore ways of working together for greater impact on the management of ACT natural resources.

Council hosted a national meeting for the Chief Executives, General Managers and Executive Officers from regional NRM organisations in Canberra on 3 September 2009. The agenda included national water reforms, national Landcare delivery, and leveraging private sector investment.

To promote engagement with the Indigenous community, Council is undertaking projects including: a four day Indigenous Cultural Landscape Awareness Training workshop in December 2009; and the development of an Indigenous Environmental Education Curriculum in partnership with the Departments of Environment, Climate Change Energy and Water and Education and Training.

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 1 December 2009.

## **EVENTS, COURSES AND VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL WEIGHTINGS WORKSHOPS RESULTS INQUIRY**

The Federal Government, Research organisations and Industry are working together to develop knowledge and tools to allow assessment of materials, processes and products on the environment. To gather information on the views of Australians on the significance of a range of environmental issues and risks, a series of 'weightings workshops' are being held at locations around the country.

We need people from all backgrounds, interests and walks of life to come along and tell us what matters to them. Are rising sea levels the most significant problem we as a

country will face, or depletion of fresh water supply? Does ozone depletion matter to you? Or are you more concerned with release of toxins into our waterways?

Canberra, ACT  
Murrumbidgee Room, Canberra Airport  
Monday, November 9  
10am-1pm

Please RSVP to: [ben.kneppers@edgeenvironment.com.au](mailto:ben.kneppers@edgeenvironment.com.au)

More information can be found at  
<http://www.edgeenvironment.com.au/index.php?a=weightings>.

## **AWARDS, COMPETITIONS**

### **NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2009 MCKELL MEDAL ARE NOW OPEN**

The McKell Medal is Australia's most prestigious award for excellence and achievement in natural resource management. The award commemorates the outstanding contribution made to the fields of soil and land conservation by Sir William McKell, Premier of NSW (1941-47) and Governor-General of Australia (1947-53).

The McKell Medal is awarded annually to recognise outstanding achievements in shaping community attitudes and practices in natural resource management through promotion, education, research or other development activities.

The McKell Medal is open to individuals or individuals working in partnership. Nominees' outstanding achievements in changing land-use practices and community attitudes about sustainable management of natural resources would be demonstrated by one or more of the following:

- community leadership in ethical land stewardship at local, regional, state or national level
- development and implementation of effective and innovative educational or promotional programs
- research undertaken, promoted or applied to make a significant contribution to the above criteria.

The nomination form and 2009 McKell Medal brochure can be found at  
[www.daff.gov.au/mckellmedal](http://www.daff.gov.au/mckellmedal).

### **Nominations close on 20 November 2009**

The McKell Medal is an initiative of the Australian, state and territory government agencies through the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council. Award nominations are assessed by an independent McKell Medal Advisory Panel.

For more information, please contact the McKell Medal Secretariat:  
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