

HANDS-ON

Greening Australia volunteer newsletter, January 2009



A very warm welcome to 2009

Over the holiday period it has been good to rejuvenate after a record-breaking year of environmental volunteering in 2008. The focus in 2009 will again be the Lower Cotter Catchment with the ACT Government committing to a Cotter Transformation project to build on the good work of volunteers in recent years. The ACT Government and Greening Australia are committed to see the Cotter rehabilitation work through to fruition, in time to celebrate Canberra's centenary in 2013. See overleaf for a 2009 community events calendar.

Bring a friend (or two) this year

Greening Australia is aware that we have asked a lot of our volunteers over the years, with many having attended dozens of events. To share the workload, we are looking to get new people involved. If you have any suggestions as to how we can reach new volunteers, please phone Haydn Burgess on 6253 3035 or email him on hburgess@act.greeningaustralia.org.au. We encourage all volunteers to invite family members, friends, and work colleagues to our events.

Seed Squad sizzles over summer

Dozens of volunteers assisted GA staff to collect over 50kg of native seed during November, December and January. Seed was collected from species such as *Acacia*, *Hardenbergia*, *Indigofera*, *Daviesia*, *Leptospermum*, *Dodonaea* and *Xerochrysum*. Quite a bit of seed dropped over the Christmas period, and we are currently looking for suitable sites for the Seed Squad. Stephen Thompson is taking the Seed Squad out next week to collect seed from *Cassinia* and *Lomandra* species (see details below).

Events in January

Plant ID Walk, Monday 26 January

Celebrate Australia Day at the Cotter Bush Picnic this Monday. Greening Australia will have information on display and will lead a walk to identify some of our great local native plants. We will also collect some seed if possible. If you are planning to attend the Cotter Bush Picnic, please give Haydn a call on 6253 3035.

What time? 11am to 3pm

Where? Cotter Reserve

How to get there? Head west on Cotter Road, cross the Murrumbidgee River, drive past the Cotter Campground, cross the Cotter River then follow the parking signs

What to bring? Hat, sunscreen, water, food, walking shoes

Further information:

<http://www.australiaday.org.au/events/?m=558>

Seed collecting, Tuesday 27 and Thursday 29 January

Stephen Thompson will lead two seed collecting events next week. The mini-bus will depart GA's nursery (Kubura Place, Aranda) at 8:00am each day and return by 12:30pm. Sites will include Nature Reserves around Canberra, and the Lower Cotter. Seed to be collected includes *Lomandra* and *Cassinia*. Please wear a hat, sunscreen, long sleeves, long pants, sturdy shoes, and bring a water bottle. GA will provide gloves, a snack to eat, extra water and instruction in how to collect seed.

RSVP essential for each event. Please phone Haydn on 6253 3035 or email hburgess@act.greeningaustralia.org.au. New volunteers are always welcome.



Australian Government



Greening Australia

Greening Australia Volunteer Events Calendar January—June 2009

Monday 26 January

Plant ID Walk

Celebrate Australia Day at the Cotter Bush Picnic and take a hike to identify some of our great local native plants.

Sunday 22 February

Volunteer Thank You Day

Enjoy a BBQ at the Cotter Reserve, introduce a friend or family member to the GA volunteer scene, and take a behind-the-scenes tour of the Lower Cotter Catchment.

Saturday 21 March

Tour de Cotter (Back by popular demand)

The mountain bike tour of the Lower Cotter Catchment returns, and this time we will breeze through the Pierces Creek area.

Sunday 5 April

Beyond Sugarloaf

Join the ACT Government and Greening Australia for the first planting of 2009.

Sunday 10 May

Mother's Day Planting

Plant a tree (or ten) for mum this Mother's Day.

Sunday 7 June

World Environment Day Planting

Make apathy history this World Environment Day.

N.B. Further details to be advised closer to event dates.

RSVP required for all events. Contact Haydn on 6253 3035 or 0439 030 059.

 **Greening Australia**

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