



# February/March 2014 NEWSLETTER

## Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups

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

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



### United Nations declares 2014: "International Year of Family Farming"



The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) and its members have hailed the start of the New Year, encouraging all Australians to join with them in celebrating the International Year of Family Farming during 2014. NFF President Brent Finlay, a family farmer from south east Queensland, said family farms remain the heart and soul of agriculture in Australia.

"Ninety-nine percent of Australian farms are family owned and operated – and this year, the United Nations declared International Year of Family Farming, gives us the opportunity to celebrate the enormous

contribution these farmers make," Mr Finlay said. "Australia's 157,000 farmers not only produce 93 percent of Australia's daily domestic food supply – the clean, healthy, fresh food that Australian families enjoy – they also contribute \$38 billion in export income to the economy and manage some 59 percent of Australia's land.

Excerpt from: <http://www.nff.org.au/read/4355/2014-international-year-of-family-farming.html>

### Over 20 years active service to the community – Wally & Shirley Mitchell



Landcare is nothing without its members and Kiewa Catchment is fortunate to count Wally and Shirley Mitchell amongst its members. Over the last couple of decades Wally has provided an outstanding contribution, housing, maintaining and making available a range of Landcare equipment to members. It is almost impossible to calculate the number of volunteer hours Wally has put into fixing and maintaining equipment – we know it would be huge. Thanks so much Wally for all that you have done. Behind every great volunteer, there is usually a supportive family – we would also like to thank Shirley for her ongoing support. We wish Wally & Shirley all the very best as they move onto a new phase in their life.

*Photo: Wally Mitchell received a 20 year active service award at the Victorian Landcare 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations in 2011 held at Kergunyah Hall.*

### Upcoming Native Grasses & Weeds Identification workshops at Baranduda - with Sue Brunskill



Baranduda Landcare has four great opportunities coming up to learn more about native grasses, weeds and weed management. The first is on **Tuesday 4th March**, 6.00pm – 9.00pm at Baranduda Community Centre (BCC). This workshop will focus on native grass identification. The second workshop is on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April** at the BCC, 6.00pm – 9.00pm and will look at weed identification and management. A GIS Mapping workshop will also be conducted on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April**, 5.30pm – 7.30pm at Trudewind Road Neighbourhood House.

The fourth event is a Field Day on **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**, 9.00am – 4.00pm and will be an opportunity to apply what you have learnt to in the Field.

On-line self-bookings are essential via BLCare's Events page: <http://northeast.landcarevic.net.au/baranduda/events> Places Limited. For more information contact Glen Johnson, [baranduda@landcarevic.net.au](mailto:baranduda@landcarevic.net.au) 0418 501 936.

### Expressions of Interest for AgVET Chemical Users Training – subsidised places for Landcare members



We have received funding through the Victorian Landcare Grants to offer eight Landcare members subsidised training in the AgVet Chemical User's Course. This course outlines the legislative requirements and safe working practices needed to use pesticides and herbicides. You will learn how to safely prepare, apply, transport, handle, and store chemicals.

Normally this two-day course would cost \$350.00: - cost to Landcare members would be a much-reduced \$50.00. If you are interested in participating, please contact Belinda, 0407 227 814, [belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au](mailto:belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au), and let her know your preferred training days (weekday or weekend) and location (Baranduda, Kiewa, Dederang, Mt Beauty, Yack). Training dates and venue will be arranged to cater for the majority of participants.

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

**BARANDUDA:** *AGM, Facebook and Upcoming activities, Native Grasses and Weed ID, Mapping workshop and Field Day*

facebook



Baranduda Landcare  
30 likes · 9 talking about this

Baranduda Landcare kicked off the year with their AGM, and attendees enjoyed an extremely informative presentation by Glenda Datson on the history of the Wodonga Retained Environment Network (WRENS). A vote of sincere thanks was given to Tony Marsh who has retired as President after over three years in the job. The committee looks forward to Tony's continued participation as a committee member.

Baranduda now has a Facebook page – so far they have 30 likes – can you help make it 50?

As previously outlined in this newsletter, Baranduda has a number of fantastic events organised for the next couple of months. Be sure to make the most of these great opportunities. The Landcare calendar has all the dates and times for upcoming activities.

**KERGUNYAH:** *Join us for our next working bee and flora and fauna monitoring at the Kergunyah Wetlands*



We will have a working bee at the wetlands on **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2.00 – 4.00pm**. This will be an opportunity to tidy up the bark chip path and spray/hand-pull some weeds. We will also do some flora and fauna monitoring and set up the motion activated camera. We are developing an extensive bird list (with thanks to Glenda & Bernie Datson for their assistance) and are building our database of native plant species. Please park at Kergunyah Reserve and walk to wetlands. Wear long pants, covered shoes and bring gloves.

**UPPER KIEWA:** *Landmate team doing a mighty job clearing a walking path between Mermaid Beach and the Rockpools*



In the past three months, there have been eight Landmate working bees at the Rockpool Rd Project site. The prisoners have done an amazing job clearing woody weeds and continuing the riverside walking track from Mermaid Beach to the Rockpools. Many thanks to Upper Kiewa Landcare volunteers Ian, Barb and Alan who have been there all the way – ensuring the prisoners have a hearty BBQ lunch, and keeping the project ticking along.

Landcare has been very pleased to support the work of the Landmate program through the donation of backpack spray units and a potti putki planter.

*Photo: Left to Right BBQ master, Ian Howley, Landmate supervisor & Barb Mason*

**YACKANDANDAH:** *Join us at the Yackandandah Markets on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April*

**L.I.F.E**  
Landcare Is For Everyone

Landcare will have a display at the Yackandandah Lions Club Market on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 9.00am to 1.00pm. If you have an hour or two to lend a hand on the day, that would be terrific, or if you happen to be in town, please call by and say hello. Expressions of Interest are currently being sought for 2015 revegetation projects. If you have works that you would like to undertake on your property – please feel free to call past to discuss.

## Record your sightings of platypus: “PlatypusSPOT” - *Why your help is important...*

Understanding the occurrence and distribution of a species is essential for effective management and conservation. Local knowledge is an invaluable source of information, which is often overlooked in ecological studies.



Many potentially useful observations of platypuses are made by local residents, workers, tourists, fishermen, campers, hikers/bushwalkers and general outdoor recreationists. “PlatypusSPOT” offers wildlife enthusiasts an opportunity to contribute to a community-driven database on platypus distribution, post photos and videos, view platypus sightings in your area, and interact with other “platypusSPOTters”. This information can then be used to help assess the status of platypuses and develop appropriate conservation strategies.

To record your sightings, go to: <http://platypusspot.org/>

## Burning Native Grasses: Trial sites established – Incorporating Indigenous Traditional Knowledge



Well managed native pastures provide a range of agricultural benefits. They are naturally drought tolerant, provide livestock feed, require fewer input costs and assist in controlling soil erosion, salinity and acidity. Native grasses also provide environmental services such as increased biodiversity, carbon storage, nutrient cycling and regulate water flow.

*Using Fire as a Tool for Managing Native Grasses: An Indigenous Perspective* is a project partnership between the NE Catchment Management Authority and Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups. Funding was obtained under the Caring for our Country Sustainable Environment and Agriculture stream. The project also partners with Indigenous Knowledge holders to gain an understanding of Traditional Ecological Knowledge and how this can be applied to native pastures/grasses management.

In 2014 three trial sites were established in NE Victoria, two at Talgarno and one at Baranduda. The sites involve several treatments, grazed and un-grazed, burnt and unburnt. In January, ecologist Paul Foreman assessed the number and type of species at each site. 81 different plants species were identified across the three sites, 40 were native species. The most abundant exotic species across sites was flat weed (*Hypochaeris radicata*) and the most abundant native species were wallaby grass (*Rytidosperma racemosum*) and weeping grass (*Microlaena stipoides*).

The sites will be burnt in May (after the autumn break), using cool mosaic burns and the plots will be reassessed in spring. Tissue samples will also be taken between plots to determine any nutritional differences between treatments.

There will be a Field Day at the end of the year to look at the sites and initial results. Stay tuned for further details... Volunteers are also welcome to attend the burns in May. Please let Belinda know if you are interested in attending.

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

| WHEN  | WHAT  | WHERE   | RSVP/MORE INFORMATION   |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March<br>6.00pm – 9.00pm  | Native Grasses Identification Workshop with Sue Brunskill       | Baranduda Community Centre                                  | Register at Events Page:<br><a href="http://northeast.landcarevic.net.au/baranduda/events">http://northeast.landcarevic.net.au/baranduda/events</a> |
| Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> March<br>10.00am – 3.00pm | Landcare Display at Dederang Monster Market & Family Fun Day    | Dederang Recreation Reserve,<br>Kiewa Valley Hwy            | Belinda Pearce 0407 227 814<br><a href="mailto:belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au">belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au</a>                             |
| Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March<br>7.30pm          | Kiewa Catchment Executive Meeting                               | Peter & Rhonda Serpell's<br>Running Creek                   | Jos McAlister 02 6027 816<br><a href="mailto:mcalistertojo@live.com">mcalistertojo@live.com</a>   |
| Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April<br>6.00pm – 9.00pm  | Weeds Identification and Management Workshop with Sue Brunskill | Baranduda Community Centre                                  | Register at Events Page:<br><a href="http://northeast.landcarevic.net.au/baranduda/events">http://northeast.landcarevic.net.au/baranduda/events</a> |
| Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> April<br>2.00pm – 4.00pm   | Kergunyah Wetlands Working Bee                                  | Park at Kergunyah Reserve – walk to Wetlands                | Belinda Pearce 0407 227 814<br><a href="mailto:belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au">belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au</a>                             |
| Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> April<br>5.30pm – 7.30pm | GIS Mapping workshop  | Trudewind Rd.<br>Neighbourhood House<br>Quirk Court Wodonga | Register at Events Page:<br><a href="http://northeast.landcarevic.net.au/baranduda/events">http://northeast.landcarevic.net.au/baranduda/events</a> |
| Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> April<br>7.30pm          | Kiewa Catchment Executive Meeting                               | To be advised   | Jos McAlister 02 6027 816<br><a href="mailto:mcalistertojo@live.com">mcalistertojo@live.com</a>   |
| Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> April<br>9.00am – 1.00pm  | Landcare Display Yackandandah Markets                           | Wellsford St<br>Yackandandah                                | Belinda Pearce 0407 227 814<br><a href="mailto:belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au">belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au</a>                             |
| Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> April<br>3.00pm         | Dung beetle presentation<br><i>Women on farms Gathering</i>     | Lucyvale Hall   | Belinda Pearce 0407 227 814<br><a href="mailto:belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au">belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au</a>                             |
| Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May<br>9.00am – 4.00pm   | Weeds and Grasses Field Day                                     | Meet at Baranduda Community Centre                          | Register at Events Page:<br><a href="http://northeast.landcarevic.net.au/baranduda/events">http://northeast.landcarevic.net.au/baranduda/events</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<br>Organic & chemical spray unit & Wick wiper  | <b>Peter Serpell</b> 02 6028 9356<br>Trailing seed drill & chemical spray unit | <b>Rod Mitchell</b> 02 6027 5 155<br>Chemical spray unit & Rabbit ripper | <b>Belinda Pearce</b> 0407 227 814<br>Landcare BBQ trailer & Tree poppers |                 |              |
| <b>Project Manager, Landcare Facilitator &amp; Newsletter:</b> Belinda Pearce 0407 227 814 <a href="mailto:belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au">belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au</a> |  |  |   |                 |              |

## 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<br>(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: <b>Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups</b> , and post with this form to:<br>"The Membership Secretary", 8 Barlow Lane, Bruarong Vic. 3749    email: <a href="mailto:mcalistertojo@live.com">mcalistertojo@live.com</a> |

**Next Newsletter – April/May, please send any news items/photos to Belinda by 31<sup>st</sup> March**