



## December 2012/January 2013 NEWSLETTER

# Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups

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

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



### Expressions of Interest for 2014 Revegetation Works, now being sought

We are currently taking Expressions of Interest for 2014 Revegetation Works. It seems a long way ahead, but we need to apply for funding in early 2013. It is essential that we have some indication of the level of interest.

#### *What sort of projects does Landcare support?*

Erosion control, revegetation and fencing of waterways and gullies, wildlife corridors and protecting older trees.

#### *What type of support can Landcare offer?*

Landcare can assist with provision of local plants species, and a fencing subsidy of \$3.50 per metre (current as at 2012).

#### *Are there any special conditions?*

Yes, projects must meet a minimum width requirement (10 metres from banks and 20 metres for wildlife corridors). All plants species must be Indigenous (local) to the area, and at least 50% must be understorey species (shrubs/groundcovers). Plantings would occur in Winter 2014.

#### *How do I lodge an Expression of Interest or obtain more information?*

By contacting, Belinda Pearce, phone: 0407 227 814, email: [belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au](mailto:belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au)

### Making the most of the latest technology – FREE smart phone applications

For those of you that are into smart phone technology – there are some great FREE applications available for download.



#### *Museum Victoria – Field Guide to Victorian Fauna*

This app lets you explore useful and interesting information about each species including: identification, biology, distribution, diet, habitat, scientific classification and endangered status. Wherever you are – a forest, a desert, a rocky shore, at Ararat or Apollo Bay – you'll be able to find information on more than 700 animals at the swipe of your finger.



#### *Grains Research & Development Corporation - Weed ID: The Ute Guide*

This application is designed to be used in the paddock to assist in identifying the most common, annual, biennial and perennials weeds in Southern Australia. Where possible, photographs have been provided of the weed at various growth stages to ensure correct identification. Each weed has a calendar to show which month/s the weed is likely to be present in the paddock.



#### *Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority - APVMA*

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has released an iPhone application that enables people to instantly access information about agricultural and veterinary chemicals while on the move. The tool will give a farmer in a paddock the ability to access a searchable database of the 10,500 agricultural and veterinary chemicals approved for use in Australia.



#### *Dept. of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population & Communities: My Environment*

Find the Australian environmental places and species that make up your neighbourhood or area of interest. My Environment uses the GPS to show assets around you. See the heritage places, wetlands, protected species, protected areas, weeds and invasive species near you.

### Upcoming Native Plant Propagation Workshops – Landcare Nursery at Running Creek



You are invited to participate in our ongoing series of Native Plant Propagation Workshops. In October, participants learnt about seed storage and planting techniques for different species. Upcoming workshops will be held on:

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2.00pm onwards with BBQ tea**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 9.00am – 12noon with BBQ lunch**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February, 9.00am – 12noon with BBQ lunch**

You are welcome to attend all or part of the sessions. For catering purposes please RSVP to Belinda.

*Photo: Participants learning about direct seeding techniques at the October workshop*

## Atlas of Living Australia – A new-online resource for weed biological control

The Weed Biological Control Portal aims to centralise information on the known distribution, availability and redistribution methods of weed biological control agents in south eastern Australia. The site is interactive and enables anyone to record, map and download weed biological control agent sightings. There is also a comprehensive field guide of biological control agents to enhance agent recognition and there are links to many other resources.



There are three main sections to the portal:

Section 1: Accessing weed/biological control agent information

Section 2: Accessing maps of biological control agent distributions

Section 3: Recording a biological control agent observation

You will need to register to record and download control information.

Go to: <http://root.ala.org.au/bdrs-core/wbiocont/home.htm>

**Photo: St John's Wort beetle: *Chrysolina quadrigemina* is widely spread**

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



**Baranduda:** There was a great turn out to the "Reptiles in the Flesh" Field Day with Dr Damian Michael. Participants had the opportunity to get up close and personal with a number of live specimens, as well as seeking out skinks and lizards in the Baranduda environs. Damian also outlined the importance of maintaining suitable habitat to ensure their ongoing survival.

**Photos: Participants at the "Reptiles in the Flesh" Field Day at Baranduda**



**Kergunyah-Gundowring:** In October we launched our brochure, "Kergunyah's Amazing Wetland". We also tabled the Wetland's report prepared by ecologist Jill Dawson. The report provides an initial survey of native flora and fauna species, and provides site management recommendations. The report is available at <http://northeast.landcarevic.net.au/kergunyah>.

In 2013 we will have a number of working bees. This will include constructing a low-impact red gum chip path from the road to the lagoon and control of weed species.

**Photos: Left: Front cover of Wetlands brochure, Right: Participants viewing flora & fauna (sporting our new hi-vis landcare vests)**



**Upper Kiewa:** Work at Rockpool Rd has progressed at a rapid rate, with the erection of the Project sign, fencing of AGL land and rock work in cleared-weed area. Vehicle access has been restricted as there is no funding to maintain tracks to an acceptable standard. The Landmate team has done a mighty job clearing the sprayed blackberry and with the fencing. The community working bee in October was well attended, and over 25 people enjoyed an end of year BBQ at the site earlier this month. In 2013 blackberry control work will continue, as we work to reclaim the river banks.

**Photo: Participants at the Community Working Bee in October**



**Yackandandah:** Many thanks to Brian & Robyn Lane for hosting our roadside plant Identification workshop at Glen Creek. We were pleasantly surprised to see such a wide variety of native plants in a very short distance. There was considerable discussion on identification of Eucalypts, and it was agreed that they can be tricky to identify. Rhonda provided tips on seed collection and storage, and we finished the afternoon with a tour of Brian's fabulous native garden and some delicious freshly-baked homemade scones.



We had a full-house for the Indigenous Weaving Workshop with Aunty Sharon at Yackandandah. We used the leaves of the spiny-headed mat rush, *Lomandra longifolia*, which had been split and wrapped in a moist towel. We are planning to have a follow-up session in 2013, where we will look at "finishing off" techniques.

**Photos: Above: Identifying roadside plants at Glen Ck., Right: Aunty Sharon demonstrating weaving techniques**

## The historic “Hovell Tree”, now in the Kiewa Catchment ...



**Background:** On the 17th November 1824, Captain William Hovell carved his name into a River Red Gum to signify the first sighting of the Murray river by Europeans. This tree was to become known as the Hovell Tree.

Thirty years later in 1854, the Sydney Morning Herald, reported:

*“The tree [Hovell Tree] is very much defaced, the butt being cut and chopped all over in a most unsightly manner. Many of the branches have been lopped off for the purpose, no doubt, of prolonging the existence of the tree but it is very clear from the faded and sickly aspect of the few green boughs which adorn it now, together with the signs of decay in various parts of the trunk, that the period of dissolution cannot be many years distant.”*

**Photo: The Hovell Tree in the 1930’s – photo: Jack Dallinger –note lack of understorey plants**

In the early 1900s the tree was badly affected by rot. The decayed wood in the centre of the tree was replaced with concrete. The Hovell Tree was struck by lightning in 1912, but nursed back to health by the Botanic Gardens Curator.

**Current:** Albury Council staff monitored the tree during the early 2000’s as it continued to decline in health. A strategy was developed to reduce the decline, which included restricting pedestrian access, mulching and planting with local native understorey species. The Hovell Tree’s health has greatly improved as a result of this work.

Work did not stop there though, in an attempt to preserve the genetics of this historic River Red, Albury Council has worked with the Historical Society to clone the tree. In September this year, genetically identical plants were available for planting. One “Hovell Tree” clone has been planted in our area and is located near the bicycle track at Middle Creek.



Whilst this story is a partly about “science to the rescue”, it also demonstrates that we can make a positive difference to tree health. Many of our iconic Eucalypts are in decline. When looking at an older tree – do you see new growth around the canopy edges, or do you see dead twigs, dead branches and unchecked infestations of mistletoe? Isolated paddock trees are especially vulnerable. Good management of older trees includes fencing out stock and planting of local native understorey species. Landcare can assist with the cost of fencing, and with the selection and supply of suitable plant species. Your actions can make a difference!

**Photo: A clone of the “Hovell Tree” has been planted near the Bike Track at Middle Creek adjacent to the Kiewa Valley Hwy**

## Opportunities and assistance for fire-affected properties

**Blackberry Action Program:** Assistance for fire-affected properties with blackberry & woody weed control – it is not too late to get involved. Project Co-ordinator: Andrew Knowles, phone: 0428 443 477, email: [greenakr@bigpond.net.au](mailto:greenakr@bigpond.net.au)

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

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE	RSVP/MORE INFORMATION
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2.00pm onwards	Native Plant Propagation Techniques & BBQ tea Direct Seeding	Kiewa Catchment Landcare Nursery Running Ck	Belinda Pearce <a href="mailto:belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au">belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au</a> 0407 227 814
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Closing Date Communities for Nature	Funding opportunity	Belinda Pearce <a href="mailto:belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au">belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au</a> 0407 227 814
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 9.00am – 12noon	Native Plant Propagation Techniques: – Thinning & Pricking out	Kiewa Catchment Landcare Nursery Running Ck	Belinda Pearce <a href="mailto:belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au">belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au</a> 0407 227 814
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Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm	Kiewa Catchment Executive Meeting	Alan McDonalds Tawonga Sth	Jos McAlister 02 627 1816 <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 direct credit.

Bank Account details: *Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups,*  
*Commonwealth Bank,*  
**BSB: 063-534**  
**Account Number: 902483**  
**Please include your surname and initials as a reference & email Jos payment date**

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 – February/March, please send any news items/photos to Belinda by 31<sup>st</sup> Jan. 2013**