



Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups Inc

March 2022 Newsletter

Keeping you up to date with your local Landcare news

KCLG incorporates independent Baranduda and Yackandandah Creek as well as fully-merged Kiewa-Bonegilla, Kergunyah, Gundowring, Dederang Primary School & Upper Kiewa Landcare Groups. KCLG has a volunteer committee of representatives from our Landcare groups and funded Landcare Facilitator and Project Officer positions.

Hello Landcarers,

Welcome to the March edition of the KCLG eNews.

This month we introduce our Treasurer, Peter Presutti and we commence our first story on the history of Landcare in the area with Lindsay Jarvis.

March is once again looking very busy! I've included lots of updates on things groups have been doing around the area. With the weather cooling it's a great opportunity to join one of our local Landcare groups in the many working bees that will be coming up over the Autumn season.

If you have something to promote such as an event, planting day or other Landcare related matter, let me know and I'll include it in the next issue.

Shannon Brennan
Landcare Facilitator KCLG

What's in this issue:

- Introduction to our Committee
- Landcare History in the Kiewa Valley
- What's been happening
- What's coming up in our region
- Grants available and surveys
- Resources
- Contact us

Introduction to our Committee

Peter Presutti (Treasurer)

Hi everyone, I grew up on a property in Walla Walla, my dad was a farm hand. I have kept my friendship with the owner's son on this property to this day. I worked for him on the farm, mainly sheep and crops and went with him contract harvesting. Header driving was pretty cool!

We lived in Culcairn for some years and finally moved to Albury in 1962. Married an Albury girl and never left.

I met Tony Marsh in 2011 through bushwalking. He introduced me to Landcare, so I joined Baranduda and helped out mainly with the works on Middle Creek. I also did many farm visits with Tony and Megan to document the progress of the landholder grants.

When Julie withdrew from her role as treasurer, I sort of thought I could help out - and here I still am and I quite enjoy working with the team!



Landcare History in the Kiewa Valley

Join KCLG Life Member Lindsay Jarvis chatting to KGLG president Rowan Wallace on all things Landcare.....



Driving through the Kiewa Valley with Lindsay Jarvis is a journey full of recollections and reminiscences as he points out trees that have been a part of the landscape for as long as I remember

*"That was the first planting the Kiewa Valley Farm Trees Group did"
"This is the plantation where the first direct seeding of native trees was trialed"*

As we chat, I think that it's important we share these stories to have a record of the achievements of those early Landcarer's and also an equally important reminder for us to record today what our Network groups are achieving.

Start at the beginning,

Each time we think that that is the first thing that happened Lindsay recalls something else that went before.

After some consideration we think that recognising the change in the management of the landscape following European settlement and the effect on the environment that was accelerated by farming might be a good place to begin.

"The first nations people had managed the landscape for thousands of years before white settlers came to the Kiewa Valley. When the government developed the idea of selling the land, you couldn't just buy it and sit on it. One of the requirements was that you had to clear a certain amount of land each year. This led to wholesale clearing of large areas...the policy that had been actioned by the government led to a reaction in the environment.

By the 1950's the landholders found the river was running faster and because it was running faster the erosion of the banks was becoming a serious issue and farmers along the river found that their land was disappearing. In an attempt to address these issues across the state the government implemented river trusts. The Kiewa River Improvement Trust was gazetted in 1953. Mr. Ian Drummond was a shire engineer in Gippsland was in charge of The Kiewa River Improvement Trust. Among the landholders who were representatives on the River Trust from Kergunyah were Mr. Jack and Mr. Bob Reid and Mr. Pat Larkin. They heard that the Gippsland area was having some success with planting trees in plantations rather than individually, to help control erosion so Jack Reid arranged to have members from the Gippsland River Improvement Trust visit the area and explain what they were doing to combat erosion.

In the late 70's people were still looking for solutions, a meeting was held at the Kergunyah Hall and this led to the formation of the 'Kiewa Valley Farm Trees and Land Protection Group', the idea of adding Protection to the group's name was to stop the land clearing and protect the vegetation that was left. Councilor Peter Adams became the first chair.

The first tree plantation was an eroding gully at Gundowring North on Judy Seebacher's property behind what was then the Anvil Art Gallery. This planting continued across the road in Ewan Wallace's property following the gully to try and slow the water coming into Bight Creek which was eroding badly. The group also planted trees along the roadside from the Gundowring end of Henry's Lane (now Kergunyah road) to Bight creek."

The group continued to grow and had members right across the Kiewa River catchment, it was the precursor to another movement that was brewing in Victoria around this time which was to become Landcare.



Close up photo of the first gully planting undertaken by the Kiewa Valley Farm Trees and Land Protection Group



View of the gully planting from the east side of Gundowring Road

What's been happening

Kiewa Carbon Bash - Soil Carbon Field Days

Our first round of field workshops on each of the demonstration farms were held in late February 2022 with David Hardwick, SoilLandFood, Dr Greg Bender, Australian Soil Management and Nick McGrath, McGrath Soils. Around 30 participants each day learnt about the different soil carbon methods being undertaken on each of the demonstration farms including mixed pasture species, rotational grazing, composting, gypsum, keyline and biologicals. They also saw how soil coring for carbon testing is undertaken. See highlights from these days on [Prime News](#) and our YouTube channel [KCLG video](#) prepared by GriggMedia.



David Hardwick from SoilLandFood explaining the benefits of soil carbon



Participants learning about the benefits of composting

Our next round of workshops will be held on the 1st April. For more information on the project and the demonstration farms please contact Charles Daaboul, Project Officer with KCLG on projects@kclg.org.au or 0493 268 085.

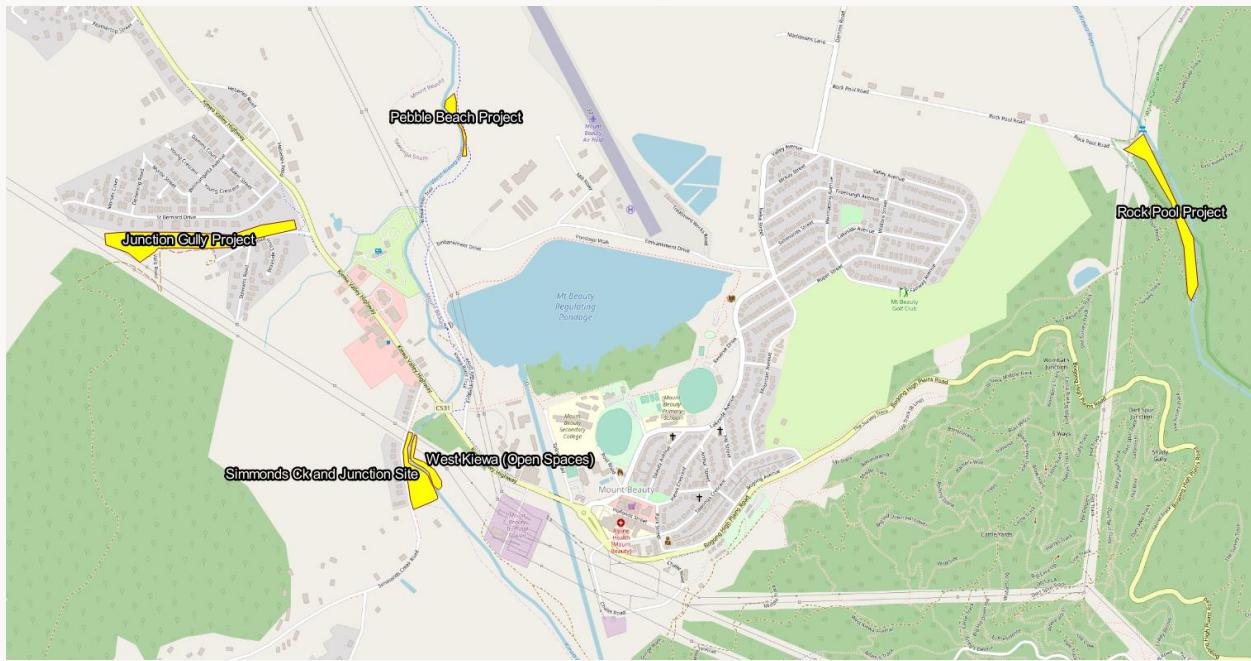
Yackandandah Landcare - Hosting Megan Carter and attending the Yackandandah Community Day

Yackandandah Landcare attended the Yack Community Day with a number of other community groups to spread the word of Landcare in the area.

They also hosted Megan Carter at the hall who gave a presentation on First Nations People of North East Victoria. If you weren't able to attend, a recording was made of the evening's presentation - [watch here](#). Thanks to Jo Millar for coordinating this event.

Upper Kiewa Landcare - Update on the Simmonds Creek and Kiewa Walking Trail (Pebble Beach) Project

Upper Kiewa Landcare has been busy with several working bees on the Kiewa Walking Trail (Pebble Beach project) and on the new Simmonds Creek junction project over the last month.



Map showing the location of all the Landcare sites for the Upper Kiewa Group around Mt Beauty

Working bees on the Kiewa Walking Trail (Pebble Beach) were undertaken to control weeds and remove a large area of dead willows. The group had to work hard to find the plants amongst the weeds but to their great pleasure there has been about a 90% success rate with some plants reaching almost 2m high. Not bad in 9 months!



Photo showing the cleared trees on the Kiewa River walking trail

The Saturday working bee group has also been working on clearing weeds around plantings in the West Kiewa Open Spaces project site as well as Simmonds Creek plantings and in the past 2 weeks the group has started work on the new Simmonds Creek Project. They are using a tractor to remove dense infestations of blackberries, willows & honey suckle which in many parts were over 3m high. Once this is completed the weeds will be mulched and the site will be planted out over winter months.

Below are before after photos of the Simmonds Creek work:



Kiewa-Tangambalanga-Bonegilla Landcare

Kiewa-Tangambalanga-Bonegilla (KTB) Landcare group have recently met to talk about priorities for action and group reinvigoration opportunities. We are looking at having a native plant giveaway, attending the Indigo Shire Community day in April and establishing a Facebook site to promote group actions. If you are interested in joining this group and becoming involved please contact facilitator@kclg.org.au or 0407 227 814. Updates will be provided in future newsletters and on the groups page on our website.

What's coming up in our region

**Road to Regenerative Ag Field Day
Grazing management with Graeme Hand 24th March 2022**

[Click here to register on Eventbrite - Free event](#)

ROAD TO REGENERATIVE AG PROJECT

On Farm Workshop With Graeme Hand

Thursday March 24th 10am - 12pm Yackandandah

Free Catered Event



Please join **Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups** (KCLG) and **Graeme Hand** (Hand for the Land) for an on farm workshop exploring contemporary grazing methods. KCLG is currently delivering an Australian Government National Landcare Program – Smart Farms small grants project improving understanding of regenerative agriculture, with a focus on contemporary grazing practices, benefits of biodiversity to agriculture, improving soil carbon and soil health in the Kiewa Valley in North East Victoria. The project is being delivered from July 2020 to October 2022.

Working in partnership with Graeme Hand, the project is delivering contemporary grazing design and advice on six demonstration farms in the Kiewa Valley through mentoring and 12-month safe to fail trials. The results of these demonstrations will be concluded through farm tours with Graeme Hand and demonstration farm recipients and shared with the wider community at this on farm workshop. Topics to be shared and discussed at this workshop include :

- **Assessing different grazing techniques through safe to fail trials**
- **Designing convenient fencing and water**
- **Designing a no input grazing system**
- **What does a drought proof grazing system look like?**
- **Selecting suitable animal types**
- **Quickly and easily monitor land and soil health and corrective action**
- **Identify the cause of weeds**
- **Monitor and adjust animal health and performance**
- **Common problems with grazing management and how to avoid them**



Site Address - 325 Kirby Flat Rd, Yackandandah VIC

Please register via the Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups Evenbrite page or contact KCLG Project Officer Charles Daaboul at projects@kclg.org.au or 0493268085



Kiewa Carbon Bash
Exploring Soil Health Workshop, Friday 1st April
[Click here for tickets via Eventbrite.](#)

KIEWA CARBON BASH

Exploring Soil Health Workshop with David Hardwick (Soil Land Food)

Friday April 1st 10am - 2pm Kergunyah Hall
Free Catered Event



Please join **Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups** and **David Hardwick (SOIL LAND FOOD)** to explore how soils work and how to build and monitor soil health in this hands on workshop as part of the Kiewa Carbon Bash. Bring along a cube of soil from your place:

- **Understanding soil systems and how they work**
- **What is soil health**
- **Monitoring soil health**
- **How we are monitoring soil health at the four Kiewa Carbon Bash Demo farms**

Site Address - Kergunyah Hall : 25 Kergunyah Rd, Kergunyah VIC
All Welcome.

Please register via the Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups Evenbrite page or contact KCLG Project Officer Charles Daaboul at projects@kclg.org.au or 0493268085



Australian Government

Kergunyah Landcare - Exploring our roadsides - Hellhole Creek
First walk - Saturday 2nd April



Exploring our Roadsides: Hellhole Creek Road Kergunyah

Kergunyah/Gundowring Landcare invites you to join us on the first Saturday of each month to discover and record our diverse roadside flora and fauna, both native and exotic. This is a family friendly event open to members and the broader community. We will compile a bird & plant list, providing an opportunity to share knowledge and build identification skills.

Meet at **387 Hellhole Creek Road** at **9.00am** on the **first Saturday of each month** (weather permitting). You are welcome to attend one or all walks.

2nd April 7th May 4th June 2nd Jul 6th August
3rd Sept. 1st Oct 6th Nov. 3rd Dec

No need to book. ALL WELCOME!

Bring a hat, water, sunscreen, insect repellent, camera/notepad (optional) & wear covered footwear.

For further information contact Belinda:

Phone: 02 6027 5294 e-mail: lesandbelinda@yahoo.com

Kergunyah/Gundowring Landcare - Action Planning Meeting 22nd March

Kergunyah and Gundowring Landcare members are meeting on Tuesday 22nd March, 4 - 5.30 pm at the Kergunyah Reserve (located just over the bridge on Kergunyah Road, past the caravan park and general store).

We will be discussing priorities for action, important issues, grant opportunities and projects - all existing members and anyone interested in joining Landcare are most welcome.

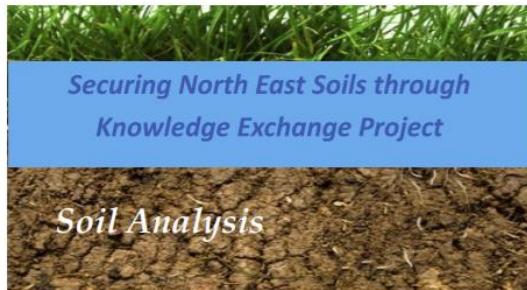
Come along and join us for some afternoon tea down at this beautiful river spot! To confirm your attendance please email Shannon on facilitator@kclg.org.au or call 0407 227 814.



If you can't attend but would like to get involved in Landcare, discuss priorities for action and/or grant opportunities please email or call on the contact details provided above so we can discuss this further with you.

Mitta Valley Landcare Soils Analysis Workshop Talgarno 9.30 - 12 pm 22nd March 2022

This month Mitta Valley Landcare is also hosting a workshop on the 22nd March on how to read soil tests. To register contact Jim De Hennin on the number provided below.



*Workshop 1.— Soil Chemistry (understanding our Soil Tests)
presented by Sue Briggs from CSBP*

Soil Analysis: This workshop is designed to give you an understanding of how to read and understand soil tests and the chemistry that makes up soil components

*Talgarno Hall,
1225 Murray River Road, Talgarno, VIC, 3691*

Tuesday March 22nd 9.30am to 12.00pm

Morning tea provided

Please contact

Jim de Hennin 0408 978 847

If you intend to attend



This project is supported by the North East CMA through funding provided by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program



Weeds Conference, 21st - 24th March 2022, Albury

The combined NSW & VIC Weeds Conference showcases the latest research and ideas for managing the establishment, impact and spread of weeds and will be held this March at the Albury Entertainment Centre. For more information on the conference [please see here](#).



Upper Kiewa Landcare Saturday Working Bees

Upper Kiewa Landcare in Mount Beauty holds working bees most Saturday mornings to undertake various activities such as weed control, planting, tracking clearing and maintenance of a number of Landcare sites around the town. If interested in joining these bees please contact John Gibbons on **0407 520 542** or email at warrawongnatives@bigpond.com to obtain information on weekly site locations, times and activities being undertaken.

Rabbits Research and Development Webinar - Monday 21st March via Zoom

This free webinar, hosted by the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions in partnership with Rabbit Free Australia, brings together Australia's leading experts to share their insights on best practice rabbit biocontrol, its benefits and raising awareness of rabbit issues.

Attendees will have the opportunity to put questions to speakers via a Q&A function and to participate in live polls on various rabbit control issues.

Reference materials will be available to attendees following the webinar. [To register click here](#)



RABBIT R&D WEBINAR

Monday 21 March 2022 on Zoom

1000–1200 (AWST— WA)

1130–1330 (ACST— NT)

1130–1330 (AEST— Qld)

1230–1430 (ACDT— SA)

1300–1500 (AEDT — ACT, NSW, Vic)

Landcare Equipment Stocktake

Kiewa Catchment Landcare Network is currently doing an annual stocktake of all Landcare equipment and materials. If you have any equipment or materials on your property can you please contact Shannon on facilitator@kclg.org.au or call 0407 227 814 to register their location and condition.

Leadership Course in Rabbit Control - Application closes 25th March

If you're involved in the management of rabbits on private or public land in Victoria you do not want to miss this informative and interactive course!

Join the award-winning team from Victorian Rabbit Action Network (VRAN) along with a host of community, industry and government experts as we empower you to take coordinated, community led action for more sustainable and effective rabbit management results.

Taking place on 16-18 May in Macedon, this free program is delivered over two and half days, with a mix of classroom and practical field-based training to boost your technical skills and best practice knowledge.

There are only 20 spots available in the course and applications close 25 March 2022. For more information or to apply, please visit [click here](#) or contact Heidi Kleinert, VRAN Course Coordinator at heidi.kleinert@agriculture.vic.gov.au or 0472 877 472.



Regenerating Australia Short Film -

Tour Screening, Yackandandah Hall and Bright Sun Cinema

Regen Studios and WWF-Australia are delighted to invite you to the regional launch of Regenerating Australia, a new short documentary film by award-winning filmmaker Damon Gameau (2040, That Sugar Film).

Featuring Kerry O'Brien, Sandra Sully, Tim Flannery, Larissa Behrendt, David Pocock and other well-known voices, the film is based on a four-month 'listening campaign' with a diverse group of Australians who shared their hopes and dreams for the country's future.

This special event screening features a Q&A with director Damon Gameau and a panel of guest speakers. It will be a chance to connect with others face to face and feel some much needed hope and

inspiration as we discuss the steps we could take together to regenerate Australia over the next eight years. Cost \$20 per adult, children under 18 free. For tickets:

[Yackandandah, Saturday 12th March 6 - 7.30pm](#)

[Bright, Sunday 13th March, 5.45 - 7.15 pm](#)



Grants and surveys out now

Lower Kiewa Catchment Stewardship Project - EOI closes 22nd March

EOIs are now open for waterway incentive funding through North East CMA's Lower Kiewa Catchment Stewardship Project, a 3-year project with the objective to coordinate NRM planning and activities, strengthen networks and build capacity of the community and Traditional Owners to improve the health of the Lower Kiewa.

The project is funded out of the \$21.75m of the \$223.8m investment in waterway and catchment health from 2021-2024 under Water for Victoria.

For information and application details go to bit.ly/35eoDUP. Email Rebecca Damm at incentives@necma.vic.gov.au or call 1300 216 513. EOIs close on 22nd March.

Planting Trees for the Queen's Jubilee- EOI closes 18th March

This program offers community groups and schools the opportunity to fund community-based tree planting events to mark the significant occasion of Her Majesty's Jubilee. There is funding available between \$2,500 to \$20,000.

An EOI process will be run from Helen Haines MP office. For your school or community group to be in the running to be nominated for this grant, please go to Helen Haines MP website [here](#) where there are links to the guidelines for this grant as well as the EOI template. EOIs are due Friday 18th March.

Rebuilding Rural Communities - closes 12th April 2022

Grants are currently available from the Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal in partnership with the Australian Government for a broad range of grassroots community-led initiatives that assist communities to recover from and adapt to the impacts of the COVID pandemic.

Funding is available in two streams - a Micro Projects stream that will provide small grants of up to \$10,000 and a COVID Recovery stream that will provide up to \$50,000 for projects that will enhance the recovery of communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. For eligibility and more information, please see [here](#).

If you or your group are interested in any grant opportunity please don't hesitate to contact KCLG to discuss your project idea.

Have your say on Australia's biosecurity system - closes 18th March



The Australian, state and territory governments are developing a national biosecurity strategy. Voices speaking for our agricultural industries, environment and communities are vital to ensure Australia is prepared to meet the biosecurity risks of tomorrow.

Read the consultation draft and provide your feedback on the priorities and actions that should be part of the strategy. Your thoughts will help shape the final strategy.

Have your say today at haveyoursay.awe.gov.au/national-biosecurity-strategy. Consultation closes on 18 March, 2022.

Resources

NECMA Natural Resources Management Plan 2021 released

The North East CMA Natural Resource Management (NRM) Plan provides an overview of landscape conditions in north east Victoria and a strategic approach to targeting future investments in the region relative to the Australian Government's Regional Landcare Program (RLP) 5-year Outcomes.

Guided by a resilience approach to NRM planning, this plan identifies investment priorities for improving biodiversity, species conservation, land management practices and climate adaptation responses in the region.

The NRM Plan has been informed by an extensive stakeholder and community consultation process that occurred over an 18-month period.

The development of this plan complies with the obligations of the North East CMA under the 'Service Level Agreement for the delivery of services in the Victoria - North East Management Unit as part of the Regional Land Partnerships Program'.

For further information contact Lachlan Thomas Lachlan.thomas@necma.vic.gov.au or Click [here](#) for more information and to download the plan.

Agriculture Victoria - The Fast Break latest newsletter

Agriculture Victoria have released their latest edition of The Fast Break providing seasonal climate information for Victoria. The newsletter includes oceanic and atmospheric climate driver activity over the last month and summarises three month model predictions for the Pacific and Indian Oceans, rainfall and temperature for Victoria.

To find out more about upcoming climate predictions for the region and to subscribe to this newsletter [click here](#).



Contact Us

To find out more about Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups please:

[Join our group on Facebook](#)
[Join or renew your membership here](#)
[Subscribe to our newsletter here](#)

Contact us:

Landcare Facilitator:

Shannon Brennan

Work days: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Email: facilitator@kclg.org.au

Phone: 0407 227 814

Project Officer:

Charles Daaboul

Work days: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Email: projects@kclg.org.au

Phone: 0493 268 085

Membership - note to access your member profile and see the status of your membership first login under your member profile, then go to 'Members, My profile'.