



## March/April 2015 NEWSLETTER

# Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups

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

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



### Rare Spot-tailed quoll recorded near Baranduda! *"Hugely Significant..."* (article excerpt from <http://delwp.vic.gov.au/news/rare-live-quoll-recorded-near-baranduda>)

A rare Spot-tailed quoll has been seen at a Staghorn Flat property. The property owners first thought their dogs were barking at a possum until they took a closer look at the animal perched up a tree. The Spot-tailed quoll is a similar size to a cat, and is recognisable by its distinctive white spots on the tail and body.

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Senior Biodiversity Officer, Glen Johnson, attended the property on the night of March 3 to confirm the species.

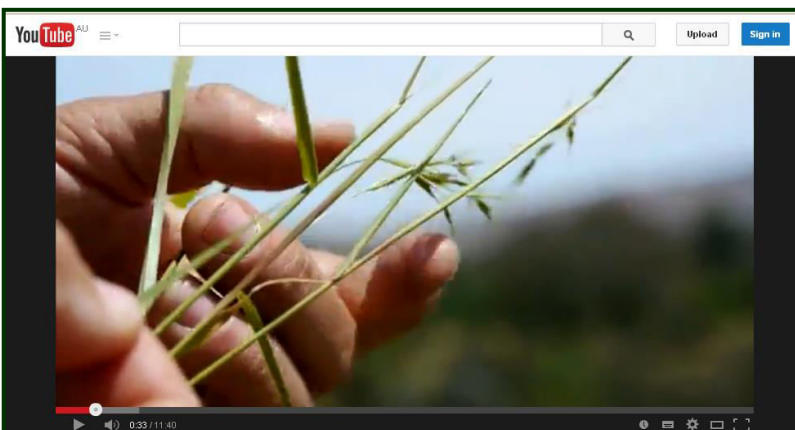
**"This is a hugely significant record as there have been very few recent sightings in the North East,"** Mr Johnson said. "Most sightings reported to the department are unfortunately from road kill incidents as the quoll is known to scavenge for dead animals putting themselves at risk. The Spot-tailed is the largest of the four quoll species, and is also the largest remaining marsupial carnivore on mainland Australia. "The Spot-tailed quolls hunt mostly at night being largely nocturnal and solitary, and will feed on medium-sized mammals including gliders, possum and rabbits as well as birds and eggs.



"We know there are populations in larger forested country in the mountains, but this sighting demonstrates there is a small population around the Baranduda Range, Mt Stanley and Mt Pilot area. "It is terrific that the Cohalans contacted the Staghorn Wildlife Shelter who recognised the likelihood of the spotted animal being the rare quoll and reported it to us "The Spot-tailed quoll is listed as Threatened under the Victorian *Flora & Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and 'Endangered' under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Spot-tailed quolls are found in a range of forest environments, from rainforest to open woodland. They require forest with suitable den sites such as rock crevices, caves, hollow logs, burrows and tree hollows. They have a large home range and can cover more than six kilometres overnight. The spot-tailed quoll was once common throughout south eastern Australia, including Tasmania. However, since European settlement it has become rare across most of its range.

### Kiewa Catchment Landcare produces Native Grass video: – *"Considering Native Grasses"*



This film outlines the benefits of native grasses from a production perspective and also features the native grasses burn trials that we are undertaking at Talgarno and Baranduda. The film is part of the Indigenous use of fire project, and has been funded by the Australian Government.

Our thanks go to the many people who have contributed to the film and to our film-maker Jacqui Schulz. Our thanks are also extended to Richard McTernan and Brendon Kennedy from North East Catchment Management Authority who have enabled us to connect with the Indigenous community.

You can view the film *"Considering Native Grasses"* at: [http://youtu.be/vDYHF\\_FfZLg](http://youtu.be/vDYHF_FfZLg)

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

### BARANDUDA: *Crack of the Willow* (from Baranduda Landcare Facebook page)



Crack of the Willow! No cricket ..... but the willow was certainly smacked as Steve & crew from Mulcahy Earthmoving commenced contract chainsaw and excavator willow removal as part of our “Middle Creek Protection & Restoration Project”.

This willow-choked section upstream of Fredrick’s St. will be the focus for our 16th Annual (2015) Plant Ark Community Tree Planting day (mark Sunday 26th July in your diary now to help its transformation into a native riparian oasis). Our Parklands Albury Wodonga project partners will in the interim follow-up with control of willow regrowth and other woody weeds in this and additional sections upstream to the Boyes/Beechworth Rd intersection to help maximise the biodiversity value of this important waterway & wildlife corridor in the making. This project has been supported by the Victorian Government as part of the Victorian Landcare Grants Program and is administered through NECMA – who also approved our “Works on Waterway” application enabling willow removal works to proceed.

### KERGUNYAH/GUNDOWRING: *Turtle Information Session at Kergunyah Hall: - Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015*



Due to unforeseen circumstances, we have postponed our Turtles workshop to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June. We will kick off at 7.30pm at the Kergunyah Hall. This will be an opportunity to learn about the biology of freshwater turtles, identification, threats and how to enhance and protect their habitat.

Graeme from “Turtles Australia” will also bring along some live specimens and talk about the research work this voluntary organisation is undertaking.

If you have seen turtles in the area, you may like to contribute to a community turtle mapping program (turtleSAT) that is gathering important data. For more information go to: <http://turtlesat.org.au/turtlesat/default.aspx>

### UPPER KIEWA: *Weed control works continue at Upper Kiewa project sites and “Green Army” starts at Mt Beauty*



A Green Army team started in Mt Beauty in February. The Green Army programme is an Australian Government initiative which provides opportunities for young Australians aged 17-24 years to gain training and experience in environmental and heritage conservation fields, while participating in projects that benefit the environment. Kiewa Landcare has supported the Green Army through the provision of spray and the loan of spray equipment. Many thanks to Mike Bonhote for helping the team learn how to operate the Landcare spray unit. In other news, John Gibbons has been successful in obtaining funding from Alpine shire for the

purchase of tree ferns for the Junction Gully and Barb Mason has been working on two interpretive signs for the Rock Pool Rd project area. On the 1st May Belinda will give a dung beetle talk to Mt Beauty U3A members.

### “NO SHOOTING” Signs – *Are you interested in purchasing signage for your property?*



Several members have raised concerns about unauthorised people shooting/carrying firearms on their properties. Bob Gough has provided a template for “No Shooting” signage and if there is enough interest we can do a bulk print run. The signs would be made of corflute and measure 420mm x 594mm. The price will depend on the number ordered... the more we print, the cheaper the print run.

The text on the sign is: “WARNING Carrying firearms on private property without the permission of the owner is a serious offence punishable by fines over \$7000 and/or imprisonment for 12 months (Firearms Act 1996 s131). Any person found on this property with a firearm and without the express permission of the owner for the dates in location will be prosecuted. All previous authorities are revoked. By order of the land owner”

If you are interested in obtaining signage, please contact:

Peter & Rhonda Serpell, phone: 02 6028 9356 email: [rhondaserpell@bigpond.com](mailto:rhondaserpell@bigpond.com)

## Landcare Native Grasses Field Day at Talgarno – over 75 people in attendance



Over 75 people attended the Native Grasses Field Day held at Talgarno on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January. The day kicked off at Greg Hayes' property where participants were divided into two groups. Native grasses expert Dr Meredith Mitchell provided guidelines on how to identify native grasses, their agronomic benefits and how to manage them for maximum productivity. Ecologist Paul Foreman provided details on the native grass fire trials at Talgarno and Baranduda and biodiversity benefits associated with native grasses.

Participants then headed to the Talgarno Hall where the day's events continued with presentations by Meredith and Paul. Meredith outlined her findings from her extensive weeping grass research and Paul provided a summary of the outcomes of the fire trials. The most successful burn was at Baranduda (due to the presence of increased dry matter). Vegetation assessments indicated that the Baranduda burn plots had an increased number of native grass species and a reduction in the abundance of weed cover compared to the no burn plots.

The final speaker for the day was Bruce Pascoe, author of *"Dark Emu – Black Seed"*. Bruce's book challenges the idea that Indigenous people were exclusively hunter-gatherers, and provides evidence gained from explorer and early settler



accounts that indigenous people undertook a wide range of agricultural practices. The use of fire for replenishing grasses, orchids and yam species is well-documented throughout the records. The take home message was that there was potential to learn more from Indigenous practices and how they can be adapted to 21<sup>st</sup> century sustainable land management. Our thanks go to the Talgarno Fire Brigade for providing us with a hearty BBQ lunch and to the Wises Creek Talgarno Landcare members who have formed such a productive and positive working relationship with Kiewa Landcare.

*Native Grasses Field Day speakers, (left to right) Bruce Pascoe, Dr Meredith Mitchell & Paul Foreman, at Talgarno Hall*

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

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE	RSVP/MORE INFORMATION
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm	Kiewa Exec Meeting	Pam Davis-Jones" Tangambalanga	Jos McAlister – Secretary 02 6027 1816 <a href="mailto:mcalistertojo@live.com">mcalistertojo@live.com</a>
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March 10.30am – 4.30pm	Fungi – An introduction to a curious kingdom with Alison Pouliot	Stanley Recreation Reserve	BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL (waiting list applies) Kelly Behrens 02 6043 7627 <a href="mailto:kelly.behrens@landcarevic.net.au">kelly.behrens@landcarevic.net.au</a>
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 11.00am – 4.00pm	Farm Trees & Landcare Association – Annual forum & Annual General Meeting	Marland House Level 16, 570 Bourke St Melbourne	Farm Tree & Landcare Association <a href="mailto:ftla@vff.org.au">ftla@vff.org.au</a> 03 9207 5527
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm	Kiewa Exec Meeting	To be advised	Jos McAlister – Secretary 02 6027 1816 <a href="mailto:mcalistertojo@live.com">mcalistertojo@live.com</a>
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm	Turtle Information Session	Kergunyah Hall	Belinda Pearce 0407 227 814 <a href="mailto:belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au">belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au</a>
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> July	National Tree Day	Stay tuned for details	Stay tuned for details

Keep up-to-date with Natural Resource Management events and news from across the North East: –  
Simply send an email to: [news@necma.vic.gov.au](mailto:news@necma.vic.gov.au) with the subject "SUBSCRIBE"

## 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 spray unit with Quik Spray & Wick wiper	<b>Peter Serpell</b> 02 6028 9356 Trailing seed drill & chemical spray unit	<b>Rod Mitchell</b> 02 6027 5 155 Chemical spray unit & Rabbit ripper	<b>Belinda Pearce</b> 0407 227 814 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: – Choose what option suits you best...

**Join or renew online at:** <http://kiewacatchmentlandcare.org.au> (online system accepts PayPal & Credit Card payments)

Our subgroups are: Baranduda, Kiewa-Bonegilla, Kergunyah-Gundowring, Upper Kiewa and Yackandandah

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.

#### CHEQUE PAYMENTS

Simply forward a cheque made out to “Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups” and your membership form to the Membership Secretary, Jos McAlister, 8 Barlow Lane, Bruarong 3749.

#### ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER

Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups, Commonwealth Bank BSB: 063-534 Account Number: 000902483

Please include your surname as a reference on transfers and email Jos your payment date and membership form [mcalistertojo@live.com](mailto:mcalistertojo@live.com). (We need all your details so that we can process your membership).

### KIEWA CATCHMENT LANDCARE MEMBERSHIP FORM – NEW MEMBERS AND RENEWALS

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

**Next Newsletter – May/June, please send any news items/photos to Belinda by 30<sup>th</sup> April**