**Skeleton Weed**

*Chondrilla juncea* Native of Europe, Asia and north-western Africa. It is a perennial herb to 1.2 m high with a deep taproot and creeping roots that may form new plants. Leaves in the rosette are lobed with teeth pointing back to the centre of the plant, usually hairless, 7–25 cm long, 1–5 cm wide. There are 3 forms are in Australia, narrow-leaf, broadleaf and intermediate-leaf, leaves die early in the flowering period and plants are then virtually leafless over summer. It flowers from mid summer to late autumn and with one plant capable of producing 10-20,000 seeds a year, it is a plant you want to keep on top of.

The distinguishing things about this plant is its skeletal appearance; a milky sap from all parts of the plant, leaves mainly as rosette with few or no leaves on flowering stems. Flowers are yellow with strap-like petals. Flowers are single or in 2s along the bright green stem with up to 15-20 small flowers per stem. Seeds are brown cylindrical with white parachute bristles on one end and up to 1 cm long which help them float in the wind.

It spreads by seed in wind, water or by animals, pieces of plant spread by machinery and new rosettes from lateral roots of parent plants.

Control is difficult, Glyphosate will kill the young rosette growing from seed but has little affect on the root system from a parent plant that suckers. Heave grazing with sheep pre and during flowering is one way of lowering seed production and with seed life short it is a helpful control method. If you’re grazing cattle, then patrolling infested paddocks on a fortnightly basis and cutting and bagging flowering plants for secure disposal, and I like to give the cut root a touch up with Glyphosate, it does not always kill the whole root system but does give it some to think about a while. With large infestations it may pay to contact your DPI staff for more information on spraying programs.

*Article Terry Shipway*

Photos: J.J.Dellow & R.W.Medd
Beechworth Community Christmas

Market and Family Fun Day

a celebration of, and by, our local community groups!

Once again the Beechworth Community Christmas Celebration is opening the ‘12 Days of Christmas’, with the Community Christmas Market on the first weekend in December.

Saturday 6th December - 8.30am-2pm
Beechworth Historic Precinct,
Ford St, Beechworth

Come down and chat with the CWA ladies, Lions Club, Mens Shed, Scouts, Childcare Centre, Schools, Landcare and others, support your community, join the fun and celebrate Christmas, Beechworth style!

△ Handmade arts, crafts and Christmas produce – real gifts for Christmas!
△ Vege seedlings,
△ BBQ on the go, plus homemade lemonade for the kids,
△ Face painting, balloons and kids activities,
△ Displays, demonstrations and exhibitions by our local groups,
△ Old fashioned family sports events by the Beechworth Rotary Club,
△ Live music from our local young musicians,
△ A performance by our fabulous Fruit Bats, and
△ ‘Open mic’ session for local performers – come down and be heard!

All profits to our community groups!
Fire Brigade News

Clearing vegetation to protect your home from bushfire
Prior to 2011, property owners were generally required to apply for a permit to remove any native vegetation on their property. These laws have now been made less stringent for people living in bushfire risk areas with the introduction of planning exemptions known as the ‘10/30’ and ‘10/50’ rules.

The 10/30 rule applies in the Indigo Shire and this means that you do not need a permit to remove, destroy or lop:
- Any vegetation, including trees, within 10 metres of your house
- Any vegetation, excluding trees, within 30 metres of your house.

New Homes
If your home was built or approved after 10 September 2009 you will need a permit to clear vegetation no matter where you live. Contact the shire for more information
Houses that are replacements for a home damaged or destroyed by bushfire between 1 January and 31 March 2009 are entitled to clear vegetation according to the 10/30 rule.

Preparing your property
1. Mature trees can help shield against radiant heat and embers. They must be strategically located and well managed
2. Remove flammable items from decks and verandas, such as boxes, furniture and doormats
3. Keep grass cut to less than 20 cm. Fire can ignite and travel quickly through long grass.
4. Keep wood piles away from the house. Stray embers can easily ignite woodpiles.
5. Store flammable liquids away from house. Where possible store in flame proof containers
6. Get rid of dry grass, leaves, twigs and loose bark
7. Prune lower branches of shrubs to separate from surface fuels below. Prune shrubs well away from branches of mature trees.
8. Cut back overhanging tree branches close to property – no branches in 10m space
9. Do not have large shrubs next to or under windows.
10. Use pebbles and rocks in your garden (not flammable mulch)
11. Keep gutters and roof area clear of leaf litter.

Why clear vegetation?
Research shows that clearing fuel near your house is one of the most important things that you can do to protect it from a bushfire.
Before the fire season starts, take steps to remove – or keep to a minimum – anything flammable around your home. Think about vegetation and household items.
The information above has been sourced from the CFA website. More information is available at cfa.vic.gov.au/clearing

Vegetation disposal.
The Indigo Shire Beechworth transfer stations will accept green waste (garden waste, leaf litter and tree pruning’s) free of charge, on 1 and 2 and 8 and 9 of November. The Beechworth transfer station in Diffey Road will be open from 1pm to 5pm.

Have you paid your 2014 Landcare membership?
Your support helps to provide this community newsletter
The busy season in the vegie patch continues at a very hectic pace – there is so much to do at this time of year! Currently we are enjoying the asparagus, strawberries, silverbeet, broad-beans, cabbages, broccoli, lettuces, carrots, celery and fresh herbs from our garden, continuing the battle against the weeds (not so enjoyable) and preparing the garden beds ready for the summer crops. **Potatoes** can be planted out now (under a thick layer of mulch, straw or compost). Enough **celery** for the whole year can also be planted now. A dozen plants will provide plenty for stews and salads, as long as they’re well fed. Don’t pick the whole bunch—just the odd stalk as you need it. The more you feed and water them the more you’ll get. Also silverbeet—a dozen vigorous plants will produce a couple of meals every week.

With **carrots** it is also best to plant your summer supply now. They’re slow growing, and easily swamped by weeds and very hard to germinate successfully from seed in the heat of summer, so successive planting is often not possible. Plant them thickly and pull out the tiny ones as you need them. Treat beetroot the same way. Another crop can be planted in late summer/autumn to provide the carrots needed for the next winter and spring.

Lettuce, beans, and Chinese greens are best planted as small lots each 2-3 weeks. With Corn I plant a large bed of corn now— the first lot of early corn I plant never ripens evenly, so there’s no point staggering it till December. Then I plant a new lot every three weeks till late January. Later corn seems more likely to ripen all at once and is ideal for freezing for later use—simply steam the cobs and then remove the kernels, seal them in a freezer bag and store in the freezer to enjoy over winter! Try growing pumpkins through your corn— the young plants keep the weeds down and the old plants can ramble up the old corn stalks. Cucumbers also do well in corn, but need extra feeding or they do far worse. **Plant seeds or seedlings of** Basil, bush & climbing beans, beetroot, cabbage, capsicum, carrot, celery, chillies, Chinese cabbage & other Chinese greens, cucumber, eggplant, endive, kohl rabi, leeks, lettuce, marrow, melons, parsley, parsnip, bush and climbing peas (late Oct. early Nov), pumpkin, marrows, spring onions, radish, rock melon, rocket, silverbeet (or rainbow chard for a colourful effect), spinach (in a shady spot), squash, sunflowers (excellent for attracting bees to your patch), sweetcorn, tomato, watermelon and zucchini.

**Growing Globe Artichokes (Cynara scolymus)**

Our latest experimental plant has been the Globe Artichoke—we were given a plant at the Yackandandah food swap last November and planted it our veggie patch to see what would happen. It has grown into a very large plant which is now covered in buds & blooms which are a regular addition to our meals. Globe Artichoke can also be grown from seeds which should be planted directly into the garden bed where they are to grow in September, October or November (best) in Wooraggee.

- Sow seed at a depth approximately three times the diameter of the seed. Best planted at soil temperatures between 15°C and 18°C.
- Space plants: 160 - 200 cm apart
- Harvest in 42-57 weeks
- These plants need a lot of space so are best planted in separate bed

Sometimes known as Super-thistles growing to 1.2-1.3m high with a spread of 1.2x1.2m, they are very pretty plants and can be used as part of a herbaceous border. Harvest blooms from the plant’s second year, Artichokes grow particularly well in sandy soils but the plants like a lot of compost. They can be propagated by suckers or offsets. In temperate/warm areas a well fertilised plant will live for about five years and throw up suckers each year. Artichokes aren’t hardy enough to overwinter in areas with very cold winters although our plant has grown through this last winter—time will tell how long it lasts. Transplant only when all danger of frost is past in your area. Aphids and earwigs can be a nuisance. **Culinary hints** - cooking and eating Artichokes (Globe)

Pick buds before scales develop brown tips.
If you have lots of small buds, they can be fried in olive oil and eaten whole.
Rinse in plenty of cold water to remove earwigs or other insects.

Happy gardening to all from Mary Prowse.
Summer Weeds

Greater Mullein (Verbascum thapsus) is known by many names including Common Mullein, Woolly Mullein, Velvet Mullein Lambs Ear and many others. It is a member of the figwort family and is native to Europe, Northern Africa and temperate Asia.

The plant grows in two stages: the first year it produces a dense rosette of long, broad leaves at ground level. In the second year the plant will usually produce a single long stem which can grow as tall as 2 metres. The stem is densely covered with yellow flowers that can occupy as much as half its length. Greater Mullein’s most distinctive feature is its soft, hairy leaves, some between 15 and 50 cms long and up to 12 cms wide. The leaves grow alternately up the stem and become smaller in size as they ascend. In the United States, the plant is sometimes referred to as Cowboy Toilet Paper.

The flowers are about 1.5 to 3 cms across and have five bright yellow, rounded petals. Flowering can last up to three months beginning as early as December but more typically in January - March. Flowers at the bottom of the stem open first and proceed to open upwards a few at a time. Each flower produces a small seed pod that splits in half to disperse numerous tiny brown seeds. Each seed pod can contain over 400 seeds. After flowering, the plant will usually die drying to a brown grey colour and the stem can remain upright through to the spring.

Greater Mullein grows in a variety of habitats which including roadsides and cuttings and bush clearings. They frequently colonize bare and disturbed areas preferring dry, sandy or gravelly areas in a sunny location. Seeds will germinate on bare ground with soil temperatures above 12 C. Seeds can remain able to germinate for several decades.

Since it does not grow well in cultivated areas, Greater Mullein is not considered an agricultural threat but in our crown land it can quickly crowd out native grasses. It also frequently appears as one of the first plants to grow after a fire.

Removal by hand is the easiest way to control it, as herbicides are often ineffectual because of the dense hairs on the leaves. These hairs also make it undesirable for grazing animals. When hoeing make sure that all the large roots are removed as they can reshoot, its very easy to pull the plant roots and all after a good rain. Bare areas should be replanted to prevent it from growing back.

Article Terry Shipway

Next Meeting:- Friday 28th November 2014 | Venue:- Hibernan Hotel Private Function Room
Time :- 6.00pm for a 6.30pm start
Contacts:- Tess Lucas (03)5728-7257 or Pauline Carson (03)5728-7264

This will be our last meeting for the year so as usual we have organised our social Xmas meal at a local venue. This year it is the Hibernian Hotel in the Private Function Room. The meal will be a traditional Xmas meal consisting of a trio of roasts, (beef, pork and turkey) served with roast potato and pumpkin, cauliflower mornay, honeyed carrots, peas and gravy, (cranberry and apple sauce on the table). Desserts will be individual plum puddings served with brandy custard and garnish. The cost is $28 per head, with drinks at bar prices. Tea and coffee will also be available. Sounds delicious!!! Could people please RSVP to either Tess or Pauline by 21st November so we can advise caterers numbers attending. Please bring friends/family/neighbours along to make it an enjoyable evening.

A reproduction of a painting by the Swedish botanist C. A. M. Lindman (1856–1928)
Fruit Sticks
We have loved making fresh fruit sticks each week. This is the last of Chris’s home grown blood oranges. We will have to wait until next August/ September for the oranges and mandarins to come back into season. We cut the fruit into cubes and thread them onto skewers. They taste better this way.

Making Pasta Dough
Making your own pasta dough is really easy.

**Ingredients:**
- 400g plain flour
- 2 tsp salt
- 4 eggs

**Method:**
Combine the flour & salt into a large bowl. Crack the eggs into a well in the centre of the flour and beat lightly with a fork. Use your fingers to draw the flour from the edges of the bowl. Knead for a few minutes on a lightly floured board until the dough clings together and feels springy. If the dough is too dry add more egg; if too wet add flour. Wrap in cling wrap and let rest for 1 hour at room temperature.

We used a pasta machine to make our own pasta. You need to do this in pairs so it doesn’t rip.

**TIP:**
We also dry our pasta on a clothes horse before we boil it.

SAKG Kitchen News:
**Our kitchen glossary:**

**BLEND:**
To incorporate two or more ingredients thoroughly.

**JULIENNE:**
To cut vegetables, fruits, or cheeses into thin strips.

**KNEAD:**
To work and press dough with the palms of the hands or mechanically, to develop the gluten in the flour.

**LUKEWARM:**
Neither cool nor warm; approximately body temperature.

**MINCE:**
To cut or chop food into extremely small pieces.

**MIX:**
To combine ingredients usually by stirring.

**PAN-FRY:**
To cook in small amounts of oil.

**Skills:**
*Following recipes (and adapting them).
*Identifying & using herbs for taste instead of salt.
*Planning menus from school garden harvest to cut down on food kilometres.
*Working as a team.
*Composting for worms, chickens and compost bins.
*Kitchen safety, hygiene.
*Cleaning up as you go.
*Learning the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating Chart.
*Using carving and vegetable knives carefully.

**November Menus**
Silverbeet, potato and tomato curry, homemade bread rolls, avocado and tomato salad, watermelon salad, mango salad, silverbeet and egg rolls, sausage rolls, fruit sticks, date scones.

We have been making delicious herb and vegetable based sauces and dressings. Basil is a very popular herb.

It is easy to grow from seeds too.
SAKG Garden News:

Congratulations Owen

We are thrilled that our ‘chief gardener’ Owen Gemmill was honoured as a community leader in the Indigo Shire Sustainability awards last week.

Owen has been a driving force behind our very productive garden, generously giving students and staff his time, expertise and labour each and every day. We are very proud of you Owen!

Congratulations Wooragee P.S

We are all very excited that our school has won a Victorian Schools’ Regional Garden Award. The majority of children will travel to the Royal Botanic Gardens on Thursday Nov 27th to receive our award, hear about what other schools are doing and visit the Children’s Garden and Shrine of Remembrance. Of course we are taking the Gemmill family!

Ribbons of Peace Ceremony

Our school would love to see World Peace happen everywhere. Our garden is a peaceful, tranquil and serene environment where we can remain in touch with nature. We wish the rest of the world could be as fortunate as we are. Pat and Belle gave their peace wishes at a ceremony involving schools on both sides of the border. We gave the leaders mini olive trees with little peace dove messages.

Remembrance Day Ceremony

Our school read the poem Flanders Poppies and had a minute silence on Remembrance Day. The school leaders went to the service at Beechworth.

Garden Diary

We are entering the Great Giant Pumpkin competition. We are thinking the area near the frog bog will be the perfect place to grow our ‘monsters’. We have now planted out our butternut pumpkin seedlings that we germinated as well as lots of tomatoes, radish, all sorts of lettuce, spring onions, turnips, potatoes, carrots, cucumbers, rhubarb, mint, thyme and basil. The Stewart family donated a pump so we can use the produce tap and dripper system. The chicks hatched out but only one survived. We will be better prepared next time we have a clucky chook.

Responsible Pet Ownership

Glenys brought her dog Mish to our school to teach us all about responsible pet ownership.

We learnt to ask the owner first if it is ok to pat a dog and how to approach animals without scaring them. Glenys taught us lots of songs and had posters to remind us how to behave around all kinds of animals. She does this for free!
Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups &
NE Catchment Management Authority (Indigenous Liaison) invite you to the:

Indigenous Fire Forum
“Past, Present & Future”

Presenters include:

**Adjunct Prof. Bill Gammage**
Author of the multi-award winning book:
“The Biggest Estate on Earth - How Aborigines made Australia”

Traditional Owners, Landcare & the
Country Fire Authority

Saturday 6th December, 1.30pm–4.30pm
The Albury Club, 519 Kiewa St. Albury

**RSVP by Friday 25th November** to either:

Belinda: belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au
0407 227 814 or

Richard: richard.mcternan@necma.vic.gov.au
0428 683 878  02 6043 7626

This event is brought to you by:
Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups and
North East Catchment Management Authority
It is funded by the Australian Government and is
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Facilitators Initiative (VLLFI) Program.
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Do you have email available?  Please consider getting this newsletter electronically. You will be saving the Landcare Group money and it will be more environmentally friendly. Send your email details to kbowley53@gmail.com
Do you have an interesting story, web site or advertisement you would like to place in the Wooragee Landcare Newsletter?

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Due to the rising costs of printing and postage the Wooragee Landcare Community Newsletter will be sent 4 times a year to all Non-Landcare members in Wooragee and Woolshed that currently receive the newsletter via the post.

Wooragee Landcare Group
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