



December 2013/January 2014 NEWSLETTER

Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups

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

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



INDIGENOUS USE OF FIRE FORUM: *Packed house at La Trobe University*



We were overwhelmed with the response to the Indigenous Use of fire forum, with over 155 people attending. Participants came from four states and were from a diverse range, including Landcare, DEPI, CFA, Parks Victoria, Local government, Indigenous communities, philanthropic trusts and various not for profit environmental organisations. We were also delighted to have all of the State regional "Planned Burning Officers" attend.



We began with a Welcome to Country by Donna Mitsch and welcome by Jeff Taylor from North East CMA. Our speakers were, Peta Standley from Cape York, Dr Fred Cahir, Dr Beth Gott and Professor Bill Gammage. Each provided us with insights into how Aborigines used fire to shape and manage our landscape.

Photo above, Indigenous Use of Fire forum guest speakers (Photo: Mike Griffin), Photo below: Participants at fire forum.

You can view a summary of the feedback at:

<http://northeast.landcarevic.net.au/kiewa/projects/indigenous-use-of-fire/feedback-from-fire-forum/view>

Mary-Anne Scully was the MC, and kept things moving along very nicely, and provided a most insightful summary at the end of the forum. You can listen to her summary at:

<http://northeast.landcarevic.net.au/kiewa/projects/indigenous-use-of-fire/mary-anne-scully-mc-summary/view>

Also if you missed out on the forum, and would like to learn more about how fire can be harnessed to manage our landscape, you can view a Landline segment "Fire Power" at:

<http://www.abc.net.au/landline/content/2013/s3767527.htm>

We have numerous copies of Bill's book "*The Biggest Estate on Earth – How Aborigines made Australia*" available for borrowing. If you would like to borrow a copy, please contact Belinda.

Australian Farmers – *Our farmers provide more than just food - Results of National Landcare Survey*



A recent survey by National Landcare of 500 farmers from a diverse range of industries found that Farmers have consistently ranked pest and weed control as their top Landcare issues. The total average spend per farm over the last 12 months on pest & weed control was \$20 640 (\$15 756 weeds and \$4 884 for pests). With 89% of farmers saying that they undertake weed control and 74% undertaking pest control. This equates to a national annual expenditure (based on 2011-12 ABS figures of numbers of Australian farms as 135 692), by farmers of approximately \$2.38 billion. A massive effort and significant contribution by farmers that often is not recognised. You can download full survey summary at: http://www.landcareonline.com.au/?page_id=9184

Launch of North East Landcare Support Plan at Baranduda



The North East Landcare Support plan outlines 33 actions describing how the NE Catchment Management Authority can support Landcare. It is derived from 27 conversations from Landcare groups and Networks from across the North East. The Plan was launched at Baranduda by the Hon. Minister for Environment & Climate Change, Ryan Smith. Glen Johnson gave a rousing talk on the work of Landcare, and set up a very informative Landcare display. It was also very pleasing to have Baranduda Primary School and Frayne College students participate in the event.

We would also like to acknowledge the report's "Cover Girls", Dawn, Rowan and Pam, photographed at the Kergunyah Wetlands.

If you would like a copy of the Support Plan, please contact Belinda.

SPRING WILDFLOWER TOUR with Glenda Datson at Mount Big Ben uncovers a Rare Find



This was a joint event between Albury Wodonga Field Naturalist and Landcare, with over 15 people attending. It was great to have the Field Naturalists on board, sharing their extensive knowledge of Australian flora and fauna. We found a range of beautiful orchids, including the endangered "Yellow Hyacinth Orchid", which was an amazing find. We also saw a host of ground covers and shrubs in flower, including Handsome Flat pea, the Australian bugle, native violets, chocolate and bulbine lillies. It was also a chance to refresh our Eucalyptus ID skills. Many thanks to Glenda for being our guide, once again.

BOGONG OUTDOOR EDUCATION STUDENTS LEND A HAND AT ROCKPOOL RD. PROJECT



Thirteen Secondary students and three teachers lent a helping hand at the Rockpool Rd Project at Mt Beauty. They were given an overview of the project and helped with planting a range of native species.

Ian did a great job on the BBQ once again, and we look forward to engaging Bogong Outdoor Education students in Landcare projects. Our young people are the future custodians of our environment, so these events provide an important opportunity for them to understand the value of preserving and protecting our unique environment.

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

BARANDUDA: *Exciting new find of Swainsona sericea at Baranduda – by Tony Marsh*



On Nov 23, Johnno and I went up the range for the annual collection of pods from the known *Swainsona sericea* plants (about 24). The road had been graded and there was a bit of confusion about where to park - we ended up parking about 100 metres from our normal location - a stroke of luck as it turned out.

We checked September-flowering plants, pods were scarce so we headed back. Nearly back at the car, eagle-eyed Johnno spotted a small *Swainsona sericea* and elated we searched some more, and I found another one. We GPS'd and recorded data. It was getting late and we decided to call it quits.

Just as we were at the car, Johnno suggested we look on the south (high) side of the road that had been burnt in autumn 2012. To our amazement, we found another patch of plants with pods as well as a number of individual plants. We collected 50 pods and recorded locations. This almost doubles the number of known plants. And most significantly, it reassures us that the fuel reduction burn planned next autumn is likely to deliver more positive outcomes for this plant we have been monitoring for the last 6 years. **Photo: Pods of the "vulnerable" *Swainsona sericea*- (Photo Tony Marsh)**

KIEWA-BONEGILLA – Field trip to Bonegilla Grasslands



A small group from the fire forum visited the Bonegilla grasslands reserve and were most impressed. DEPI has conducted controlled burns at the site: "*The burn will help protect and enhance the native grassland community, in particular it will reduce Kangaroo Grass competition and open-up inter-tussock spaces to benefit a diversity of wildflowers including two threatened grassland orchid species,*" – Quote from Glen Johnson – taken from DEPI website

Photo: Left – Peta Standley & Bill Gammage

(L-R) Peta Standley, Brendon Kennedy, Richard McTernan, Bill & Jan Gammage, Simon Feillafe, Michael Trewin & Donna Mitsch

UPPER KIEWA: Revegetation Trials at Bohuns Lane, Upper Gundowring



The latest working bee at Bohun Lane Revegetation trials involved planting out a steep bank. Soil saving mesh was used to cover the banks, into which the plants were placed. Damp shredded paper was placed around each plant to block out light and prevent weeds. Mulch was placed between the mesh and the soil. Samples of soil were taken for a germination test. The test will provide data on the number and type of weeds in the soil bank.

LUCYVALE DUNG BEETLE TRIALS: – October soil test results show consistent long-term effects

In October this year, with the assistance of Simon Feillafe, we took a further 10 soils tests (at three depths = 30 samples) from the control (5) and dung beetle plots (5). Once again the figures have come back very positive. It has now been two and a half years since the beetles were placed in the plots. These figures demonstrate that the changes dung beetles make to the soil have long lasting benefits. Samples have also been submitted for microbiological tests.

We would also like to extend our congratulations to Chips Boucher, who was awarded the *DEPI Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices Award* for his ongoing commitment to dung beetle research. A very worthwhile winner!

SUMMARY SOIL TEST RESULTS - 22nd October 2013: Averages of Control plots and Beetle plots at each Depth

	Depth	Phosphorus Colwell mg/Kg	Potassium Colwell mg/Kg	Sulphur mg/Kg	Organic Carbon %	DTPA Zinc mg/Kg	Exc. Aluminium meq/100g	Exc. Calcium meq/100g	Exc. Magnesium meq/100g	Boron CaCl2 mg/kg
Av. Control	0-10cm	36.6	322.4	5.06	2.86	16.24	0.2134	4.898	1.102	0.308
Av. Beetle	0-10cm	103.2	396.2	7.32	3.25	35.25	0.1200	5.034	1.326	0.356
Av. Control	10- 20cm	33.0	211.8	2.64	1.14	7.62	0.5920	2.080	0.564	0.240
Av. Beetle	10- 20cm	87.2	225.8	3.36	1.54	22.92	0.2760	2.910	0.794	0.302
Av. Control	20- 30cm	37.6	216.8	2.42	0.63	3.94	0.6660	1.890	0.598	0.290
Av. Beetle	20- 30cm	67.0	227.8	3.40	0.94	16.36	0.3610	2.410	0.780	0.368

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF WEEDS – Map your findings on ATLAS of Australia

The Biological Weed 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,



Photo: Gorse spider mite at Yackandandah Ck. Note webbing on branch

map and download biological weed control agent sightings. There is also a comprehensive field guide of biological control agents to enhance 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

This is a great opportunity to share information.

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

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

TREE POPPERS AVAILABLE FOR REMOVAL OF WOODY WEEDS – A non-chemical alternative



Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups have purchased three “Tree Poppers” (small, medium and large), that are available for use by members. The Tree Popper is a robust, uncomplicated tool which can be used by one person. It uses a simple concept of leverage to ensure the complete removal of unwanted vegetation.

Manufactured from mild steel, the Tree Popper comprises a lever/handle with a rubber grip and a foot piece firmly held together by a circlip. These two basic parts form a plier-like jaw which is used to grip the plant stem. Pushing down on the handle exerts leverage pressure on the tree and pops it out of the ground. The large popper has a x10 leveraging effect, producing a pulling power of 10 times your body weight.

You can view a demonstration of the tree popper at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KFvzhS9Ev0s>

Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups Contact List:

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

NAME _____

POSTAL ADDRESS _____

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(If different) _____

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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

Next Newsletter – February/March, please send any news items/photos to Belinda by 31st January 2014