Friends of Grasslands

Supporting native grassy ecosystems

'Grass half full or grass half empty?

Valuing native grassy landscapes'

A forum to celebrate grasslands and grassy woodlands:
their beauty and complexity, ecology and productivity, science and management

Check www.fog.org.au/forum2014.htm for more details

See attached map for directions on how to get to the Discovery Centre and where to park and how to get to the ATSIC Cultural Centre for Saturday's field trip

Program for Thursday 30 October
CSIRO Discovery Centre

8.30	**Registration**
9.00	***Session 1. Chair: John Fitz Gerald***
9.05	**Sarah Sharp**, President of Friends of Grasslands Welcome What has changed in twenty years of grassy landscape conservation?
9.30	**Sarah Ryan & Nick Abel**, CSIRO Perceptions and values of grassy ecosystems
10.00	**Robert Neil**, ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment How are the changing priorities of government influencing plans, policies and actions that affect the ACT's native grassy ecosystems?
10.30	**Philip Gibbons**, Fenner School, ANU Are biodiversity offsets an appropriate way to conserve grassy ecosystems?
11.00	*Morning tea*
11.15	***Session 2. Chair: Jamie Pittock***
11.20	**Michael Mulvaney**, ACT Government Conservation, Planning & Research Unit The moths and lizards that shaped Canberra
11.40	**Charlie Massy**, The Australian National University A glass three-quarters full: regenerating native grassland landscapes with holistic grazing management
12.00	**Tony Adams**, AT Adams Consulting West Belconnen, ACT
12.20	**Adrian Marshall**, The University of Melbourne Start with the grasslands
12.40	**Nathan Wong**, Trust for Nature, Victoria Protected Area Networks, why are they important and what we have learnt in the past 20 years
1.00	*Lunch*

Thursday 30 October continued	
1.45	***Session 3. Chair: Rainer Rehwinkel***
1.50	**Shaun McKiernan & Nicholas Gill**, Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research, Uni. Wollongong People, pastures, and weeds: exploring landholder learning and values of native pastures in invasive plant management, Bega Valley, NSW
2.10	**Josh Dorrough**, Natural Regeneration Australia African Lovegrass and endangered grassy ecosystems on private land — trends and risks
2.30	**Geoff Robertson**, Friends of Grasslands Lessons learnt by Friends of Grasslands
2.50	**Jasmine Foxlee**, ACT Parks & Conservation Service Celebrating 25 years of Parkcare and Landcare in the ACT: reflections and a vision for the future
3.10	**Graham Fifield**, Greening Australia Capital Region Horses for courses: restoring grassland diversity on public and private land in the ACT and surrounds. Lessons learnt over a seven-year journey
3.30	Announcements
3.35	*Afternoon tea*
3.50	***Session 4. Posters, demonstrations, displays***
3.50	**Posters** **Sarah Hnatiuk/Anett Richter** (FOMP/UC): Golden Sun Mothsand citizen science: outcomes from a survey of lowland grasslands in the ACT region, 2008–09 **Ken Hodgkinson** (CSIRO): Perennial grass survival in drought **David Johnson** (ANU): Native forb species richness in a Canberra Nature Park **David Johnson** (ANU): Resource use and composition between grass plant groups **Barbara Payne** (Quandong Designs): Grasslands in residence **Rainer Rehwinkel, Kristy Moyle and Jamie Love** (OEH): Maps of grasslands and woodlands **Sarah Ryan:** Perception of grass **Samantha Strong** (CSU): Paradoxes of native vegetation management in the context of bushfire **Steve Taylor** (PCS): Smartphone apps for invasive weed control **Chris Watson** (UTS): Multi-scale phenology of temperate grasslands **David Wong** (UC): Predicting Pink-tailed Worm-lizard habitat: agricultural modification matters
3.50	**Demonstrations in the main theatre** **Kathryn Wells** (K2C): The grassland BUD (building understorey diversity) portal **David Wong** (UC): Photography for conservation: grasslands and beyond **Steve Taylor** (PCS): Smartphone apps for invasive weed control **Michael Mulvaney** (ACT Government) **& Aaron Clausen** (Canberra Nature Map): Canberra Nature Map: citizen science and the important role you can play
3.50 – 5.00	**Displays and sales**

Evening program
Australian National Botanic Gardens

5.30	Gates open in the Australian National Botanic Gardens (all delegates welcome)
6.00	Guided walks by volunteer guides (all delegates welcome)
6.00	Drinks available (pay your own) at Floresco Café (all delegates welcome)
7.00	***Forum dinner*** *at Floresco Café (pre-paid only)*

Program for Friday 31 October
CSIRO Discovery Centre

8.30	**Registration**
9.00	***Session 5. Chair: Naarilla Hirsch***
9.05	Adrian Brown, ACT Parks & Conservation Service Welcome to Country Indigenous values and grassy ecosystems in the ACT region
9.20	**Geoffrey Simpson**, NSW Office of Environment & Heritage Reintroducing Indigenous practice in our landscapes and mapping cultural resources
9.40	**John Morgan**, La Trobe University, Bundoora Biomass accumulation in grasslands and why it matters
10.10	**Ken Hodgkinson**, Ginninderra Catchment Group, CSIRO & The Australian National University Management of grassland floristic diversity
10.30	*Morning tea*
10.45	***Session 6. Chair: Kathryn Wells***
10.50	**Brett Howland**, The Australian National University Eaten out of house and home: impacts of grazing on ground-dwelling reptiles in Australian grasslands and grassy woodlands
11.10	**Sue McIntyre**, CSIRO & The Australian National University The double-edged sward: managing after the sheep are gone
11.40	**Paul Gibson Roy**, Greening Australia Restoring species-rich grassy woodland of the Cumberland Plain: a new approach
12.10	**Emma Cook**, ACT Conservation Research Unit A decade of hunting dragons: monitoring Grassland Earless Dragon populations in the Majura and Jerrabomberra grasslands of the ACT
12.30	**Catherine Ross**, Greening Australia Capital Region What's killing the trees? Investigating *Eucalyptus viminalis* (Ribbon Gum) dieback in the Monaro region of NSW
12.50	*Lunch*
1.45	***Session 7. Workshops***
1.50	**Workshop 1**: Advocacy and community involvement. Chair: Tony Lawson John Fitz Gerald; Naarilla Hirsch; Jamie Pittock
	Workshop 2: On-ground and weed management and restoration. Chair: Kim Pullen Margaret Ning, Geoff Robertson, David Johnson; Nicki Taws
	Workshop 3: Indigenous land management practices. Chair: Andrew Zelnik Lauren van Dyke, Adrian Brown, Geoffrey Simpson
2.35	**Workshop 1 (repeat)**: Advocacy and community involvement. Chair: Tony Lawson John Fitz Gerald; Naarilla Hirsch; Jamie Pittock
	Workshop 2 (repeat): On-ground and weed management and restoration. Chair: Kim Pullen Margaret Ning, Geoff Robertson, David Johnson; Nicki Taws
	Workshop 4: Balancing grassland conservation and other land uses. Chair: Sarah Sharp, Alice McDougall, Graham Fifield
3.30	*Afternoon Tea*
3.50	***Session 8. Where have we got to? Chair: Sarah Sharp***
3.50	**Ian Lunt**, Charles Sturt University A summing up of the forum: where are we up to, where do we go now?
4.10	**All delegates** Moderated discussion
4.55	*Announcements and close*
	Informal Evening Program
6.00	*Meet for drinks at University House bar (payg)*
7.00	*Dinner (payg) at University House restaurant*

Friends of Grasslands Forum
Field trip to Stirling Park ACT, Jerrabomberra ACT, Mulligans Flat ACT
Meet at Yarramundi Reach, Lady Denman Drive

If it is raining the field trip will still go ahead, but the timing and food stops will change to ensure we stay as dry as possible. This is Canberra: bring clothes for hot, cold and wet weather, as well as sturdy shoes.

At each site there will be time to explore, and opportunities and assistance to identify plants and fauna species.

8.00	**Register at ATSIC Cultural Centre Yarramundi Reach, Lady Denman Drive**
8.30	*Board the bus*
9.05	***Stirling Park, Yarralumla***
	Peter Beutel, National Capital Authority An example of cooperative land management
	Tyronne Bell, Wally Bell, Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation What does Stirling Park mean for Aboriginal people?
	Jamie Pittock, Fenner School, ANU Planning restoration and engaging the community
10.20	***Morning Tea and pit stop at Stirling Park***
10.35	*Board the bus*
11.10	***Jerrabomberra East grasslands***
	Maree Gilbert, ACT Parks and Conservation Service Management and conservation issues
	Rainer Rehwinkel, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage Assessing grassland site condition using the Floristic Value Scoring method
	Kim Pullen, CSIRO Grassland invertebrates
12.15	*Board the bus*
1.10	***Lunch and pit stop at Mulligans Flat, Forde***
2.00	***Mulligans Flat***
	Anthony Hart, ACT Parks and Conservation Service Management and conservation at Mulligans Flat
	Adrian Manning and Sue McIntyre, Fenner School, ANU and CSIRO Mulligans Flat research project
	Jason Cummings, Lyrebird Communications Innovation and Trusts
	Nicki Taws, Greening Australia Woodland birds in revegetation: more than throwing a few logs around
4.00	*Board the bus*
4.30	**Arrive back at Yarramundi Reach**
	Afternoon Tea and pit stop Opportunity to look around site and visit Aboriginal Art Gallery
5.00	**Forum close**

PARKING FOR THE FORUM, at
CSIRO Discovery Centre, Clunies Ross St, Canberra

The top map shows the CSIRO site at Black Mountain, Canberra, at the corner of Barry Drive and Clunies Ross St. The bottom map (from Google Maps) shows that intersection in relation to Northbourne Avenue, Black Mountain reserve and the (adjacent) Australian National Botanic Gardens.

To get to the Discovery Centre, enter the CSIRO site off Clunies Ross St (as shown on the map), at the roundabout nearest the intersection with Barry Drive (which runs along the curved left-hand edge of the top map). The Discovery Centre is building 702.

For parking, follow the blue arrows on the map, and turn just after the tall pointy library building (numbered 060 on the map). Parking is in the gravel car park, as shown by the yellow arrow. From the parking area, walk down the hill to the Discovery Centre, along North Science Road. The distance is only 100–200 metres.

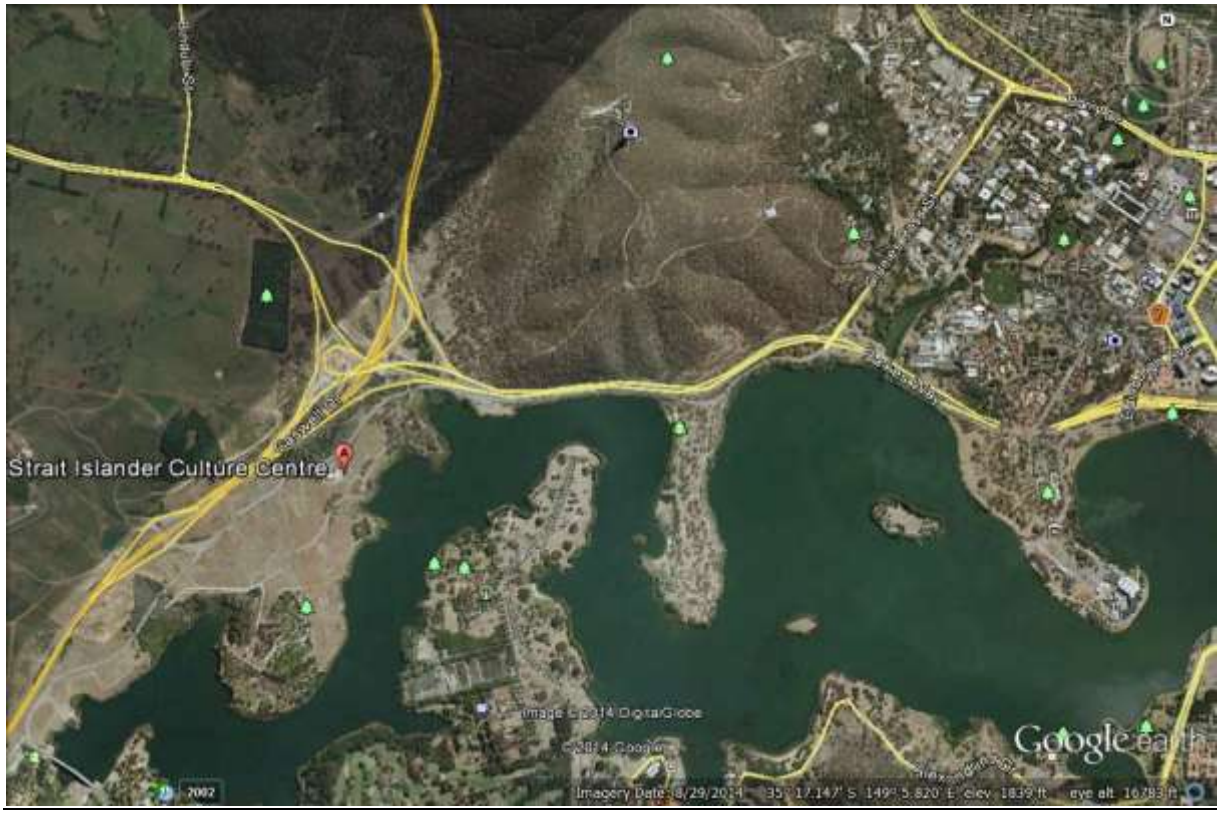
The Australian National Botanic Gardens where we are having dinner on Thursday night is next door to CSIRO, within walking distance (see the second map below).

GETTING TO
ATSIC Cultural Centre, Yarramundi Reach, Lady Denman Drive, Canberra
Saturday 1 November

Two ways to get there by car:

1) Follow Lady Denman Drive from Yarralumla or from Clunies Ross Street where the CSIRO Discovery Centre is. The Cultural Centre building is the only one on the side of the lake, just north of the turn-off to Tuggeranong Parkway and the National Arboretum. Two entrances into the carpark will be signposted.

2) From Tuggeranong Parkway turn into Lady Denman Drive from adjacent to the National Arboretum. At the lights on Lady Denman Drive turn left and travel several hundred metres north-east till you get to the Cultural Centre and Carpark.

If you require transport

We will do a pickup-run from the Discovery Centre at 8.00. Let us know beforehand so we have enough vehicles to transport everyone across.