



# Network Notes

Fortnightly newsletter for the Natural Resource Management (NRM) network

Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts

16 December 2005

## Special Interest Articles

- *Roper River Landcare Lends a Hand - Page 1*
- *Solar Cities - Page 4*



### CVA Risk Assessment Workshop Darwin 22<sup>nd</sup> March

The **Risk Assessment Training Workshop** will provide community leaders of community groups with simple but effective strategies for assessing and controlling risks associated with their activities.

The Workshops are free to attend and the training provided will assume no previous knowledge in this area but may be customised, where possible, to meet participants' needs and situations.

<http://www.cva.org.au/assisting-projects/RAWorkshopdates.htm>



### Roper River Landcare Group Lends a hand

In lieu of the River Recoveries Project commencing in Katherine the Roper River Landcare Group has extended a hand to the group to assist with project management. The Katherine Landcare Group has finally jumped through the hoops to receive its Envirofund grant for the Katherine River and Wetlands Project. The project includes stock exclusion fencing at the Lily Ponds and rehabilitation and stabilisation works in the Katherine river corridor. The Group is working with the Katherine Town Council to finalise the specifics of the project, identifying sites and works required.

Thank you to the Roper River Landcare Group for your much needed support - Sharon Hillen, President.

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## Australian Landcare Council appointments (media release 6 December 2005)

New appointments to the Australian Landcare Council (ALC) will help maintain strong and effective communication between volunteer landcare groups, the broader community and the Australian Government.

Australian Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Minister Peter McGauran today announced the appointment of three new members to the ALC:

- Youth representative Matthew Young, who runs a family farm at East Sassafras, Tasmania;
- ACT community representative Lynton Bond, Chair of the Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare Committee and Molonglo Catchment Group; and
- Queensland community representative Kirk Smith, a grazier from Charters Towers.

Another three community representatives to the ALC have been reappointed: Barbara Morrell (WA), Jim Forwood AM (NT) and John Klem (NSW).

"The landcare movement remains a trail-blazer in community-based care of productive landscapes, and the Council plays a major role in advising the Government on this important task," Minister McGauran said.

"The new members bring a wide mix of experience, which I am confident will add significantly to ALC's input.

"Landcare is one of Australia's largest voluntary community movements.

"There are about 4,000 landcare groups across the country, with some 40 per cent of farmers involved. The landcare ethic is also strong in our cities and towns."

Minister McGauran thanked the outgoing youth and ACT representatives, Darren Aisthorpe and Val Wiseman, for their time and dedication to the landcare movement. The Queensland position became vacant with the appointment of Bobbie Brazil to chair the ALC.

### *NATIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN DARWIN IN 2007*

The ALGA Board yesterday decided to hold the 2007 National General Assembly of Local Government in Darwin. The decision came in the wake of a strong campaign by the Lord Mayor of Darwin, Peter Adamson, with the support of the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory.

Lord Mayor Peter Adamson said that the Conference will attract nearly 1000 delegates plus partners and inject a million dollars into the city's economy during what is normally a quiet time of the year. "The ALGA National General Assembly features high calibre speakers from industry and respected opinion makers and will give us the opportunity to show-case Darwin to the Mayors, Councillors and staff of cities and shires from all around Australia".

The 2006 National Local Roads and Transport Congress will be held in Alice Springs to mark the second 'Year of the Outback'.



# Funding/Grants

## National Heritage Investment Initiative

The National Heritage Investment Initiative is an Australian Government grants programme that provides assistance to restore and conserve Australia's most important historic heritage places. Over 2005-06 to 2008-09 \$10.5 million will be available for projects that restore and conserve Australia's most important historic heritage places. Priority will be given to places included in the National Heritage List.

- Applications for National Heritage Investment Initiative close on 20 January 2006.

See: <http://www.deh.gov.au/minister/env/2005/mr02dec305.html>

## Indigenous Heritage Programme (Australia)

The Indigenous Heritage Programme provides Indigenous organisations or not-for-profit bodies with grants up to \$100,000 (GST inclusive). Individual Indigenous applicants are generally eligible for funding up to \$5000. The Australian Government has made \$3.45 million available through the Indigenous Heritage Programme for 2006-07 to support projects that identify, conserve and promote the Indigenous heritage values of places.

The 2006-07 round of the Indigenous Heritage grants program closes on 22 February 2006.

See: <http://www.deh.gov.au/minister/env/2005/mr02dec305.html>

## Australia Post/Landcare Community Development Grants

Australia Post and Landcare Australia Ltd have joined forces with two new grant opportunities for community and youth groups across Australia- *Australia Post/Landcare Community Development Grants* and *Junior Landcare Grants Program*. Further information and application forms can be accessed at [www.landcareonline.com](http://www.landcareonline.com) click on **Funding Opportunities**.



## A STEP CLOSER TO AUSTRALIA'S FIRST 'SOLAR CITIES'

Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator Ian Campbell, and Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, Ian Macfarlane, today announced eleven consortia from around Australia have been short-listed in the race to host the nation's first Solar Cities.

The short-listed proposals are:

1. Adelaide Solar Citizens
2. Alice Springs - Australia's Solar Centre
3. Blacktown Solar City
4. Brighter Future - Sydney Olympic Park / Auburn Solar City
5. Central Victorian Solar Cities Project
6. Coburg Solar City
7. Kalgoorlie-Boulder Solar Cities Project
8. Perth Solar City
9. Solar Cities Adelaide
10. Solar Newcastle
11. Townsville: Queensland Solar City

Each short-listed consortium will now receive \$50,000 to help them prepare a detailed business case, which will be assessed by an expert panel before a final decision is made next year about the location of Australia's Solar Cities.

Senator Campbell said the short-listed consortia were keen to help communities explore alternative energy solutions that will better meet peoples' energy needs. "This is an exciting new programme that encourages the use of solar panels, smart meters and energy efficient options along with a new approach to electricity pricing," he said. "It will reward 'energy wise' consumers, encourage business to test new sustainable energy options, and enable data to be collected on the environmental and economic costs of the initiative to help inform future energy and greenhouse policy."

Mr Macfarlane said at least four of the 11 short-listed submissions would be selected to host Solar Cities. One of these will be from Adelaide, as announced by the Prime Minister earlier this year. "The short-listed proposals were selected from a total of 23 submissions throughout Australia, representing most states and the Northern Territory. Australia has really embraced the Solar Cities concept and is on track to produce its first 'energy-wise' communities," he said.

The \$75 million Solar Cities programme, announced in last year's Energy White Paper, is part of the Australian Government's \$1.8 billion climate change strategy which aims to help build an effective global response to climate change, encourage domestic action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and prepare industries and communities for the impacts of climate change.



## Conferences

### Get naked - at the Annual Facilitator Conference 'The Naked Facilitator' 29 November - 1 December 2006

You're invited to join us for a chance to go naked (the processes, not the facilitators!) at the 9th Annual Australasian Facilitators' Network (AFN) Conference on the Waterfront in Geelong. **This conference is open to anyone who is interested in facilitation.**

As facilitation matures and grows so do expectations of what it, and we, can deliver. In today's and tomorrow's world many look to the promise of facilitation. So what is our promise? What are our core values? How can we care for, and develop ourselves, while giving so much to others? These, and many more questions, will be explored at the conference.

In the best tradition of The Naked Chef, we bring you *The Naked Facilitator*. What can we facilitators learn from a chef like Jamie Oliver, whose philosophy is to 'keep it simple - and avoid jargon and any process that isn't justified by the end results'?

Join us in Geelong to strip back to the basics of facilitation; explore facilitation as performance and intellect; connect in surprising ways; challenge and be challenged.

#### Your Geelong Hosts:

Viv McWaters, Vera Lubczenko, Geoff McFarlane, Geoff Brown, Martin Butcher, Nicole Hunter and Anne Pattillo

The *Australasian Facilitators' Network* (AFN) is a self-organising community of practitioners that has been meeting since 1992. It is open to anyone with an interest in facilitation. To subscribe to the facilitation discussion list send an email to [bdick@scu.edu.au](mailto:bdick@scu.edu.au)

### International Landcare Conference website

The conference website can be accessed at [www.internationallandcareconference2006.com.au](http://www.internationallandcareconference2006.com.au) The International Landcare Conference 'Landscapes, Lifestyles & Livelihoods' will be held at the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre, Melbourne, Victoria, from Sun 8<sup>th</sup> October to Wed 11<sup>th</sup> October 2006. **Abstract submissions need to be lodged no later than Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2006.**

## Competition

### Water Quality Monitoring Kits - entries invited

Dilmah Tea and Landcare Australia Ltd (LAL) have developed a 3 year partnership with a focus on supporting water quality activities. Community groups are invited to enter into the draw to win a Water Quality Monitoring Kit (one available for each of the 56 NRM regions across Australia). Further information and entry forms can be accessed at [www.landcareonline.com](http://www.landcareonline.com) and scroll down to the Dilmah promotion or contact David Hehir at LAL [david@landcareaustralia.com.au](mailto:david@landcareaustralia.com.au) or telephone (02) 9412 1040



# Publications

## Landcareonline website and launch

Landcare Australia Ltd's (LAL) new Landcareonline website and the National Landcare Directory were launched yesterday by the Hon Peter McGauran, Minister for Agriculture. Designed to provide support to the landcare movement, the website acts as a hub for information and contacts, connecting landcare stakeholders across Australia.

Highlights of Landcareonline include information and updates on:

- Latest funding opportunities - corporate and government
- Nearest landcare group or catchment organisation
- Volunteering for a project or to start a new group
- Tools and resources to better support community group efforts
- Who's who in landcare at a local, state, catchment and national level
- Case studies on landcare techniques for a particular issue or region
- School resources on landcare and natural resource management
- National Landcare Australiaprojects and campaigns (media and corporate)

You are also invited to place information about local landcare events or request a call for volunteers to be distributed.

LAL is supported by Westpac Bank, Onesteel Waratah and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

LAL invites you to register your landcare details online (whether as a group, professional support officer, committee member or volunteer) for information updates. The site features a 'Protocols and Policy' statement detailing how the Directory will be used and protected. As the site will be regularly updated, you are also invited to lodge comments and ideas for further development of the site. **The website address is [www.landcareonline.com](http://www.landcareonline.com)**

### Sony Digital Cameras on offer to landcare groups- one per region

Landcare groups will soon receive an invitation in the mail to register their details on the National Landcare Directory and go in the draw for Sony Digital Cameras to record their landcare activities and achievements. Landcare Australia has 56 cameras on offer - with one per catchment available in the draw. Groups will also receive information about new corporate partners Dilmah Tea (Silver sponsor) and Australia Post (Platinum Sponsor) who have come on board to support the landcare community.

# Publications cont.....

## *Australian Green Grants Guide 2006*

Are you involved in a community group or working with a Local Council, or are you an individual or business with a great project that could help the environment? You could be eligible to apply for one of the hundreds of grants available each year that could make a big financial difference. Projects that lower greenhouse gas emissions or conserve places of environmental and heritage value or use water wisely, are examples of those that have received funding. If your project has the ability to benefit the environment then it's worth having a look at the new *Australian Green Grants Guide 2006*. It's important to start thinking about funding now for next year's projects. With the *Australian Green Grants Guide 2006*, you'll have access to 160 pages of information about more than 200 grants that are broken down by Australian State and Territory, as well as themes and eligible applicants. The Guide focuses on grants that relate to seven themes: Water, Biodiversity, Energy, Greenhouse, Heritage Sites, Land, Waste.

To purchase a copy of the *Australian Green Grants Guide 2006*, please contact the Local Government Association of the NT.

## Market Based Instruments projects - final reports

The reports from the first round of the NAP Market Based Instruments projects are now being progressively added to the National Action Plan web site.

A summary of each project and a hot link to each of the four reports currently available is at <http://www.napswq.gov.au/mbi/projects.html>. In addition, there is a report providing an evaluation of the first round IBM projects at <http://www.napswq.gov.au/mbi/round1-evaluation.html>.

These reports can also be accessed through the Books and Reports list of publications at <http://www.napswq.gov.au/publications/index.html#books>.

The remaining final reports will be progressively added to the web site as these are completed.

Ministers announced on 2 December that there would be a second round of projects with funding of up to \$5 million. The press release is at <http://www.deh.gov.au/minister/env/2005/mr02dec05.html>

## Publications cont.....

### Booklet on farm forestry in Australian agricultural landscapes

Greening Australia has published a book '*A Vision Splendid*' presenting the dreams, inspirations and experiences of farm forestry in Australian agricultural landscapes through first-hand accounts by eight Australian farmers. The book can be purchased for \$22 by either phoning (02) 6281 8585 or via the Greening Australia website at [www.greeningaustralia.org.au](http://www.greeningaustralia.org.au)

### Bushland-friendly gardens website

The Weeds CRC has developed a new website area named Bushland-friendly gardens which provides lists of commonly available garden plants that should be avoided in your chosen region. The website address is [www.weeds.crc.org.au/bushlandfriendlygardens/bfg\\_home.html](http://www.weeds.crc.org.au/bushlandfriendlygardens/bfg_home.html)

## Setting national course for environmental education

For the first time Australia has a nationally-agreed vision for environmental education in its schools. In a joint statement today, the Australian Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator Ian Campbell, and the Minister for Education, Science and Training, Dr Brendan Nelson, announced the vision for environmental education nationwide.

Senator Campbell said *Educating for a Sustainable Future: A National Environmental Education Statement for Australian Schools* would provide a national reference point for schools and teachers across Australia to follow.

"It provides a consistent approach for curriculum developers, teachers, schools, communities and broader education systems to educating students throughout their schooling about the environment and the importance of living sustainably," he said.

"This 32-page document is the result of extensive consultation, research and development with teachers, communities, organisations, governments and industry groups and is compatible with existing state and territory policies and programmes.

"It also complements other environmental initiatives including the Australian Government's National Action Plan for Environmental Education and the intergovernmental Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative," Dr Nelson said.

Both Senator Campbell and Dr Nelson welcomed the release of the statement to coincide with the first year of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development."

To view the statement visit [www.deh.gov.au/education/publications/sustainable-future.html](http://www.deh.gov.au/education/publications/sustainable-future.html)



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## Newsletter Roster

Newsletter Publication Date	Editor	Submissions to editor by:
30 December	No Network Notes - Christmas fortnight	NA



This newsletter is prepared fortnightly by the Regional NRM facilitators in the Territory. It is prepared for distribution, in the first instance to the Local Level Facilitator network. The Local Level Facilitators can then forward this newsletter onto any groups, individuals that may benefit from the information contained within this publication. It is also hoped the newsletter will be a medium by which NRM information can be passed onto others in the network. SO if you have any concerns, articles, adverts or news that you wish to share, please send it into the Regional Facilitator who is listed on the newsletter roster.

**This newsletter contains a number of web links to access further information on topics. If you have difficulty downloading information, please contact your Regional NRM Facilitator (contact details on last page of newsletter) who can send/fax you a hardcopy.**