



# August/September 2013 NEWSLETTER

## Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups

Incorporating Baranduda, Kergunyah-Gundowring, Kiewa-Bonegilla,  
Upper Kiewa & Yackandandah

Website: <http://northeast.landcarevic.net.au/kiewa>



### **BIG TREE COMPETITION:** *Winners to be announced on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August*



A BIG thank-you to everyone who entered the BIG tree competition. We received 51 entries. It was great to see so many trees from different parts of our Catchment and especially heart-warming to read about your "Favourite Tree". Winners will be announced at the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations and AGM, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2.00 pm at Kergunyah Hall.

Our competition judge is Neil McCarthy, CEO of North East Catchment Management Authority. Neil's qualifications include a Bachelor of Forest Science and a Masters Degree in Business Administration. He was responsible for the establishment of the Parks Forum, the peak body representing Australia and New Zealand park agencies and was their founding Chair for eight years. He is a "Thought Leader" on leadership in urban parks, innovative concepts such as *Healthy Parks Healthy People* and the Legacy of parks. We are delighted that Neil accepted our invitation to be the competition judge.

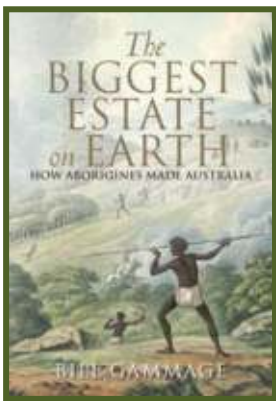
### **30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS & AGM... 30 years to the day!**



#### **SATURDAY 24<sup>th</sup> AUGUST, 2.00pm – 4.00pm at KERGUNYAH HALL**

This is a significant milestone for the group and we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the significant contribution of the many volunteers over the past 30 years. In addition to announcing the winners of the BIG tree competition, we will be showing a short film about the group and hear from Maurie Smith who was employed by the Landcare Group in the early years. We will conclude with afternoon tea. We hope you will be able to join us.

### **FUNDING SUCCESS:** *Use of fire as a tool to manage native pastures- An Indigenous Perspective*



In 2011, Professor Bill Gammage released his book "*The Biggest Estate on Earth – How Aborigines made Australia*". He was recently featured on ABC TV Landline. You can view the segment "Fire Power" at: <http://www.abc.net.au/landline/content/2013/s3767527.htm>

Bill's award-winning book examines written and visual records of the Australian landscape and uncovers a complex system of indigenous land management using fire and the life cycles of native plants to ensure plentiful wildlife and plant foods throughout the year.

In partnership with the Indigenous engagement unit at North East CMA, Kiewa Catchment Landcare has received funding to establish three native pasture trial sites where we will undertake burns and measure the differences between controls and treatments. The project is funded through the Caring for our Country agricultural stream, so the focus will be on native grasses as pastures. In agricultural grazing systems, native grasses can offer a range of benefits:

- Native grasses are mostly perennials and persist well in the Australian environment;
- Some have nutritive characteristics similar to introduced pasture species;
- They can cope with adverse climate conditions such as droughts, heavy rains and frosts;
- Many tolerate low fertility, acid soils, water stress and are more resistant to disease;
- Different native species such as warm season or cool season grasses have growth periods at different times of the year, providing the potential for year-round green feed;
- Generally they have dense tillers and roots that hold the soil and allow increased use of soil moisture to help prevent soil erosion and nutrient runoff;
- They can provide a lower input grazing system, reducing the dependence on finite resources;
- They provide for integrated pest management and native biodiversity.

**If you have native pastures and would like to be considered as a trial site host, please let Belinda know.**

## SUBGROUP NEWS & EVENTS: *Make the most of events & activities ~ ALL WELCOME ~*

### BARANDUDA: *Fantastic turn out for Baranduda's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual 2013 National Planet Ark Community Tree Day*



Baranduda Landcare Planet Ark #14 Community Day was an extraordinary success with 88 participants and well over 2000 indigenous plants planted, guarded and staked. This event is one of the key components of BLC's Communities for Nature four year funded project called Boosting Baranduda's Biodiversity. Upcoming activities include:

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September**, 7.30pm: Meeting with Guest Speaker at Baranduda Community Centre.

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September**, 10.00am: Bush Walk – Threatened Flora Silky Swainson-pea 6th Annual Baranduda Parklands & Regional Park survey. Meet at Baranduda Community Centre car park. Reasonable fitness required, difficult grade and long walk. RSVP to Glen by Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September.

### UPPER KIEWA: *Community gets behind Planet Ark Day at Rockpool Rd Mt Beauty*



The Upper Kiewa community did a great job supporting the Community Planting Day at the Rockpool Rd Project site. Groundcovers were planted along the new path alongside the river. The aim is to vegetate the bare patches of ground where the blackberries once were. Larger shrubs and trees were planted on the old vehicle tracks. The plan is to have just one vehicle track. It is pleasing to see quite a bit of natural regeneration of plants in the area. It was also fantastic to have the event reported as front page news in the Kiewa Valley Observer.

You are invited to attend a **Community Working Bee and Planting Day on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September** at Bohun's Lane, Upper Gundowring, **10.00am to 1.00pm**. This is

a roadside project where we will trial using newspaper and mulch, and monitor weed levels and plant survival. We will finish with a BBQ lunch. For catering purposes, please let Belinda know if you are able to help.

### YACKANDANDAH: *Cubs and Scouts do a great job at Yackandandah Ck.*



The partnership between Yackandandah Folk Festival and Landcare continues with a working bee and planting day held at Yackandandah Creek in July. The Cubs and Scouts came on board and did a mighty job tidying up stakes and guards from 2011 and 2012 plantings and also replaced plants that did not survive our very hot summer

### LANDCARE GETS INVOLVED IN STUDENT ENVIROMENT DAY



Students had the opportunity to learn about native birds and the plants that support them at a Student Environment Day held at the Cube in August.

Students potted up Ovens wattle and River bottle brush and completed a bird identification exercise. Many thanks to Rowan and Julie for helping out .

## DUNG BEETLE SOIL CORE TRIALS AT LUCYVALE REVEALS SIGNIFICANT RESULTS

In March 2011 Chips set up 20 dung beetle plots using the dung beetle *Geotrupes spiniger*. To each plot he added 50 beetles and six litres of cattle dung over a six-week period. *G. spiniger* construct tunnels under the dung which are generally deeper than 200mm. In May 2013, with assistance from the NECMA Soil Carbon Project, one metre soil cores were taken from ten beetle plots and ten adjacent control plots. The cores taken from the beetle plots had plant roots to a depth of 900mm and earthworm activity at 550mm. The soil for three depths were aggregated and sent for chemical analysis. A statistical analysis found significant results for Phosphorus (P) ( $p = 0.021$ ).

Depth	Control P	Beetle P	Control pH	Beetle pH	Control C	Beetle C	Control Al	Beetle Al
0-100mm	31	85	4.7	4.9	-	-	0.316	0.125
100-200mm	21	70	4.3	4.7	0.84	1.48	0.913	0.246
200-300mm	21	46	4.3	4.7	0.45	0.77	0.968	0.302



The pH (CaCl<sub>2</sub>) for each depth was consistently higher for the dung beetle soil samples,

The Organic Carbon (C) at the two lower soil depths was higher for the dung beetle soil samples

Also of interest was the decrease in Aluminium (Al) levels in the beetle soil samples. Given the acid soils in NE Victoria, this is a very welcome finding. With the assistance of Kiewa Catchment

Landcare and NECMA, Chips will conduct further chemical and microbial tests with a larger sample size in Spring 2013. Congratulations are extended to Chips for taking the initiative and setting up these trials at his property at Lucyvale.

## BUSH ECOTOUR WITH ECOLOGIST JILL DAWSON: *Peas the first wildflowers of Spring*



This is a great opportunity to learn about peas and their relationship with bees, the soil life, fire, cold, birds and people. Small group, short easy walk in beautiful bush, 'engaging and interesting'. A travelling tour in the ALBURY area

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August, 1.30pm - 3.30pm**, donations gratefully accepted

BOOKINGS: Contact Jill, 0418 579 331 [jilldawson@ournativegarden.com.au](mailto:jilldawson@ournativegarden.com.au)

Meet at Liberty Service Station, Pemberton St corner O'Brien Crt West Albury

## Landcare Calendar: Upcoming Activities, Events and Key dates:

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE	RSVP/MORE INFORMATION
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> August 2.00pm – 4.00pm	30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations & AGM Winners of Big Tree Comp.	Kergunyah Hall	Belinda Pearce 0407 227 814 <a href="mailto:belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au">belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au</a>
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm	Baranduda Landcare Meeting with speaker	Baranduda Community Centre	Glen Johnson 0418 501 936 <a href="mailto:baranduda@landcarevic.net.au">baranduda@landcarevic.net.au</a>
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm	Tallangatta Valley Dung Beetle & Earthworm Presentation	Tallangatta Valley Hall	Belinda Pearce 0407 227 814 <a href="mailto:belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au">belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au</a>
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm	Kiewa Catchment Executive Meeting	To be advised	Jos McAlister 02 6027 816 <a href="mailto:mcalistertojo@live.com">mcalistertojo@live.com</a>
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> September 10.00am – 1.00pm	Bohun Lane Planting Day & Working bee	Bohun Lane Upper Gundowring	Belinda Pearce 0407 227 814 <a href="mailto:belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au">belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au</a>
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 10.00am	Bush Walk – Threatened Flora Silky Swainson-pea 6 <sup>th</sup> Annual Baranduda Parklands & Regional Park survey	Meet at Baranduda Community Centre car park. Reasonable fitness, difficult grade, long walk	RSVP to Glen Johnson by 19 <sup>th</sup> September 0418 501 936 <a href="mailto:baranduda@landcarevic.net.au">baranduda@landcarevic.net.au</a>
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm	Kiewa Catchment Executive Meeting	To be advised	Jos McAlister 02 6027 816 <a href="mailto:mcalistertojo@live.com">mcalistertojo@live.com</a>

## Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups Contact List:

<b>President</b>	Peter Serpell	02 6028 9356	<b>Vice President</b>	Rowan Wallace	02 6027 5227
<b>Secretary</b>	Jos McAlister	02 6027 1816	<b>Treasurer</b>	Julie Pearce	02 6027 5286
<b>Baranduda</b>	Glen Johnson	02 6020 8667	<b>Kiewa-Bonegilla</b>	Pam Davis-Jones	02 6027 3356
<b>Upper Kiewa</b>	Alan McDonald	03 5754 1000	<b>Kergunyah-Gundowring</b>	Rowan Wallace	02 6027 5227
<b>Yackandandah</b>	Position vacant	0407 227 814	<b>Nursery Manager</b>	Rhonda Serpell	02 6028 9356
<b>Equipment hire for Landcare members:</b> Spray units (organic/chemical), trailing seed drill, Rabbit ripper, wick wiper					
<b>Brian Lane</b> 02 6027 1433 Organic & chemical spray unit & Wick wiper	<b>Peter Serpell</b> 02 6028 9356 Trailing seed drill	<b>Rod Mitchell</b> 02 6027 5 155 Chemical spray units & Rabbit ripper	<b>Belinda Pearce</b> 0407 227 814 Landcare BBQ trailer & Tree poppers		
<b>Project Manager, Landcare Facilitator &amp; Newsletter:</b> Belinda Pearce 0407 227 814 belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au					

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Incorporating Baranduda, Kiewa-Bonegilla, Kergunyah-Gundowring, Upper Kiewa & Yackandandah subgroups

The Executive Committee has set the subscription at \$15.00 per year, (a family is one membership).

Please consider subscribing for more than one year to reduce postage costs.

Simply forward a cheque to the Membership Secretary, or pay by Electronic Funds Transfer.

Bank Account details:

Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups, Commonwealth Bank

BSB: 063-534

Account Number: 000902483

\*\*\*Please include your surname as a reference & email Jos your payment date\*\*\* [mcalistertojo@live.com](mailto:mcalistertojo@live.com)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHYSICAL ADDRESS  
(If different) \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ MOBILE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

SUBSCRIPTION:  1 yr \$15.00  2 yrs \$30.00  3 yrs \$45.00  Other x \$15.00

SUBGROUP:  Barandudua  Kiewa-Bonegilla  Kergunyah-Gundowring  Upper Kiewa  Yackandandah

I would like to receive newsletters by:  mail  e-mail

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ Number of people covered by this membership \_\_\_\_\_

Payment method: (please tick one) Cheque  Cash  Electronic funds transfer

Please make cheques payable to: **Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups**, and post with this form to:

“The Membership Secretary”, 8 Barlow Lane, Bruarong Vic. 3749 email: [mcalistertojo@live.com](mailto:mcalistertojo@live.com)

**Next Newsletter – October/November, please send any news items/photos to Belinda by 30<sup>th</sup> September**