



# Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups Inc

April 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 April edition of the KCLG eNews!

This month we provide an update on a number of upcoming events plus some valuable insights from Lindsay on the Whyte family history in Landcare. There is also information on the Australian Government's new Soil testing program and an opportunity to have your say on waterways in our region and the future of Landcare. KCLG are also sponsoring attendance to the upcoming Carbon Conference so make sure you submit your EOI if you are interested in attending.

Best wishes for a safe and happy easter break!

Shannon Brennan  
Landcare Facilitator KCLG

## What's in this issue:

- Landcare History in the Kiewa Valley
- What's been happening
- What's coming up in our region

- Grants available and surveys
- Resources
- Contact us

## Landcare History in the Kiewa Valley

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



### *The Whyte Brothers - Landcare Pioneers*

Long before Landcare as we know it began bringing groups together to care for the land there were individuals whose foresight and actions paved the way for the Landcare movement of future years.

We were reminded of this while chatting to Ed and Leo Whyte from Baranduda. They were attending the recent KCLG Soil Health Workshop at the Kergunyah Hall and Lindsay was reminiscing with them about their Uncle Hugh Whyte, who in 1983, along with his brothers John and Kevin Whyte had won the inaugural ABC National Tree Care Award. This award was set up to encourage landholders to plant trees. The Tree Care Award then became the National Landcare awards to cast a wider net for environmental protection and has developed into the network we have today. Next year will be the 40th year since the inaugural award to the Whyte Brothers of Baranduda.



*Ed and Leo Whyte with Lindsay Jarvis at Kergunyah 2022*

This award recognized their achievements in planting trees on their property at Baranduda and in particular the Slope Guards which they had devised as a means to stop cattle rubbing against the fences.



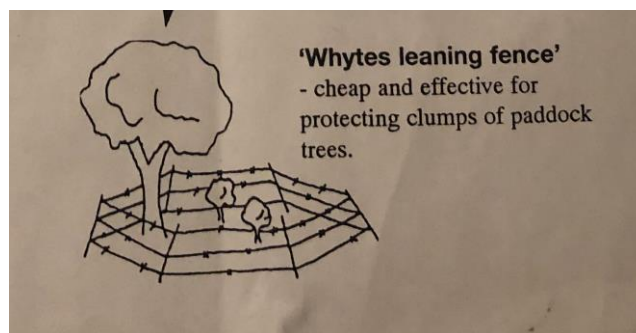
*Photos - The Inaugural Tree Care Award 1983 and Hugh Whyte (left) John Whyte with the sloping tree guard, courtesy of Border Mail 1983 (right).*

Whyte Brothers' initial attempts to re-grow trees on their farm came out of necessity and began well before Tree Care arrived. Realising that they had used timber for fencing, yards, houses and heating, they began to replace these trees.

After collecting seed and growing mainly natives, their plantations were protected from stock by a sloping tree guard which was easier and quicker to erect than strainer posts. The idea was to attach hand tight barb onto steel posts sloping inwards toward the trees so that stock would connect the barb with their fetlocks and not push the fence in any further!

The second part of the replanting plan was to maintain those tree guards for the life of the tree so stock could not access the trees but still benefit from shade and protection.

The results are now evident with large plantations of aged trees on the farm as the next generation continue to plant and protect trees, not all with sloping tree guards!



*From Fleur Stelling - Revegetation Guide for North East Victoria*

Further research reveals the Whytes long history in growing trees as back in 1945 Hugh Whyte wrote to the Border Mail recommending that a Native Tree Nursery be established in Albury to be prepared for reforestation plans in the district.

A further letter was written to the paper in support of Mr. Whyte's suggestion by Lindsay's grandfather Mr. A. E. Jarvis. In which he stated that the establishment of a nursery for native trees should be given the highest priority by every landholder in the district. He states that every landholder is aware that we have ring-barked too many trees and the only way to recall this is to plant the seedlings of native trees. His final recommendation was that such a nursery could be more effectively located in Baranduda rather than Albury.

The descendants of these men are still actively involved in looking after the landscapes on their family properties today and Liz Fuchsen, is the President of Our Native Garden in Wodonga, coordinating volunteers in propagating and planting native trees. Thanks to Liz, Leo and Eddie for sharing your story.

## What's been happening

### Kiewa Carbon Bash - Soil Health Day Kergunyah Hall

Another great day was held last Friday at Kergunyah on all things Soil Health with David Hardwick from SoilLandFood. 25 participants learnt about nutrient cycling, the role of soil biology and how to undertake a range of practical soil health tests. See highlights from this day on our Facebook site: [Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups](#).



*Participants learning about healthy soils*

Our next round of workshops will be held on the 27th May. For more information on the project and the demonstration farms please contact Charles Daaboul, Project Officer with KCLG on [projects@kclg.org.au](mailto:projects@kclg.org.au) or 0493 268 085.

### Road to Regenerative Agriculture Field Day

44 participants attended a grazing management field day with Graeme Hand from Hand for the Land near Yackandandah in late March. Topics discussed were safe to fail trials, designing a no input grazing system with convenient fences and water, strip grazing, dung scores, how to monitor land and soil health and the importance of ground cover.

Thanks to Sam and Linda McIntosh for hosting the day on their farm and Waddingtons for excellent catering!

For more information on Graeme Hand see: <https://www.handfortheland.com/about-us>

Also for a demonstration of cattle moving between paddocks on a regenerative farm click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bKDilY1gQ88>

If you are interested more in this topic please contact Charles Daaboul, Project Officer with KCLG on [projects@kclg.org.au](mailto:projects@kclg.org.au) or 0493 268 085.



*Participants assessing ground cover and soil health*

## **Kergunyah-Gundowing Landcare Catch-up**

Kergunyah-Gundowing Landcare recently met at the Kergunyah Reserve to talk about projects and priorities for Landcare in the area. The group is looking to meet quarterly to connect and discuss ideas and actions surrounding Landcare in the area. If you missed the catch-up but would like to get involved in this Landcare group please don't hesitate to contact us - [facilitator@kclg.org.au](mailto:facilitator@kclg.org.au) or 0407 227 814.





### Kiewa-Tangambalanga-Bonegilla Landcare Community Day Stall

Kiewa-Tangambalanga-Bonegilla (KTB) Landcare attended the Indigo Shire Council Tangambalanga Community Day last Sunday. We had a free native plant giveaway and met a number of locals who are interested in joining Landcare. We will be contacting people shortly and looking to hold a catch-up where everyone is welcome to come along.

If you are interested in joining this group and becoming involved please contact [facilitator@kclg.org.au](mailto:facilitator@kclg.org.au) or 0407 227 814. Updates will be provided in future newsletters and on the [KTB Facebook site](#).



## What's coming up in our region



Road to Regenerative Agriculture Webinar, 26th May 2022, 7.30pm

For those who missed the field day or wish to re-cap on key concepts we are holding a webinar with Graeme Hand from Hand for the Land on our grazing management project on the 26th May, 7.30pm via zoom.

Registration is via Eventbrite - [click here](#).

### Road To Regenerative Agriculture





**Q & A with project mentor Graeme Hand (Hand For The Land)**  
**Tuesday April 26th 7.30pm - Webinar**  
**Free Online Event - All Welcome**



Q & A webinar with Graeme Hand and Kiewa Catchment Landcare Network exploring and sharing knowledge of regenerative agriculture. Topics to be shared and discussed 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
- What are common problems with grazing management and how to avoid them

Please register via the Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups Eventbrite page or contact KCLG Project Officer Charles Daaboul at [projects@kclg.org.au](mailto:projects@kclg.org.au) or 0493268085



## Platypus Day - Kergunyah Landcare

### Sunday 2nd May 2-5pm

While the platypus has not been officially listed as endangered, its numbers have been decreasing. The Kiewa River is home to platypus, and the Australian Platypus Conservancy will be visiting Kergunyah to teach you a bit more about this amazing animal and how you can spot platypus habitat, and maybe platypus!

This family-friendly event at Kergunyah Hall will include games, activities and fun for children and adults alike. Afternoon tea will be provided.

This event is proudly presented by the Kergunyah Landcare Group.

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



### **Kiewa Carbon Bash Carbon Trading Session - 27th May**

Save the date for our next Soil Carbon session on the 27th May - this session will be an opportunity to meet and greet local carbon traders and ask all the burning questions you have about the carbon market. Event details will be coming out of the coming weeks.

### **Kergunyah Landcare - Exploring our roadsides - Hellhole Creek Second walk - Saturday 7th May**

Last month Kergunyah/Gundowring Landcare Group hosted the first of its "Roadside Explorations Walks" in April. They have begun compiling a Bird list of birds seen and heard, which will be added to in upcoming walks. They were pleased to locate a number of nests, highlighting the importance of roadside remnant vegetation to our native birds. One participant commented on just how much there is to see when you take the time to look. The next walk will focus on identifying and recording native tree species. The walks are family friendly and suitable for all abilities.

The next walk is on Saturday 7th May. 9.00am to 11.00am. Meet at 387 Hellhole Creek Rd. Kergunyah. All Welcome! " No need to book.





### 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.

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

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](mailto:lesandbelinda@yahoo.com)

### Ecological Thinning Workshop - Friday 22nd April, Indigo Valley

Trust for Nature is holding an Ecological Thinning Workshop Friday 22nd April in Indigo Valley - register via the email link provided. Address details will be provided upon registration.

## Improving Tree Density for Habitat



Indigo Valley

Friday 22nd April, 9am-1pm

When can too many trees become a problem, and what can be done about it? In this workshop Trust for Nature invites landholders and land managers to explore when, why and how ecological thinning can be used to improve plant density and benefit ecosystem function. We will cover:

Assessment—how to identify a thicket using simple vegetation surveying techniques and how to establish baseline monitoring.

Compliance—how to ensure a thinning project is compliant with Native Vegetation Regulations and local planning provisions.

Methodology—how to undertake an ecological thinning project using established methods including mechanical mulching.

Please bring a water bottle and wear clothing suitable for the outdoors. Lunch provided. Participants must be fully vaccinated.

ASV  
MULCHING  
MACHINE  
DEMO



RSVP with dietary requirements by Sunday 17th April

Further details provided upon registration

**[nickim@tfn.org.au](mailto:nickim@tfn.org.au)** or 0437 777 746

*The Bush for Birds Project is supported by Trust for Nature and the North East Catchment Management Authority, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.*



## Pilot Soils Monitoring and Testing Program - EOI Register now open

The Australian Government is providing \$54.4 million over two years to support farmers and land managers to access low-cost soil sampling and certified testing in exchange for sharing their data under the Pilot Soil Monitoring and Incentives Program.

Farmers and land managers may be eligible for benefits of up to \$10,000 and receive assistance from Commonwealth-funded soil extension officers to interpret their soil test results.

Southern Cross University has been engaged to deliver the program, including arranging soil sampling and testing for land managers who have successfully applied for assistance.

For more information on the program, including for farmers and land managers wanting to register:

<https://www.scu.edu.au/pilot-soils-program/>

Additional information on the program including eligibility criteria is available in [Frequently Asked Questions](#).



## **Calling for Expressions of Interest to attend the the 10<sup>th</sup> National Carbon Farming Conference, 23-26th May 2022**

The 10th National Carbon Farming Conference will be held at the Albury Entertainment Centre from 23-26th May. With a range of speakers and exhibitors the conference will explore all areas of carbon farming for the carbon trade space, including biodiversity markets and benefits.

*Prepare to be inspired at how farmers are being rewarded now in the Carbon and Biodiversity Markets. Expert Speakers, New Methods, International Markets. Learn what the future demand for Carbon Credits will be.*

*We'll go into detail on exactly WHAT the Domestic and International markets are offering Australian Carbon Farmers. Your Plain English Explanation and pathway forward. We will also explore other Carbon and Biodiversity Market Mechanisms.*

KCLG is now accepting Expressions of Interest (EOI) for sponsorship for free attendance at the 2 day conference only (24-25th May - value \$440 face to face, \$275 online). This offer is available either face to face or online. If participants wish to attend additional days of the conference (pre-conference event or advanced carbon farming workshop) or the gala dinner this will be at their own expense.

### **EOI's close CoB Wednesday 27th April 2022.**

All Landcare members must submit an EOI to be sponsored to form attend  
All EOI will be treated fairly and all attempts will be made to have an even distribution of attendees between all Groups within the KCLG region.

To be eligible for this offer, successful applicants:

- Must be located within the KCLG area
- Must be a full financial member ([click here to join](#)).
- Must be available to attend the two days of the conference
- Must be willing to complete an evaluation form summarising your key learnings so these can be shared with other landholders.
- Must pay for and organise their own travel and accommodation.

For details on the full program, go to the conference here: [www.carbonfarmingconference.com.au](http://www.carbonfarmingconference.com.au)

To express your interest in attending please complete the following [EOI form by the 27th April](#).



## 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](mailto:warrawongnatives@bigpond.com) to obtain information on weekly site locations, times and activities being undertaken.

## Grants and surveys out now

### Have your say on the future of Landcare in Victoria

Landcare Victoria Inc. is leading the development of a new landcare plan for Victoria. The plan is intended to create a road map for the future growth and development of community landcare in the State. Landcare Vic is seeking input from communities as the first phase in the plan's development.

Your input will inform a report on issues and opportunities, reflecting the broad opinions of the landcare community and stakeholders and will provide the foundation for the development of the strategic plan in the second half of 2022.

### How to have your say

#### Online workshop

Join our online workshop on Wednesday 11 May 2022, 5pm - 7pm to join the landcare community and have your say.

[Click here to register](#)

#### Online survey

This survey will inform an issues and opportunities report that reflects the opinions of the landcare community and stakeholders and will provide the foundation for the development of a strategic plan in the second half of 2022. The survey should take about seven minutes to complete.

[Click here to complete the survey](#)



## **My Victorian Waterway Survey - closes 17th April 2022**

The My Victorian Waterway Survey is social research being conducted by the Victoria's Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

The survey is for any Victorian who visits a waterway, and it seeks to find out how you use Victoria's waterways, what you value about them, and what your vision is for healthy waterways. The term '**waterway**' used in the survey refers to any river, stream, creek, floodplain, wetland, estuary, lake, water storage or reservoir. The survey is anonymous.

**Open:** the survey is open from **23 March** to **17 April 2022** and should take only 10 minutes to complete.

**Access the survey:** via [My Victorian Waterway Survey link](#) and it can also be found on [water.vic.gov.au](http://water.vic.gov.au)

Responses to the survey will help DELWP understand what the community's vision is for how waterways are managed, and how Victorian's use their waterways and what they value about them. This survey will build on data collected in the [My Victorian Waterway Survey](#) (2009) to identify trends in waterway use, perceptions, and knowledge over time. DELWP has used responses from the 2009 survey to inform government policy, decision-making and investments.

## **Young Farmers Scholarship - closes Monday 18th April 2022**

**The 2022 Upskill and Invest - Young Farmers Scholarships are now open for applications.**

You could receive up to \$10,000! Each scholarship recipient is eligible to receive up to \$5,000 for training and study (Upskill), followed by up to \$5,000 to put their new skills into practice (Invest).

If you are aged 35 years or younger, and have at least two years' experience on-farm, you could be eligible to apply. To find out more visit [vic.gov.au/youngfarmers](http://vic.gov.au/youngfarmers).

The scholarship program builds on the commitments of the Agriculture Strategy to grow, modernise and promote the sector - helping to deliver the agriculture skills of the future and building on the Government's goal to grow Victoria's agriculture sector to \$20 billion by 2030.

**Applications close at midnight on Monday 18 April 2022.**

## **Strengthening Rural Communities Grant Opportunity - closes 31st May 2022**

The Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) program aims to give the thousands of small remote, rural and regional communities across Australia an opportunity to access funding to support broad community needs.

Grants are available for a broad range of grassroots, community-led initiatives that directly and clearly benefit local communities. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis and assessed quarterly.

[Click here to apply](#)

## **Resources**

## Learn more about mistletoe!

Often not well understood, [learn more](#) here from Birdlife Australia about mistletoe and the mistletoe bird!

## Planting trees and shrubs brings woodland birds back to farms, from superb fairy wrens to spotted pardalotes

A great article published by The Conversation about the importance of revegetation and remnant vegetation for woodland birds - [click here](#)



## 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](#) or watch the latest seasonal climate videos: [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](mailto:facilitator@kclg.org.au)

Phone: 0407 227 814

*Project Officer:*

Charles Daaboul

Work days: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Email: [projects@kclg.org.au](mailto:projects@kclg.org.au)

Phone: 0493 268 085