



Kosciuszko2Coast
LANDHOLDERS - LINKS - LANDSCAPES

K2C Groundcover

Issue No. 1,
November 2008

Hello to all our K2C friends and supporters - *Lauren van Dyke, K2C Facilitator*

We think it is time for K2C to produce a regular newsletter which can be sent to all the groups and people on our now considerable email list. This should help to keep you up to date and encourage you to participate in K2C.

The aims of the newsletter are to:

- Provide you with information about K2C,
- Announce upcoming K2C events,
- Report on K2C's activities, and
- Provide news and contact details about the K2C partners.

This is not meant to replace, but to complement, our website (www.k2c.org.au). You should look at our website for more information on K2C.

This newsletter is being produced as a pdf file and distributed via email. Unfortunately we cannot distribute it by snail mail at present, unless someone would like to volunteer for the task.

If you do not wish to receive the newsletter, we can keep you on our email list but not include you on the newsletter distribution list. On the other hand you may wish to forward this to your friends, who might like to have their name included on our newsletter distribution list.

We would also like to hear from you any news items or matters you might think would be of interest to K2C. My contact details are: facilitator@k2c.org.au, 02 6454 4388, or 0411 402 978.

An upcoming K2C event



Kosciuszko2Coast
LANDHOLDERS - LINKS - LANDSCAPES



and
THISTLEBROOK PARK present
A GRASSLAND EXTRAVAGANZA DAY

COME AND SEE WHAT TREASURES LIE OVER THE HILL

When: Sunday, 23rd November 2008

Where: 237 Jerangle Road, Bredbo (on left - 2.37 km off Monaro Hwy)
See the map overleaf

Entry: Gold coin donation to support Bredbo Landcare Group



PROGRAM

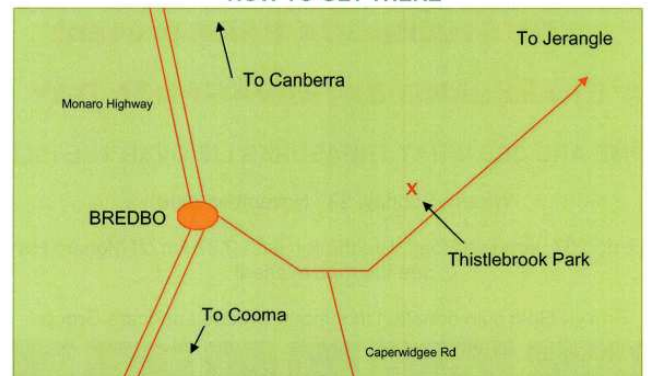
- 9.00 a.m. Tour seed and propagation area, with a short talk by owner, Sue Connelly
- 9.30 a.m. Climb to a Kangaroo Grass patch and see a huge diversity of flora and fauna
- 1.30 p.m. Wander across native grasslands and see more amazing flora and fauna

There will be opportunities to talk to vegetation and wildlife experts all day and you can find out what the K2C project has to offer landholders in the region

Lunch will be available: BBQ sausages, sandwiches, cakes and drinks can be purchased



HOW TO GET THERE



This event is hosted by

KOSCIUSZKO TO COAST K2C PROJECT PARTNERS

And

BREDBO LANDCARE GROUP

MONARO GRASSLAND CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT NETWORK

SOUTHERN TABLELANDS GRASSY ECOSYSTEMS CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT NETWORK

What is K2C?

K2C was an initiative of Bush Heritage who brought together a number of key agencies and individuals, who had been working in one way or another on conserving our remnant grasslands and woodlands in the Canberra region. Out of that initiative came Kosciuszko to Coast (K2C), a community partnership to help landholders reconnect isolated woodlands and grasslands between Kosciuszko and Namadgi National Parks and the coastal forests of the Far South Coast (see map).

K2C is ambitious but its goals are achievable. The investment and effort in conserving our threatened ecological systems made by many landholders over the past thirty years has already done much to enhance and restore grasslands and woodlands, which have become island havens and refuges for native plants and animals.

K2C is offering landholders in the region help to build a connected landscape with a range of management options that may include advice as well as funding.

Initially K2C included eight partner groups, which have been formed a steering committee to direct K2C's efforts. K2C employs a full-time facilitator, Lauren van Dyke. Recently, two new partners joined. In addition, K2C is supported by many other groups and individuals.

The partner groups

K2C's partners groups include:

- ACT Government
- Bush Heritage Australia (BHA)
- Friends of Grasslands (FOG)
- Greening Australia Capital Region (GA)
- Molonglo Catchment Group (MCG)
- Nature Conservation Trust of NSW (NCT)
- NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC)
- Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (SRCMA)
- Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee (UMCCC)



Other groups that support K2C include:

- *Murrumbidgee CMA.*
- *Southern Tablelands Grassy Ecosystem Conservation Management Network (CMN)*
- *Monaro Grasslands CMN.*

The K2C Steering committee

The Steering Committee meets regularly to set direction and to coordinate the activities of member groups. Its membership (and alternatives) are:

- ACT Government - Sharon Lane
- BHA - Ben Carr
- DECC - Gary Howling (Ian Pulsford)
- FOG - Geoff Robertson (David Eddy)
- GA - Graham Fifield (Sue Streatfield)
- MCG - Lynton Bond (Tom Baker)
- NCT - Rob Dunn (Nicky Bruce)
- SRCMA - David Hilhorst (Donna Hazell)
- UMCCC - Steve Welch (Lynton Bond)

Check out our website; www.k2c.org.au, for

- Information on what's coming up
- K2C articles in Cooma Monaro Express
- Links to partners
- K2C brochure and fact sheet
- List of incentives

What's in a name—the STGE CMN? *Groundcover*

The STGE CMN stands for the *Southern Tablelands Grassy Ecosystems Conservation Management Network*. It is a big name, and Mary Appleby, its facilitator, would welcome any suggestions on how to improve it.

More importantly, what does STGE CMN stand for? Mary said to *Groundcover*, “the STGE CMN is the network of native vegetation remnants, their owners and managers, and other people interested in their conservation. CMNs act as reserve system across private, leasehold and public land, involving local communities in conservation management, co-operating with landowners to manage biodiversity on private land, and integrating management of freehold and public land for better conservation outcomes.”

Groundcover asked Mary what particular remnant vegetation is important? She replied,

“extraordinarily diverse and colourful grasslands and grassy woodlands once covered extensive tracts of the Southern Tablelands. These grassy ecosystems have seriously declined since European settlement, and are now fragmented and poorly represented in the reserve system. Natural temperate grasslands and grassy box-gum woodlands are recognised as Endangered Ecological Communities under state, territory and federal legislation. They are an important part of our natural heritage, and remain culturally significant to many Aboriginal groups. As well as boasting over 600 species of native plants, grassy ecosystems in the Southern Tablelands are home to many fauna species, several of which are threatened with extinction. Grassy ecosystems also play an important role in sustainable agriculture, particularly in these times of drought and climate change.” Wow! “So Mary, conservation and production can go hand in hand?” “That’s right.” she said.

Grasscover asked Mary what the STGE actually does to get across its message to landowners in the Southern Tablelands? Mary replied that the CMN produces regular newsletters and a publication, the *Austral Bugle*, maintains

contacts between network members, shares resources, hosts field days and workshops, produces resource material and anything else that supports CMN members to improve conservation outcomes for grasslands and grassy woodlands in the Southern Tablelands.

And who is funding the CMN? Mary replied that funding is provided by ACT Parks, Conservation and Lands and the NSW Department of Conservation and Climate Change.



Photo: STGE CMN members admiring wildflowers at Jerrabatgulla, The Parlour Grasslands (see next page).
(Photo: Rainer Rehwinkel)

“Mary is the message getting across?” “Yes,” she said, “we have over 600 members, who represent landholders, Aboriginal groups, Landcare groups, scientists, conservationists, professional land managers, government authorities and interested individuals.”

That is impressive, and Mary said that landowners who might want to join the network or find out more can contact her (Facilitator, Mary Appleby, at PO Box 733 Queanbeyan NSW 2620; by email at Mary.Appleby@environment.nsw.gov.au, or by telephone on 6229 7121/0429 850 838).



STGE CMN logo.

Nature Conservation Trust of NSW & K2C

Who is the NCT?

The Nature Conservation Trust of New South Wales (NCT) is a non-profit organisation promoting nature conservation on private land in NSW. We buy, sell and protect conservation properties, supporting the owners to main and enhance their land's ecological values.

The NCT's involvement in K2C.

One of the NCT's core business arms is to operate Revolving Fund Programs to purchase high conservation value properties.



After improving the conservation and agricultural values of the acquired land, the NCT sells the property to a supportive new owner with a conservation agreement. All proceeds are returned to the Revolving Fund for future acquisitions.

As part of the K2C program, the NCT purchased *The Parlour Grasslands*, an exceptionally high conservation value property supporting native grasslands and woodlands. This incredibly diverse property houses over 160 native plant species which paint an exquisite scene each spring.



The conservation agreement is registered on the property title to ensure the conservation values of *The Parlour Grasslands* remain protected forever. Additionally, the new owner will have access to the NCT's Stewardship Program, which provides support and guidance for the sustainable management of the property.

For more information on *The Parlour Grasslands* or the work of the NCT, visit

www.nct.org.au.

nature
conservation
trust

OF NEW SOUTH WALES



The Parlour Grasslands - a living treasure chest -

A 50 hectare (120 acre) property located near the historic town of Braidwood, featuring gentle slopes of Natural Temperate Grasslands and secluded patches of Snow Gum Woodland.

Each spring an amazing display of wildflowers cover the property, including orchids and the threatened Mauve Burr Daisy.

Purchase *The Parlour Grasslands* and protect this impressive property forever.

\$210,000

For more information contact:

Adam Dawson

0448 801 391 adam@nct.org.au

www.nct.org.au



Did you know? By Rainer Rehwinkel

Did you know that the Bredbo gentian (*Gentiana bredboensis*), an endangered plant, is only known at one site in the world, and this is within the K2C area. The Bredbo gentian is a tiny annual that grows to 6 cm. It has small pinkish- and white-coloured bell-shaped flowers in September and October. Its flowers only open in periods of sunshine. The population grows in a seepage area amongst other wetland forbs and grasses.

The K2C team, including Bush Heritage Australia and the Department of Environment and Climate Change, is working with Cooma-Monaro Shire Council and the landholder to ensure the protection and survival of this special plant.

For more information about this and other threatened species found in our region, visit: <http://www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au/index.aspx>

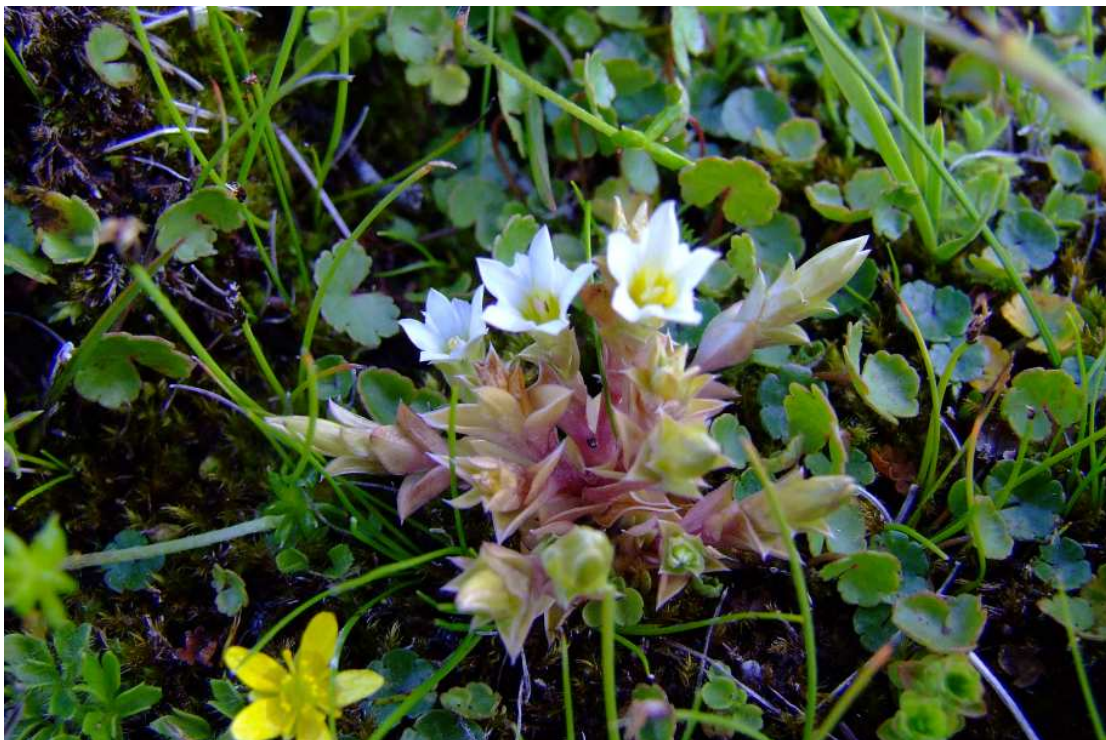


Photo: Bredbo gentian by Rainer Rehwinkel

K2C update

K2C partners are very encouraged that the ACT Government has agreed to join the K2C partnership. So far the K2C partnership project has directly reached more than 50 landholders in its target region. Many of the partners are now engaging directly with these landholders to provide important on-ground infrastructure, resources or services to establish a more resilient and connected landscape. If you would like to participate by distributing the K2C brochure and fact sheet to landholders in your area please contact the K2C Project Facilitator, Lauren Van Dyke - details on front page.

Greening Australia and K2C Groundcover

Greening Australia (GA) is an important partner in K2C and supports it in many ways. Graham Fifield reported to the last K2C Steering Committee meeting that GA has had much success in direct seeding on nine properties associated

with K2C. These properties' owners have been assisted by GA to undertake rehabilitation and revegetation work. These efforts have included two paddocks of 17ha and 12ha of highly degraded yellow box to the east of Michelago, 28ha of snow-gum woodland between Bungendore and Braidwood, 20ha of lovegrass infested yellow - apple box woodland at Ingelara (host of K2C Open Day), and 15ha of serrated tus-

sock infested snowgum - candlebark woodland near the Tinderrys.

GA is also assisting with the Grassland Extravaganza at Bredbo on 23 November 2008. It will be donating up to 400 tubestock (value \$800), and a handful of plants, including iconic grassland plants such as blue devil, bulbine lily, everlasting and paper daisies, will be distributed to each attendee.

Friends of Grasslands

Friends of Grasslands (FOG) is an active supporter of K2C. FOG is a community based group comprising professional scientists, land owners and managers, members of parkcare and landcare groups, agencies and individuals committed to preserving and managing our grasslands and woodlands. FOG produces a highly respected newsletter and an interesting and varied program of workshops, field trips and property visits. FOG can assist with plant identification and management issues. FOG's website is www.fog.org.au.