



# August/September 2012 NEWSLETTER

## Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups

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

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



### Invitation to AGM on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> Sep., with speakers from Victorian Blackberry Taskforce

We encourage all members and supporters to attend our AGM on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30pm at the Kergunyah Hall. Nominations are now open for positions on the Executive committee. The Executive committee meets monthly (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month) and consists of representatives from each subgroup. Nominations can be directed to the Secretary, Jos McAlister, [mcalistertojo@live.com](mailto:mcalistertojo@live.com), phone 02 6027 1816.



We are delighted to have two speakers from the Victorian Blackberry Taskforce (VBT), Lyn Coulston (Chairperson) and Michael Reid (Executive Officer). The taskforce was established in 2001 to work with Victorian communities and government agencies to provide a collaborative effort to control blackberry. Lyn will talk about the work undertaken in the Upper Murray, and Michael will outline the role and work of the VBT.

### Aporrectodea longa Earthworm chook yard trials & Upcoming Farm Walk at Kergunyah



The deep-burrowing earthworm *Aporrectodea longa* (The long worm) is a European pasture worm that is established in northern Tasmania. It has been identified as an extremely beneficial introduction to agricultural soils in south-eastern Australia in terms of improving soil fertility, structure and biology. Numerous attempts have been made to breed this highly desirable earthworm in contained environments - all without success. Recently, Dr Graeme Stevenson discovered large numbers of *A.longa* in a Tassie chook yard which was next to pastures. The chook yard had 2 to 3 inches of hay covering the ground, and the chooks were confined to the yard (the worms feed at night, the chooks sleep at night - thus avoid being eaten). This recent breakthrough has prompted the current trials. Kiewa Catchment is establishing 20 trial sites in the North East. We are very thankful to Graeme Stevenson for donating the worms for the trials. Trial sites will be located at: Springhurst, Rutherglen (x2), Beechworth, Wooragee, Stanley, Yackandandah (x6), Bruarong, Running Ck, Kancoona, Tawonga, Bethanga, Talgarno, Bullioh, Tallangatta South and Lucyvale.

Graeme will be in the North East during the week of August 12<sup>th</sup>. Kiewa Catchment will be hosting a:

**“Farm Walk & Dig for Long worms”, Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> August, 1.30pm – 3.00pm, at 387 Hellhole Ck. Rd. Kergunyah**

Long worms were released at this site in 2010. This will be an opportunity to see if we can recover worms in the paddock, as well as learn about their many benefits and the current chook yard trials.

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP by Tue. 14th Aug: [belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au](mailto:belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au) 0407 227 814

### Reptile and Frogs Extravaganza with herpetologist, Dr. Damian Michael



Baranduda Landcare in association with NE CMA is proud to host a spectacular “Reptiles and Frogs” presentation by Dr. Damian Michael. Damian’s slide show features stunning photography highlighting the amazing diversity of reptiles and frogs in the woodlands of the North East and Murray Catchments.

Please join us to learn more about identification and ecology of creatures that evolved from the dinosaur age. EVERYONE WELCOME – Free Event.

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30pm sharp at Baranduda Community Centre**

Please **RSVP** by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept. (earlier appreciated) to Glen Johnson, [baranduda@landcarevic.net.au](mailto:baranduda@landcarevic.net.au) Cuppa & biscuit at the end of the show!

### Catchment Conversations: How can we best manage & protect our region’s natural resources?

The North East Catchment Management Authority is gathering feedback on the North East Regional Catchment Strategy – a “blueprint” for managing land, water and biodiversity. You are invited to join the Catchment Conversations on **Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Aug at these locations:**

9.30–10.30am Mt Beauty Neighbourhood Centre      11.30am–12.15pm Dederang Hotel

1.00–2.00pm Yackandandah Java@Yack      3.00–4.00pm Wodonga Willow Park, Kennedy Ct

For more information or to RSVP, contact Sophie Richards on 02 6043 7635, or email [rcs@necma.vic.gov.au](mailto:rcs@necma.vic.gov.au)

A copy of the draft strategy can be downloaded from [www.yoursaynecma.com.au](http://www.yoursaynecma.com.au) Submission close 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012.



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



**Baranduda:** Approximately 40 enthusiastic people planted, staked and guarded over 1000 native seedlings as part of the Planet Ark Community Tree Day on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July. All three Baranduda Schools participated in the School Tree Days planting an additional 1700+ natives in the week. Many thanks to everyone who helped make this happen.

As we head into Spring, there are a number of exciting upcoming events:

- Reptiles & Frogs Extravaganza, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> Sep. 7.30pm sharp
- Threatened Flora Survey, Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Sep. 10.00am – 2.00pm
- Spring Wildflower Awareness Walk, Sun. 7<sup>th</sup> Oct. 10.45am – 1.00pm
- Reptiles & Frogs- In the Flesh, Field Day, Sun 28<sup>th</sup> Oct. 10.30am – 2.00pm

Please contact Glen to register your interest or for further information.

Go to: <http://northeast.landcarevic.net.au/baranduda> for all events details, photos, news and project information.

*Photo: The planting team from the 2012, Baranduda Landcare 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Planet Ark Community Planting Day*



**Kergunyah-Gundowring:** A small but enthusiastic group visited Kaluna Park in Wangaratta to learn about the amazing floodplain restoration work undertaken by Wangaratta Urban Landcare Group. We are looking forward to transferring some of their hard-earned knowledge and insights to our Kergunyah Wetlands project. A big thank-you to our hosts Peter & Helen Curtis for sharing their experiences.

We have engaged an ecologist to undertake a flora and fauna survey of our Wetlands and to assist in developing an appropriate management plan.

Members are supporters are invited to a “Flora and fauna identification workshop” at the Kergunyah wetlands on **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October**, 10.00am – 1.00pm. We will conclude with a BBQ. Meet at Kergunyah reserve. For catering purposes please reply to Belinda by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October. *Photo: Kaluna Park Bushland Walk*



**Upper Kiewa:** We have been delighted to support the Dederang Primary School in their creek restoration project. Several Landcare members attended a “thank-you” morning tea, in which a student film about their project was screened. The school has adopted “Bruce the blue wren” as their school mascot, and has commissioned a large-scale metal sculpture. It is a stunning piece of art and well worth a closer look.

**Community Planting Day:** You are invited to a Community Planting Day at Michael Bonhote’s, 95 Ropers Rd Tawonga (off Mountain Ck Rd.) on **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September** at 10am. The plantings will link adjoining vegetation, providing an excellent corridor for wildlife. We will finish with a BBQ. For catering purposes could you please let Belinda or Michael know if you are able to attend.

**Rockpool Rd. Working Bee:** Community members are invited to a working bee at Rockpool Rd on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October**, 10am – 1.00pm. We will be erecting our project sign, as well as clearing woody weeds and planting native grasses and shrubs. Please wear protective clothing, sturdy boots. Any equipment that you can provide would be appreciated (especially heavy duty brush cutters). For catering purposes, please let

either Belinda or Alan McDonald know if you are attending. *Photo: Metal sculpture of blue wren at Dederang Primary school*



**Yackandandah:** We had a fantastic roll up for the Planet Ark Community Tree Day at Yackandandah, with over 50 people attending. This was a joint project of Yackandandah Folk Festival and Landcare. The group planted over 900 native plants in under two hours! A big thank-you to Yackandandah Scouts for your support.

**Community Planting Day:** You are invited to a Community Planting Day at Lee-Anne Benson’s, 1324 Yackandandah-Wodonga Rd., Yackandandah on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August** at 10am. This project involves extensive plantings along the creek, and will help reduce erosion and enhance biodiversity. For catering purposes could you please let either Belinda or Lee-Anne know

if you are able to attend. *Photo: Participants at the Yackandandah Planet Ark Community Planting Day*



## Funding opportunities and assistance for flood/fire-affected properties

**\*\*\*ENDS SEP 30 2012\*\*\* Victorian Flood Grants 2012:** A clean-up and restoration grant of up to \$25,000 is available to primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profit organisations in the Victorian shires of Greater Shepparton, Indigo, Moira and Towong who suffered direct damage as a result of the floods between late February and early March 2012. The grants are designed to assist with property clean-up, removal of debris, animal welfare and business restoration.

**Victorian Flood Loans 2012:** Low interest (2.7%) concessional loans of up to \$200,000 are available to eligible primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profits in 20 Local Government Areas including Alpine, Indigo, Towong and Wodonga. More information/application forms are available at [www.ruralfinance.com.au](http://www.ruralfinance.com.au) Phone: 03 5448 2600

**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
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> August 1.30pm – 3.00pm	Farm walk & Dig for Long worms with Dr Graeme Stevenson	387 Hellhole Ck. Rd Kergunyah	RSVP by 14 <sup>th</sup> August to: Belinda Pearce <a href="mailto:belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au">belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au</a> 0407 227 814
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> August 10.00am – 1.00pm	Community Planting Day & BBQ - Yackandandah	Lee-Anne Benson's 1324 Yack-Wodonga Rd. Yackandandah	RSVP by 17 <sup>th</sup> August to Belinda Pearce <a href="mailto:belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au">belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au</a> 0407 227 814
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> August 7.30pm	Kiewa Catchment Executive Meeting	Julie Pearce's Kergunyah	Jos McAlister <a href="mailto:mcalistertojo@live.com">mcalistertojo@live.com</a> 02 6027 1816
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> Sep. 7.30pm – 10.00pm	Reptiles & Frogs Extravaganza with herpetologist, Dr Damian Michael	Baranduda Community Centre	RSVP by 3 <sup>rd</sup> September to Glen Johnson <a href="mailto:baranduda@landcarevic.net.au">baranduda@landcarevic.net.au</a> 02 6020 8667
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> Sep 10.00am – 1.00pm	Community Planting Day & BBQ - Tawonga	Michael Bonhote's 95 Ropers Rd Tawonga	RSVP by 7 <sup>th</sup> September to Belinda Pearce <a href="mailto:belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au">belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au</a> 0407 227 814
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> Sep 7.30pm – 9.30pm	Kiewa Catchment AGM with guest speakers from Victorian Blackberry Taskforce	Kergunyah Hall	Jos McAlister <a href="mailto:mcalistertojo@live.com">mcalistertojo@live.com</a> 02 6027 1816
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> Sep. 10.00am – 2.00pm	Threatened Flora survey <i>Swainsona sericea</i>	Meet at Baranduda Community Centre car park	Glen Johnson 02 6020 8667 <a href="mailto:baranduda@landcarevic.net.au">baranduda@landcarevic.net.au</a>
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> October 10.00am – 1.00pm	Community Working bee & BBQ at Rockpool Rd. Mt Beauty	Meet at Rockpool Rd Mt Beauty	RSVP by 5 <sup>th</sup> October to Belinda Pearce <a href="mailto:belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au">belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au</a> 0407 227 814
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> October 10.45am – 1.00pm	Spring Wildflower Awareness Walk	Meet at Baranduda CFA Wodonga-Yack Rd.	Glen Johnson 02 6020 8667 <a href="mailto:baranduda@landcarevic.net.au">baranduda@landcarevic.net.au</a>
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October 7.30am	Kiewa Catchment Executive meeting	To be advised	Jos McAlister <a href="mailto:mcalistertojo@live.com">mcalistertojo@live.com</a> 02 6027 1816
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 10.00am – 1.00pm	Kergunyah Wetlands Flora & fauna identification & BBQ	Meet at Kergunyah Reserve	RSVP by 19 <sup>th</sup> October to Belinda Pearce <a href="mailto:belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au">belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au</a> 0407 227 814
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> October 10.30pm – 2.00pm	Baranduda Reptiles & Frogs- In the Flesh - Field Day Survey with Dr Damian Michael	Meet at Baranduda Community Centre car park	RSVP by 25 <sup>th</sup> October to Glen Johnson <a href="mailto:baranduda@landcarevic.net.au">baranduda@landcarevic.net.au</a> 02 6020 8667

## Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups Contact List:

<b>President</b>	Peter Serpell	02 6028 9356	<b>Vice President</b>	Brian Lane	02 6027 1433
<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>	Mat Ley	02 6027 3262
<b>Upper Kiewa</b>	Alan McDonald	03 5754 1000	<b>Kergunyah-Gundowring</b>	Rowan Wallace	02 6027 5227
<b>Yackandandah</b>	Jos McAlister	02 6027 1816	<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		
<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 – October/November, please send any news items/photos to Belinda by 30<sup>th</sup> Sep. 2012**