



## March/April 2016 NEWSLETTER

# Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups

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

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



### Kiewa Catchment scoops major Fire Awards for Indigenous Fire Knowledge Project

Kiewa Catchment was delighted to walk away with two Awards from the Fire Awareness Awards held in Melbourne. The Awards were for “Community-Led Prevention and Preparedness” and the big one for the night, the “RACV Insurance Award for Excellence”, which came with a cheque for \$5000.00. The money will be used to further develop our work in this area.



We would like to thank all the project partners that have been vital to the success of this project: our trial site holders, Bridget Doyle, Rhonda Sinclair and Greg Hayes. North East CMA staffers, Richard McTernan, Brendon Kennedy and Simon Feillafe. Uncle Rod Mason, Indigenous Senior Fire Knowledge holder, the CFA, Project ecologist Paul Foreman, The Australian Government for providing funding and the many people who contributed to the Fire forums and Native Grasses Field Day.

We are extremely pleased that the North East CMA is continuing to burn and monitor the trial plots. The win has resulted in considerable media coverage, with stories in the Border Mail, The Weekly Times, ABC radio and Melbourne Community radio. Well done to all involved!

*Photo: (courtesy of Border Mail) Brendon, Peter & Bridget with trophies*

### Yackandandah Creek Community Visioning Workshop & Threatened Species funding success!

Over 30 people attended the Visioning workshop, BBQ and walk held in late November. Priorities identified included: weed reduction, a walking bridge link to Bells Flat Rd, signage along the creek and improving water quality and bank stabilisation. Participants also identified what skills and support they can offer to achieve these goals. Our thanks go to



North East CMA, Indigo Shire and Yack Sports Park for supporting this event.

To kick things along, funding has been received from the State Government’s Threatened Species initiative to remove weeds, plant indigenous species and install nest boxes. The target species are Squirrel Gliders and Phascogales. Stay tuned for updates and how you can be involved. The next planning meeting will be on Wed. **16<sup>th</sup> March, 5.00pm** at the Sports Park. All welcome!

*Photo: Participants at the Yack Creek Visioning Workshop*

### “Rodenator” Rabbit warren destruction demonstration at Bruarong – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May



The rabbit is a serious environmental and agricultural pest and can impact on farm productivity and native ecosystems, leading to financial loss and environmental destruction. Whilst the release of the virus booster in 2016/2017 will reduce rabbit numbers, the virus needs to be combined with destruction of warrens. Pest Smart states that: **“Warren destruction is the most important part of lasting rabbit control.”** Warren ripping is one method, the use of the rodenator is another. Each has particular advantages depending on site conditions.

You are invited to a rodenator demonstration & BBQ lunch on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May. 10.30am**, top of Tunnel Gap Road, Bruarong (look for Landcare signs). For catering purposes or more information please RSVP to: Megan Hughes [megan.hughes@landcarevic.net.au](mailto:megan.hughes@landcarevic.net.au) 0407 227 814

*Photo: Rabbit warrens can encourage weeds & cause soil erosion, warren destruction is vital to ongoing rabbit control*

## Kiewa Catchment Landcare part of New Zealand Department of Conservation Study tour



Kiewa Catchment recently hosted Charles Barrie from New Zealand Department of Conservation (Community Engagement) as part of a one month study tour of south-eastern Australia. Charles spent three days in our area and was particularly interested in our Landcare projects (Dung beetle and Indigenous Use of fire), the Landcare model and the methods we use to engage diverse groups.

We also had the opportunity to learn about Maori engagement in New Zealand and their conservation success stories. We look forward to reading his report.

*Photo: Richard Mc Ternan & Charles Barrie (NZ Dept. of Conservation) at Mt Pilot art site*

## Brunswick East Primary School to grow plants for Kiewa Catchment Landcare



City kids are gaining first hand skills in native plant propagation thanks to a collaborative effort between Kiewa Catchment & Brunswick East Primary School.

Upper Gundowring Landcare member Elissa Walker has instigated the partnership and is working with the students to grow plants for Landcare Projects. The students are very excited to know that their plants will provide environmental benefits. Kiewa Landcare Nursery has supplied locally-sourced seed and we look forward to growing this partnership over time.

*Photo: Seeds from Kiewa Landcare Nursery have been sent to students in Melbourne*

## Tallangatta Valley – Kiewa Catchment Landcare Fencing Trailer: *The gift that keeps on giving...*

In response to the devastating 2009 Black Saturday fires, the Tallangatta Valley community banded together to purchase and donate a fencing trailer to Kiewa Catchment Landcare groups. It was an extremely generous and practical gesture of good will between farming communities.



Over the past seven years, Kiewa Catchment has ensured that the good will has continued with the trailer deployed to numerous fire-affected communities across Victoria and southern NSW. Whilst we would prefer not to have fires, we are very pleased that the trailer continues to provide practical support. The trailer is currently being utilised by the Indigo Valley community. We recently received a letter of thanks from Creightons Creek community, which made good use of the trailer in 2015 (reproduced below).

*Photo: Landcare Fencing Trailer donated by Tallangatta Valley in 2009*

## *Letter of Thanks to Kiewa Catchment Landcare from Creightons Creek Community (November 2015)*

*Dear Peter & Rhonda,*

*On behalf of the Creightons Creek Landcare Group, I would like to thank you and the Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups for the use of your fencing equipment and trailer.*

*Almost this time last year, we had the Creighton Creek Valley experience a terrible fire which destroyed vast areas of natural environment and farm land. We knew that the fencing trailer existed because Steve and Sarah told us about the generous purchase that was made by one of your Landcare groups when you experienced fires several years ago. After a phone call to the Crookes, we then contacted you, the arrangements were made – and you brought it down for us! Thank-you very much on behalf of the fire affected families.*

*All the things you said about people being in shock and not knowing what to do happened here. Some of our friends whose farms were burnt ran a field morning with Waratah where the machine was demonstrated and guidelines were established. Some farms had assistance from prisoners who were trained and experienced with the machine and we had excellent reports on the men and the machine. Other farmers who used it themselves were very grateful as well.*

*At our Landcare AGM last night, we passed a vote of thanks to you and your Landcare Groups' generosity and forward thinking in recovering land use after destructive fires.*

*With our best wishes,*

*Anne & Jim Shovelton*



## Vale Bruce Birrell: – Great Mate to the Landcare Community



The Landcare community lost a great mate on the 22nd of February 2016 with the death of Bruce Birrell, affectionately known as Bob.

Bob taught at Dederang Primary school for almost 20 years, during which time he was seconded by CMA to take on the role of Water Watch Coordinator. He became a much loved part of many schools curriculums arriving with a carload of equipment, jokes and knowledge that has inspired many students to care for our waterways and their bugs. Kids recall his classes with great fondness remembering him as a gentle giant, the funniest teacher ever with a nickname for everyone and that made him a truly a memorable part of their learning. Bruce shared a great knowledge and love of the outdoor environment, he helped foster a valuable connection between

schools and Landcare, taking the classes he had on many planting days and excursions. We are all richer for time spent with him. Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups extend their deepest sympathy to Bruce's family, he will be sadly missed.

## North East Local Produce Guide – Register now!

Local farmers and retailers of fresh produce grown in North East Victoria and the Albury area are invited to register their business for inclusion in the upcoming 2nd edition of the North East Local Produce Guide. The Guide aims to make it easy for local people to source locally-grown food – thus supporting our local farmers, boosting our local economy, reducing carbon emissions and nurturing community connections. The Guide is supported with funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme, hence business listings in the Guide are FREE. Find out all the details and register online by 14th March 2016 at [www.nelocalproduce.com.au](http://www.nelocalproduce.com.au).

## Rubbish? A sustainable approach at Yackandandah Folk Festival – Can you help?

Yackandandah Folk Festival has a reputation for great music and community vibe. It is also gaining a reputation for sustainable practices. This year the festival is sharing profits with Totally Renewable Yackandandah (TRY) for their community Perpetual Energy Fund see <http://totallyrenewableyack.org.au>. TRY is forming a **Green Team of volunteers** to handle the drinking water points, recycling and rubbish for the festival. And TRY is asking for your help. You can help by: volunteering some hours to work on the Green Team. To volunteer go to <http://yackfolkfestival.com/join-in/volunteers/> – When you complete the form please be sure to state that you are applying for the Green Team.

## Landcare membership website – Security update: <http://kiewacatchmentlandcare.org.au>

Our online membership system has had a security update thanks to work done by Tony Marsh. Your details are now safer than ever. You can check when your membership is due, renew online and update your details. If you are using an outdated operating system such as Windows XP – you may receive a security warning. This can be ignored and simply proceed to the next page. Our thanks go to Tony for his continual improvements and refinements.

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

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE	RSVP/MORE INFORMATION
Wed. 16 <sup>th</sup> March 5.00pm	Friends Of Yackandandah Ck Meeting	Yack Sports Park building	Megan Hughes 0407 227 814 <a href="mailto:megan.hughes@landcarevic.net.au">megan.hughes@landcarevic.net.au</a>
Wed. 16 <sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm	Kiewa Exec Meeting	Brian Lane's Bruarong	Peter Serpell 02 6028 9356 <a href="mailto:rhondaserpell@bigpond.com">rhondaserpell@bigpond.com</a>
Wed. 20 <sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm	Kiewa Exec Meeting	To be advised	Peter Serpell 02 6028 9356 <a href="mailto:rhondaserpell@bigpond.com">rhondaserpell@bigpond.com</a>
Sat. 7 <sup>th</sup> May 10.30am	Rodenator Demonstration followed by BBQ lunch	Tunnel Gap Rd Bruarong/Glen Creek Look for Landcare signs	Megan Hughes 0407 227 814 <a href="mailto:megan.hughes@landcarevic.net.au">megan.hughes@landcarevic.net.au</a>

Keep up-to-date with Natural Resource Management events & 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>	Position Vacant		<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>	Edith Nicholls	0418 494 101	<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	<b>Peter Serpell</b> 02 6028 9356	<b>Rod Mitchell</b> 02 6027 5 155	<b>Michael Bonhote</b> 03 5754 4714		
Organic spray unit with Quik Spray & Wick wiper	Trailing seed drill & chemical spray unit	Chemical spray unit & Rabbit ripper	Chemical Spray unit		
<b>Landcare Facilitator &amp; Newsletter:</b> Megan Hughes 0407 227 814 <a href="mailto:megan.hughes@landcarevic.net.au">megan.hughes@landcarevic.net.au</a>					

### 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 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 Treasurer – Julie Pearce

#### 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 Julie your payment date and membership form to [kclgtreasurer@landcarevic.net.au](mailto:kclgtreasurer@landcarevic.net.au). (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 years 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 Megan by the end of April**