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March 2019

Welcome to the Conservation Council's Yellow Box Dispatch for March 2019. This is our monthly summary of some of the environmental issues and events in the ACT region. We have had a packed month full of rallies and protests, campaigns and plenty of exciting news in the bush capital.

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

1. Early bird registrations are open!
2. Active Transport Raffle is LIVE
3. February Environment Exchange wrap up
4. Cat containment update
5. Sign up for Heritage Walks
6. School Climate Strike on 15 March
7. Bob Brown leading convoy to Bowen coal port
8. Single use plastic could be banned in ACT
9. No feral horses removed from Kosciuszko in 2018
10. Canberra wetlands declared 'endangered'
11. Member Group Stories
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We have many more events listed on our Facebook page under [events](#).

Happy reading!

Regards

Conservation Council ACT Region

News



Early bird registrations are open!

When: Saturday 01 June 2019, 6:30PM – 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 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.

[Buy tickets](#)



Active Transport Raffle is LIVE

THE CONSERVATION COUNCIL'S ACTIVE TRANSPORT RAFFLE IS LIVE! Win an E-bike valued at \$1,800 and check out our other great prizes.

Active Transport is cycling, walking or catching the bus (which would involve both cycling and walking in the same trip). Promoting active transport has both health and environmental benefits due to increased physical activity, reduced air and noise pollution, and decreased greenhouse gas emissions.

The Active Transport Raffle will assist Conservation Council work to:

1. help ensure all Canberrans can travel to work, the shops, their educational institutions, places of entertainment and social interactions without a car;
2. make Canberra an active transport hub; and
3. boost active transport tourism in the ACT region.

Tickets start from \$5 each. The winners will be announced at our World Environment Day dinner on 1st June 2019. Winners will be notified by phone or email, with the results posted on the Conservation Council website.

[Buy tickets](#)



February Environment Exchange wrap up

On Tuesday 26 February, we held our first Environment Exchange for 2019. '[The Future of Gas: a pipe dream?](#)' asked the hard questions about the role and place for gas in the ACT.

After the ACT reaches its 2020 Renewable Electricity Target, natural gas will become the ACT's second largest generator of greenhouse gases, accounting for 21 per cent of emissions. We need to take a good hard look at ways to decarbonise the gas sector to achieve net zero emissions by 2045 in the ACT.

We heard from guest speakers William Yeap (Evoenergy), Jessica Stewart (Ginninderry) and Dr James Prest (ANU Energy Change Institute).

The outcomes of discussions seem that we need to do the following to properly address the gas issue:

1. The ACT government must take responsibility for the issue.
2. We need regulatory incentives to transition away from fossil gases and uptake renewable sources.
3. We need community participation in the gas issue.

Our next Environment Exchange will be **Tuesday 26 March 2019** at the Renewable Innovation Hub from 12NOON – 2PM. A free ploughman lunch and tea and coffee will be provided. Register [here](#).

Register for next event



Cat containment update

Join us for our second Environment Exchange, 'You can love your cat and wildlife too: cat containment in Canberra'. This forum is on **Tuesday 26 March 2019 from 12NOON – 2PM**. It will be a timely event, with the ACT government due to release a draft Cat Plan soon. We will have interesting guest speakers and plenty to talk about!

A ploughman's lunch with tea and coffee will be 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



School Climate Strike on 15 March

[Canberra Strike for Climate Action](#)

When: Friday, March 15, 2019 at 12 PM – 3 PM

Where: Garema Place, City ACT 2601, Australia

After the great success of the School Strike 4 Climate Action in November 2018, Australia's super school students are organising a School Strike on 15 March.

We need the broader community to lend its support to these school students in the lead up to the strike.

Here are some ways you can get involved:

1. Are you an Academic supporter? Strike with the school students in solidarity by [signing this petition](#).
2. Are you a university student? Join the [student contingent to the climate school strike](#).
3. Do you want to stay informed? Sign up for [email updates](#).
4. Do you want to spread the word? Download your own [copy of the poster](#).

Read more



Bob Brown leading convoy to Bowen coal port

Our World Environment Day dinner guest speaker, Dr Bob Brown, is leading an anti-Adani road convoy to the coal port of Bowen.

We are so lucky to have Bob as our guest speaker at the World Environment Day dinner on June 01 2019. He will be talking about the importance of adopting the philosophy of 'Optimism and Defiance' in the face of climate change and other environmental issues.

[Buy tickets now](#) to hear from Dr Brown himself!

Support the convoy



Single use plastic could be banned in ACT

ACT Minister Chris Steel told the Legislative Assembly earlier in February that ['the ACT government will consider a potential ban on single-use plastics including straws and cutlery in coming years'](#).

This follows a review of the government's ban on non-recyclable plastic bags.

A discussion paper is set to be released by the government at some point in the future.

Read more



No feral horses removed from Kosciuszko in 2018

NSW Office for Environment and Heritage confirmed that no feral horses were removed from Kosciuszko National Park in 2018.

['ACT Environment Minister Mick Gentleman said the lack of action was "irresponsible"](#) and ACT Parks manager Brett McNamara said it was "alarming", with concerns a nearby 4500-strong population will soon enter and destroy the ACT's water catchment areas near Namadgi National Park.'

Join [Reclaim Kosci](#) and [NPA ACT](#) if you want to help the effort to address the feral horse problem in Kosciuszko.

Read more



Canberra wetlands declared 'endangered'

Concerns over the growing population of feral horses across the ACT border has led the [ACT government to declare the wetlands in Namadgi National Park "endangered"](#).

Last week's feature Member Group, NPA ACT, took ACT Legislative Assembly members to Ginini Ramsar wetlands in 2018 to show them the potential dangers from feral horses. It appears the government has heeded these warnings...

This year in 2019, NPA ACT is part of a recently formed coalition of five environmental groups in the ACT and NSW, which is planning and implementing a campaign to raise awareness of the damage caused by thousands of feral horses in national parks especially Kosciuszko National Park.

Support NPA ACT



Member Group Stories

Member Group Stories presents the work of one 'feature' Member Group each week. Each Story showcases the diverse activities and campaigns of the ACT region's environmentally-focused organisations. Take a look at our Stories from February 2019.

[View all Stories](#)



Australian Association for Environmental Education

Australian Association of Environmental Education ACT. AAEE ACT works collaboratively with local EFS (Education for Sustainability) organisations on important environmental issues, through sharing expertise, exchanging information and providing professional development.

[Read Story](#)



Pedal Power ACT

Pedal Power ACT is the largest cycling organisation in the nation's capital. Pedal Power's active advocacy team is focused on improving conditions for cycling in Canberra. It has a variety of upcoming events so check out the post below for more information!

[Read Story](#)



Ginninderra Falls Association

Ginninderra Falls Association (GFA) was formed in 2011 to lobby for public access to the Ginninderra Falls and surrounding areas.

They are dedicated to protecting and conserving the ecological values of the Murrumbidgee River area and Ginninderra Falls.

[Read Story](#)

Member Group News

Newsletters

- [FNAC Natter Newsletter](#)
- [Vegan ACT](#)
- [Canberra Environment Centre](#)

Volunteers needed at NPA ACT

National Parks Association ACT are seeking volunteers for the office admin work. They need a few more volunteers to fill out the roster so it doesn't make the commitment more than a couple of hours a month. No experience needed. If you are interested please contact Annette on 6286 2984 to discuss.

SEE-Change recruiting Executive Officer

SEE-Change is looking for a part-time Executive Officer for 17 hours per week. The organisation's focus in 2019 is on active travel, climate change adaptation and resilience and reduced consumption. If you are passionate about sustainability, like working with people and enjoy flexibility this might be the role for you. More information [here](#).

Events

Annual Field Day - Canberra Region Beekeepers

Canberra Region Beekeepers will be holding its major field day event for 2019 at Jerrabomberra Wetlands Center. The day will include demonstrations of beekeeping (both native and honeybees) as well as honey sales, gear vendors as well as honey infused treats that include ice-cream and mead.

When: Saturday, March 9, 2019 at 10 AM – 1 PM

Where: Jerrabomberra Wetlands, Dairy Rd, Canberra

[Sign up](#)

Ecology Forum

The Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand is convening a one-day forum featuring a range of presentations about environmental policy and practice relating to ecology.

When: Wednesday 13 March 2019, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Where: University House, Australian National University, 1 Balmain Crescent, Acto

[Sign up](#)

Vegan Day Out

Braddon businesses will be discounting all your favourite vegan foods, drinks, groceries, fashion and more. It's perfect for a vegan food crawl, shopping tour and showcasing veganism to friends and family.

When: Mar 9 at 9 AM – Mar 10 at 5 PM

Where: The Cruelty Free Shop, 3/24 Mort Street, Braddon, Canberra

[Sign up](#)

What will it take to limit global warming to 1.5C?

Prof Myles Allen will argue that the only way of ensuring that carbon dioxide disposal is available, on the scale and at the time it will be needed, is to make its deployment a licensing requirement of continued fossil fuel extraction.

When: Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 6 PM – 7:30 PM

Where: The Australian National University, East Rd, Canberra

[Sign up](#)

Canberra Harvest Festival 60th Anniversary Members' Forum

Come celebrate local sustainable produce at the Canberra Environment Centre. Sample some gourmet local food or join in on our free sustainability workshops and talks running throughout the day!

When: Saturday, March 23, 2019 at 2 PM – 6 PM

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

[Sign up](#)

The NPA ACT's 60th anniversary will take place on 1 March 2020. The lead up to this key milestone in NPA's long history offers an opportunity for the organisation to reflect on its past achievements and explore its future directions.

When: Saturday, 6 April from 9.00 am – 12.30 pm

Where: St Margaret's Uniting Church in Hackett

RSVP at
cynthia.burton69@bigpond.com.

[More information](#)

Address and [Contacts](#)

