



**THE GREAT
EASTERN RANGES**
connecting people...connecting nature

Kosciuszko2Coast
LANDHOLDERS - LINKS - LANDSCAPES

K2C Groundcover

Issue No. 9, September 2011

Dear K2C Partners, Associates & Supporters,

K2C Associate Memberships

Like spring, you will be pleased to know that the K2C Partnership is also growing into something splendid— by opening its doors to all other likeminded individuals, groups or agencies.

This edition of the K2C Groundcover newsletter launches the K2C Associate Membership. That means any individual, group or agency in the K2C region can join up. In doing so you will reap many benefits from links with other groups, to being informed of the K2C Partnership's strategies and accomplishments.

Please see below our formal door-opening advert and then fill out you're Associate Membership application on page 10. Don't miss this special opportunity to become a part of us. Even if the organization you are with is a K2C Partner.

K2C Forums with Atlas of Living Australia (ALA)

The next two K2C Forums are planned for 16 Sept and late Nov and will focus on the exciting work K2C is doing with the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) Project on the conservation of local reptiles and the recording of grassy ecosystems in the region. If you would like to attend either of these Partners Forums please contact Lauren our Facilitator (details on page 2). Otherwise, please stay tuned as we publish our reptile site details and or call on property holders in the K2C Region to see if you would like to participate in the K2C Atlas of Living Australia project and have your property spatially mapped with all the resident species listed and described. You will be amazed at what the ALA site can provide you.

Please enjoy this newsletter. I advise you to read every page as there is something for everyone.

By Geoff Robertson, Chair K2C Partnership

K2C Partnership opens its doors to Associate Members

Please join up now page 9

Calling on all individuals, groups, organisations/agencies. We are now offering **FREE** Associate Membership for two years to those who support K2C's objectives. Associate Membership will entitle you to receive our **K2C Groundcover newsletter** (published three times a year), attend K2C functions, receive on-ground information, help and support from K2C. In return you are asked to promote K2C and to work with us to achieve our objectives. If you are already on the K2C email list we would encourage you to take up this opportunity to become an Associate Member.

K2C's overarching objective is to increase the resilience, extent and connectedness of target ecosystems and linkages across the K2C region, through working with the community and landholders. The focus areas are grasslands, woodlands, wetlands & valley floor watercourses, small bush birds, arboreal mammals & threatened forest vegetation communities and flora and fauna.

K2C Incorporated

Geoff Robertson, Chair of the K2C Partnership, with some words on establishing K2C Incorporated—the business arm of the K2C Partnership.



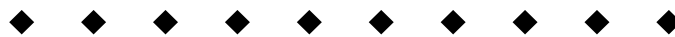
In recent months, a new entity has been formed called K2C Inc, an incorporated not-for-profit association. Its purpose is to handle the Kosciuszko to Coast Partnership's finances, apply for grants and enter into contracts with suppliers. K2C Inc should not be confused with the Kosciuszko to Coast Partnership which is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding between the eleven partners. The K2C Partnership has a committee which runs its affairs. Likewise K2C Inc also has a committee to supervise its affairs.

K2C Inc has been busy setting itself up, establishing bank accounts, applying for grants, obtaining insurance, etc. It has recently signed a contract with Lauren Van Dyke who will continue to operate as K2C's facilitator.

K2C aims to take on projects that are consistent with its objectives and the grants that we have been applying for will enable us to further our objectives on grasslands, woodlands, wetland and riparian areas, small bush birds, arboreal mammals, and threatened forest communities and species. We are also endeavouring to promote Indigenous natural resource projects.

For K2C to undertake its ambitious objectives, it relies heavily on volunteers. So if you have some time and you would like to assist, please talk to Lauren (see details below) or Geoff (Ph: 6241 4065 or 0403 221 117).

K2C Inc is also applying for Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status, so that any donations will be tax deductible. However, in the meantime, especially as this project may take some time, we would gratefully receive any financial support.



Counting diamonds in the sky—Bird Survey

For the fourth time running...

Nicki Taws and her band of bird watching volunteers will return to visit the K2C area properties to count and record the birds.

Landholders who are already participating in this long term survey will be visited again on:

Sunday, 16th October 2011

If you would like more information contact:
Nicki Taws on Ph: 0408 210 736
Email: ntaws@bigpond.com
or K2C Facilitator on details below.

Photograph: Diamond Firetail by G. Robertson



Feel you can help K2C ?

K2C would gratefully welcome your volunteer support.

Here are some practical examples of areas in which we could well do with some volunteer help.

- * Newsletter preparation
- * Website / database updates
- * Organising field days, Partners Forums
- * Next 2012 Open day
- * Massaging shoulders

Please contact Lauren on details below if you can commit some time.

K2C Groundcover -Newsletter of the Kosciuszko to Coast Partnership

It aims to: Provide information about K2C ^ Announce K2C and K2C Partners events and on-ground incentives
Report on other K2C activities ^ Provide news and contact details about the K2C partners.

If you have a story or advert for K2C Groundcover, contact Lauren Van Dyke at facilitator@k2c.org.au, or 0411 402 978.

What is springing up on Scottsdale ? ***Bush Heritage Australia Reserve, Bredbo, NSW***

Spring 2011 will be especially showy on Scottsdale. Working hard over the past few months has been a volunteer with an exceptional green thumb. Sue Connelly has recently sold her 130 acre conservation property in Bredbo where she tirelessly harvested Kangaroo Grass and successfully grew many native grasses, shrubs and trees from seed. Now, Sue is devoting all her available energy to create a show-case native garden on Scottsdale.

Sue has mastered the art of translocating native species back into the paddock.

Scottsdale, Reserve Manager, Peter Saunders is thrilled with what Sue has created and feels the newly planted out areas will serve as a very topical reference point for the many people who visit Scottsdale.

If you would like to visit Scottsdale please see some of the future events advertised in this newsletter (ie African Love Grass Workshop and Frog Watch seminar) or contact Peter Saunders on Ph: 0407 700 431.



Photo: Sue Connelly stands in waist high native grasses in a prolific native garden she has created on Scottsdale.

LEAKY WEIRS— HERE TO STAY

Peter Saunders, Scottsdale Reserve Manager, organised for no less than 100 tonnes of rock to be brought onto the Scottsdale Reserve and carefully maneuvered into four sites along an erodable creek.

The special filter blanket and rocks will slow up the water that has a habit of gushing down this creek in heavy rain events. The concept of leaky weirs is based on the old natural chain of ponds system which effectively holds water higher up in the landscape. The idea is for water to not simply rush away (taking away soil and nutrients) but to pool and divert slowly onto flood plains and wetlands.

With the terrific advice and support of Peter Fogarty, a regional soil consultant, the effort by Bush Heritage Australia is to prevent any further soil loss into the mighty Murrumbidgee.



Photo 1: Excavator manipulates the rocks onto the filter blanket.

Photo 2: Peter on top of the finished weir

Local Koala colony keen to chew

This article has been prepared from material taken from a recent report by Chris Allen, Project Manager, Office of Environment and Heritage, NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet July 2011. For a copy of the full report please go to :

Surveys undertaken by the NSW government between 1999 and 2003 confirmed that a low density population of koalas was scattered over approximately 40,000 ha of forests and woodland on the north eastern edge of the Monaro Plain, between Mount Dowling Nature Reserve to the north and Kybeyan Nature Reserve to the south (Office of Environment and Heritage 2004).

During this period the region entered into a prolonged drought. This impacted significantly on the canopy condition of many forests and woodlands. Concerns were raised that koala numbers might be declining in the region because of the dry weather and its impacts on koala habitat.

From the recent surveys conducted since November 2010 up to June 2011, further findings were identified and written into the report such as:

Koala activity appears to be greater in areas of mature forest/woodland with higher proportions of larger trees. The predominant species at the surveyed sites were brittle gum (*E. manifera*), scribbly gum (*E. rossii*), broad-leafed peppermint (*E. dives*) and red stringybark (*E. macrorynchia*), with evidence that koalas are using all these species. Ribbon gum (*E. viminalis*) was only sampled at three sites. Koala pellets were located under several callitrus trees, possibly indicating that this is a roost tree providing shade and protection for koalas.

Bark-chewing

Bark-chewing activity by koalas was repeatedly reported by the owners of the Black Ridge (a Voluntary Conservation Agreement Property) for many years. Although koalas are known to eat bark, there is no information about such systematic feeding on eucalypt bark recorded in the scientific literature. Because of this their reports were initially received with scepticism within the scientific community.

However this activity by koalas has now been confirmed with camera footage. The koalas are targeting a single species, the brittle gum, for a dietary supplement that may include minerals, nutrients or, moisture or a combination of these. The link to see this footage is at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5wz7bEaDUM&feature=player_embedded



Chewed bark—Black Ridge. Photo by Chris Allen

Most of the trees selected have just a small number of chewing incisions. But some trees are very extensively used and have been visited repeatedly for many years. The extent of these markings is sometimes quite stunning, extending from the base of the tree to its highest branches.

A unique population?

Although koalas are known to eat bark, the systematic and widespread activity identified in this region has not been recorded anywhere else. This suggests a unique population. Other indications of this uniqueness are the rugged and generally infertile country and high altitudes in which these koalas occur.

Importance of private land

The identified core area consists of privately-owned and leasehold lands with some reserves scattered throughout. Given this, supporting the conservation of koalas on privately-owned lands is important for the long-term future of this population.



Photo—Caught in the act. Koala mother and young at chew tree. Photo supplied by Chris Allen

For information on upcoming Koala surveys or to get a copy of the full report please email: chris.allen@environment.nsw.gov.au

FROGWATCH AND WATERWATCH

Look out for these free workshops coming up!

By Antia Brademann



Frog seminar and field trip at Scottsdale Reserve (Bredbo)

For those interested in frogs, Frogwatch has organised a seminar about local frogs and how to identify them on the 26th of September (5:30-10:30pm), presented by frog expert Ben Scheele, at Scottsdale Reserve, Bredbo. This will be followed by a field trip to listen and record some frogs in the wild. This seminar will kick off the Frogwatch program in our region thanks to the Ginninderra Catchment Group and ACT and Region Frogwatch Coordinator, Anke Maria Hoefer. To find out more about Frogwatch or book for the seminar contact Anke Maria on (02) 6278 3309 or frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au or visit www.ginninderralandcare.org.au

Water bug workshops

The water bugs (also known as macro invertebrates) that live in our waterbodies are a good indication of available habitat as well as water quality. Waterwatch uses water bug assessments to give a broader picture of waterbody health based on the diversity and tolerance of water bug types found in a waterbody. To find out more about waterbugs and how they are used to assess waterbody health join us for one of our macro invertebrate training days to be held on the 28th of August (at Paddy's River, ACT, starting at 2pm) or on the 24th of September (Norris Park, Cooma, starting at 10am). To book contact Antia on the contacts below.

Riparian vegetation workshop

Riparian vegetation plays a big role in keeping waterways healthy. Waterwatch uses the Rapid Assessment of Riparian Condition (RARC) methodology to assess the health and integrity of riparian vegetation corridors. This looks at habitat availability, vegetation cover, native and introduced species etc to rate how healthy our river corridor is and to identify areas of high quality vegetation and what areas may need improvement. To find out more join us at our RARC training workshop to be held at Coppins Crossing (ACT) on the 17th of September, 10:30am to 2:30pm. To book contact Antia on the contacts below.

Getting out and about in the field

To gain more experience and get out and about in our region, why not join the Frogwatch program or help out with Waterwatch macro invertebrate/RARC surveys this spring? Waterwatch will be conducting a number of surveys and we welcome extra volunteers to help out with our macro invertebrate and riparian assessment surveys. Contact Antia if you are interested.

Our Waterwatch data is generated by our team of dedicated volunteers. Without them this program would not be possible! Thanks to all volunteers that have contributed data this month. If you would like to find out more or become involved in the Waterwatch program please contact your local Waterwatch Coordinator.

COOMA REGION WATERWATCH:



Antia Brademann
Cooma Region Waterwatch Coordinator
Monaro High School, Mittagang Rd
Cooma NSW 2630
Ph: 02 6452 4611
Mob: 04279778633
E: antia@coomawaterwatch.org.au
www.coomawaterwatch.org.au

AFRICAN LOVEGRASS FIELD DAY

DON'T LOVE THIS GRASS!

SATURDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2011, 9.30AM - 3PM
“SCOTTSDALE” BREDBO

4km north of Bredbo on the Monaro Highway

Come and hear how a local landholder, native plant experts, Bush Heritage Australia, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Cooma-Monaro Shire Council manage the scourge of the ACT/Monaro region – African Lovegrass.

The workshop is free, and a BBQ lunch will be provided. Meet at the “Scottsdale” Shearing Shed. For catering purposes, please RSVP: actlandcare@act.gov.au or phone Sally McIntosh 62052913 / 0435657429 or Anna van Dugteren 62042914 / 0434564089.

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
9.30am	COFFEE AND REGISTRATION	
10.00am	<input type="checkbox"/> Welcome/Housekeeping/What the field day is about <input type="checkbox"/> The „how and why” of African Lovegrass; Results from mapping and predicting the spread of Lovegrass in the ACT; engaging rural, urban and peri-urban people in ALG control	<input type="checkbox"/> Peter Saunders, Bush Heritage Australia, “Scottsdale”/ Steve Welch, Southern ACT Catchment Group <input type="checkbox"/> Sarah Sharp, Ecologist and Steve Welch, Southern ACT Catchment Group
10.45am	The good, the bad and the ugly – Lovegrass on Scottsdale: <input type="checkbox"/> “Scottsdale” and African Lovegrass - grazing, sowing, spraying and leaving <input type="checkbox"/> Intensive sowing of native grasses and their impact on dense Lovegrass swards	<input type="checkbox"/> Peter Saunders, “Scottsdale” <input type="checkbox"/> Ian Chivers, Native Seeds Pty Ltd
12.30 pm	LUNCH	
1.00pm	African Lovegrass - grazing management and pasture establishment: <input type="checkbox"/> Pasture management on “Scottsdale” and “Ingelara” <input type="checkbox"/> Results from DPI work in the region <input type="checkbox"/> A local government perspective on ALG	African Lovegrass - grazing management and pasture <input type="checkbox"/> Tobias Koenig, “Ingelara”, Michelago <input type="checkbox"/> Luke Pope, NSW DPI <input type="checkbox"/> Brett Jones, Cooma Monaro Shire Council
3.00pm	FIELD DAY CLOSE	

This workshop is hosted by the Australian Government, Bush Heritage Australia, Southern ACT Catchment Group, Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee, the ACT NRM Council and the ACT Regional Landcare Facilitator Initiative.



Indigenous Values Workshops & Field Days with Rod Mason

—organised by Geoff Robertson & Friends of Grasslands

Did you know that local Aboriginal people cultivated 'yam daisy gardens', reconstituted and moved soil around the landscape, encouraged the survival of 'fruit orchards' for their pigeons, practised water conservation, burnt areas in particular ways to unlock seed stores, and cultivated grasses, bush lettuce and water parsley?

This was all part of their traditional knowledge of the flora and fauna and its flow through the landscape in the different seasons. This knowledge served to sustain their resources which they used for food, medicine, fibre (for carrying tools and food), and shelter.

About Rod Mason

Rod Mason, a respected Ngarigo elder, Indigenous Land Facilitator, formerly with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, emphasises learning by doing. He aims to reconnect people to the natural and cultural resources in our region and to create a better understanding of our (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) shared culture/heritage/biodiversity values. His vision is to have Indigenous natural resource management techniques adopted in farm and reserve management.

These workshops are likely to change completely your understanding of nature and our grassy ecosystems in particular, and to change your approach to conservation.

The target audience is those currently involved, directly or indirectly, in managing and restoring our farms and reserves.

Sponsorship

These workshops and field days are organised by Friends of Grasslands and Rodney Mason, and supported by Kosciuszko to Coast partnership and the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority.



Photo: Rod Mason at workshop discussing merits of fire-stick burning. Photo by Geoff Robertson

Content, times, dates, venues, cost & inquiries

**There will be two workshops, held at Garuwanga Property near Nimmitabel from 9-4pm
Thurs-Fri, 20-21 Oct and Sat-Sun, 22-23 Oct.**

The content is shown in the box below. There is a charge of \$25, to be paid in advance, for catering for lunches and morning and afternoon teas. Those wishing to stay at Garuwanga on the nights before, during and after the workshops are welcome. Each workshop will be limited to 25 people.

Two field trips will also be held from 1-4pm; on Thurs 3 Nov (Tuross Falls) and 24 Nov (Bullocks Flat & Perisher Valley).

These areas illustrate the natural resource management Rod's techniques described in the workshops. Limited to 25 people and priority given to workshop attendees.

To enquire &/or register contact Geoff at geoff.robertson@fog.org.au or on 02 6241 4065.

Workshop topics

- The properties of key plants used in Aboriginal society.
- Making tools and equipment for use in everyday life, and gathering and storing food.
- How to understand landscapes, mapping, and finding one's way around landscapes.
- Conservation and restoration at landscape scale - restoring landscapes and vegetation, recreating herb gardens and seed orchards, gathering and planting seed, flora and fauna reintroduction, & putting back the underground wicks.
- Fire management as a NRM tool.
- Local Aboriginal language, spirituality and history.

Funding available to be involved In Natural Resource Management



Part of the Murrumbidgee CMA 2011-12 Incentive Program, the Community Partnerships Project provides an opportunity for incorporated community groups and not-for-profit organisations to undertake small on-ground projects tackling important local natural resource management issues.

Community Partnerships promotes shared learning and greater community ownership of natural resource management in the catchment. It provides opportunities for local community organisations to address local issues of conservation, environmental and sustainable land management.

Funding of up to \$20,000 (GST inclusive) per project is available to successful applicants. Previous successful applicants have included: Landcare, Aboriginal communities, charities, farmer producer and conservation groups, Rotary, Lions, pre-schools, schools and youth groups.

The funding support for the Community Partnerships Project is provided by the Federal and NSW State Governments through Caring for Our Country and Catchment Action NSW.

Applications for the Community Partnerships Project 2011-2012 close 5pm, Friday, 30 September 2011. For further information please contact the Murrumbidgee CMA on 02 6932 3232 or email: murrumbidgee@cma.nsw.gov.au

Results for MCMA 2011 Bidgee from Behind the Lens Competition

As there were many categories we wish to promote our two locals who received highly commended awards in this competition. The theme was Beyond the Drought. Congratulations.

PRIMARY STUDENT (Colour) Highly Commended: Zara Childs (Cooma) ["Calm Before the Storm"](#)
OPEN AMATEUR (Colour) Highly Commended Narelle Allen (Cooma) ["Rushing Water"](#)

All the winning photos can be seen at the following website link:

http://www.murrumbidgee.cma.nsw.gov.au/getinvolved/photographic_competition/2011-photo-comp.aspx

Kosciuszko to Coast 11 Partners are:

ACT Govt- Parks, Conservation and Lands – www.tams.act.gov.au
Bush Heritage Australia – www.bushheritage.org.au
Office of Environment and Heritage – www.environment.nsw.gov.au
Friends of Grasslands – www.fog.org.au
Greening Australia Capital Region – www.greeningaustralia.org.au/community/capital-region
Molonglo Catchment Group – www.molonglocatchment.com.au
Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority—www.murrumbidgee.cma.nsw.gov.au
Nature Conservation Trust of NSW – www.naturetrust.org.au
Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority—www.southern.cma.nsw.gov.au
Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare Committee – www.umlc.org.au
Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee – www.umccc.org.au

K2C Partnership is proud to be part of the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative—
www.greateasternranges.org.au



Invitation to become an

Associate Member of the Kosciuszko to Coast Partnership

2011-12 & 2012-13

Kosciuszko to Coast (K2C) is a partnership of eleven natural resource management agencies and community organisations. Its overarching objective is to increase the resilience, extent and connectedness of target ecosystems and linkages across the K2C region, through working with the community and landholders. The key focus areas are grasslands, woodlands, wetlands and valley floor watercourses, small bush birds, arboreal mammals and threatened forest vegetation communities and flora and fauna.

K2C is very proud to be a regional partner in the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative which provides a very broad conservation perspective and support base to do the work regionally and K2C has over many years engaged with many landowners, groups and businesses.

We are now offering associate membership for two years to those who support K2C's objectives and/or who wish to work with us. Associate membership will entitle you to receive our K2C *Groundcover* newsletter (published three times a year), to attend K2C functions, receive natural resource management information, help and support from K2C. In return you are asked to promote K2C and to work with us to achieve our objectives. If you are already on the K2C email list we would encourage you to take up this opportunity to become an associate member.

For landowners, you may list your property on our *K2C Register of Properties Managed for Sustainability and/or Conservation*, and receive a K2C gate sign. For businesses we will do our best to promote you. K2C Associate membership is free.

Donations, while not expected, are nevertheless welcome. Donations are made to K2C Incorporated which has been established to manage funds for the K2C Partnership. K2C Incorporated does not have deductible gift recipient status but will be applying for that in the near future. Donations may be made by cheque or deposited directly into the following account:

K2C Incorporated - Westpac Bank - BSB: 032724 - Account No.279293

Please ensure your name accompanies any deposit. For more information, please see www.k2c.org.au or inquire with K2C Treasurer, Tony Robinson on Ph: 6235 9334

To apply for K2C Associate Membership please print out and complete the application form next page or send as separate attachment and return it to facilitator@k2c.org.au or post form or donation to: Tony Robinson, K2C Treasurer, 229 Mt Livingstone Rd, Michelago, NSW, 2620.

Application for Associate Membership to Kosciuszko to Coast (K2C) Partnership 2011 – 2013

Note: By applying to be an Associate member of the K2C Partnership you are agreeing to support and abide by the broad K2C Partnership objective below:

To increase the resilience, extent and connectedness of target ecosystems and linkages across the K2C region, through working with the community and landholders. Target ecosystems include: grasslands, woodlands, wetlands and valley floor watercourses, small bush birds, arboreal mammals and threatened forest vegetation communities and flora and fauna

Name

Street.....

Town/Suburb/City.....State/Terr.....Postcode.....

Phone numbers.....

Email address.....

Signature.....

Please tick one or more boxes and record whether you are:

- An organisation
- A landowner - If you would like your property (properties) on the *K2C Property Register of properties management for sustainability and/or conservation*, please record:
 - Name of property (properties)
 - Location.....
 - GPS or Lot DP (Optional)
 - Would you like a complementary K2C sign for your gate ?.....
- A business
- An individual

Regarding donations,

- I wish to make a donation to K2C.
 - A donation of \$..... is enclosed
 - A donation of \$..... is being forwarded separately.
- I do not wish to make a donation to K2C at this time

Direct deposit payable to: **K2C Incorporated, Westpac Bank BSB: 032724 ACC: 279293**
Email Associate Membership Form to facilitator@k2c.org.au or post form or donation to: **Tony Robinson, K2C Treasurer, 229 Mt Livingstone Rd, Michelago, NSW, 2620.**
