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February 2019

Welcome to the first Yellow Box Dispatch for 2019. This is our monthly summary of some of the environmental issues and events in the ACT region. We hope you had a great break and have gotten back into the swing of things this year.

This month's Dispatch talks about the following news, campaigns and events:

1. Welcome to the office
2. Our 40th anniversary is 2021
3. Take action against climate change
4. Canberra losing urban trees
5. Member Group Stories
6. The Future of Gas: a pipe dream?
7. Sign up for Heritage Walks
8. Opportunity – Community Information Stall
9. World Environment Day Dinner
10. Events

We have many more events listed on [our Facebook page under events](#).

Happy reading!

Regards

Clare Henderson

Interim Executive Director, Conservation Council ACT Region

News



Welcome to the office

We have had a busy start to the year with our office being home to meetings, art and more meetings!

School kids were in the office planning their rallies and campaigns for youth-led climate action in the ACT. They're gearing up for the Canberra School Strike 4 Climate on 15 March. We're excited to support this great action!

Reclaim Kosci was here to organise their 2019 campaign against feral horses. They are running an Excursion to Kosciuszko to show the impacts of feral horses and a Narjong (water) Healing Ceremony.

The Artists and Stop Adani have also been here preparing for the Stop Adani: Climate Action Now rally on 12 February. They turn our office into a creative hub every Wednesday from 3-5PM so come along if you'd like to join.

We have our offices available for your meetings and events. To book, send an email to office.manager@conservationcouncil.org.au or call 6229 3200.



Our 40th anniversary is 2021

Ian Fraser, one of the founding members of the Conservation Council ACT Region, has cleared the confusion surrounding our date of incorporation.

The reason for the confusion was that our certificate of incorporation states that we 'incorporated' on 1 May 1979. However this was another group with the same name and then they disbanded. From Ian's account, it seems they were never operational. It makes sense as we have no executive records prior to April 1981.

The real date of incorporation is 29 April 1981, when the Conservation Council held its inaugural AGM to adopt the constitution and elect the first executive committee.

Thanks Ian for clarifying our history. We are looking forward to our 40th anniversary in 2021!



Take action against climate change

January has seen Canberra experience its longest run of days above 40 degrees this January. According to the Canberra Times, 'for 25 years between 1973 and 1998, Canberra did not reach 40. There were nine days where temperatures reached 40 degrees between 1913 and 2006, but since 2007, Canberra has reached 40 degrees 16 times, including Friday.'

This extreme weather only highlights how our city needs to quickly adapt to more extreme heat driven by climate change. We must continue to highlight the climate crisis and to be active in our community to make sure 2019 is the 'climate election'. So check out these upcoming rallies to TAKE ACTION:

[StopAdani Climate Action Rally](#)

When: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 9AM - 10:30AM

Where: Parliament House

[National Forest Uprising Rally](#)

When: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 12PM - 1PM

Where: Parliament House

[Canberra Strike for Climate Action](#)

When: Friday, March 15, 2019 at 12PM - 2PM

Where: TBC

See Canberra Times article



Canberra losing urban trees

The Canberra Times recently reported that [street and park trees in our established suburbs are declining by around 3,000 a year](#) because the ACT Government's replanting program is inadequate.

Worse, the last report on this issue, from 7 years ago, showed that our streets and parks need 40,000 trees to fill gaps where trees are missing and to replace dead and dying trees.

Canberra's urban trees are loved by the Canberra community. They provide shade to keep our suburbs cool in summer and are important for native birds and animals.

Trees will be even more important in future as our climate gets hotter. Planting trees now is an investment in the future of our city.

You can sign the e-petition below, which asks the ACT Legislative Assembly to request the ACT Government to plant an extra 7,000 trees a year to reverse the decline, and begin restoring the city's tree canopy.

[Sign petition](#)



Member Group Stories

We are starting Member Group Stories this year. Each week, we will present one 'feature' Member Group on our website and social media. We will be presenting information on MG campaigns, visions and goals for 2019.

Our first Member Group Stories come from the ANU Environment Collective and National Parks Association ACT. Check out our website or social media channels to see their work and upcoming in 2019.

If you want to learn more about this series, like us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). You can also follow these Stories on our website [here](#).

[View Stories](#)



The Future of Gas: a pipe dream?

Join us for the first Environment Exchange on Tuesday 26 February 2019 from 11AM – 2PM. This forum will explore the gas issue in the ACT and beyond. We have three expert speakers giving an insight into the various issues relating to the phase out of gas. They are:

1. Jess Stewart, Ginninderry Sustainability Manager
2. William Yeap, EVO Energy
3. James Prest, ANU Energy Change Institute

There will be a ploughman's lunch with tea and coffee provided. Register now before places are filled!

[Register](#)



Sign up for Heritage Walks

We are showcasing the natural treasures of the ACT Region at the 2019 Canberra Heritage Festival. This year's theme is "Space" and our events explore some of the lesser known natural 'spaces' in the ACT as well as new aspects of some old favourites.

Be one of the few lucky Canberrans to have truly explored Kama and Kinlyside or rekindle your passion for Mulligan's Flat and Red Hill. Explore a fascinating mix of heritage; from an ancient geological site, to one of Canberra's first water reservoirs, to a modern day street art Tardis.

This program involves guided walks at Red Hill, Kama Reserve, Mulligans Flat and Kinlyside Reserve during April 2019.

This program was supported with funding made available by the ACT Government under the ACT Heritage Grants Program.

[Register](#)



Opportunity - Community Information Stall

Would your group like to provide people and/information for a community information stall at the National Multicultural Festival on Sunday 17 February? This is a great opportunity to outreach to the wider community.

The Conservation Council has booked a a 3X3 stall for Sunday information day at the National Multicultural Festival on Sunday 17 February. We cover the necessary insurance and booking costs.

Please let us know asap if you would like to be involved, and we can provide further details: email office.manager@conservationcouncil.org.au or phone 62293200.



Save the date!

When: Saturday 01 June 2019, 7:00 – 10:30pm

Where: Gandel Atrium, National Museum of Australia

World Environment Day Dinner is our annual largest fundraising event. Join us to celebrate Canberra's environment community and support our organisation. The theme for the 2019 World Environment Day Dinner is Optimism and Defiance and our guest speaker is Dr Bob Brown.

We are joining forces with the wonderful Broadbean Catering, who will provide us with a stunning 3-course meal. The dinner will start with canapes and champagne, followed by a three course meal with table wine included. All dietary requirements will be catered for.

Registrations open soon.

[More information](#)

Events

ANU Climate Update

ANU Climate Update 2019 will present an overview of how our climate is changing and how we are responding to these changes in Australia and around the world. You'll hear from experts, practitioners and leading commentators from across ANU and throughout Australia.

When: Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 2:15 PM – 6:45 PM

Where: H.C. Coombs Lecture Theatre Building [9], East Rd, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory 2601

[Sign up](#)

Making zero waste products

This hands-on workshop will show you how to make 3 common household products: One for your body, one for the kitchen and one for sanitising all household surfaces using non-toxic and easy to source ingredients.

When: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 6 PM – 8 PM

Where: Canberra Environment Centre, Cnr Lennox Crossing and Lawson Crescent

[Sign up](#)

EEIS Stakeholder Forum

Attend the stakeholder consultation meeting, which is seeking feedback on the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme extension to 2030.

When: Thursday, 14 February at 9:30AM – 4:30PM

Where: Renewables Innovation Hub, 19–23 Moore St, Turner

[Sign up](#)

Big skills for small bikes

Want to get your kids cycling but not sure where to start? Pedal Power's Big Skills for Small Bikes course will give you the skills to get your little ones riding safely and confidently. For kids aged 3 – 8 with parents/carers. Starts 23 Feb.

When: commencing Saturday 23 February with four weekly sessions at 9.00 – 9.45 am and 10.00 – 10.45 am
Where: Basketball Courts behind Majura Primary School, 101 Knox St Watson
Cost: Adults free. \$50 per child

[Sign up](#)

ANU Farmers Market

The ANU Environment Collective is hosting a farmers market to bring fresh food, fun stallholders, and an opportunity to meet the Aussie Farmer.

When: Friday, February 22, 2019 at 10 AM – 1 PM

Where: University Avenue, ANU campus

[Sign up](#)

Native Plant Sale

Head to the autumn native plant sale! There will be a great range of local species and all plants will be ideal for new and established gardens.

When: Saturday 16 March 2019 8.30am to 1.30pm

Where: Southern Car Park, Australian National Botanic Gardens

[Sign up](#)

Address and [Contacts](#)

