

# Rockpool Rd Project In the news

## 250 plants for Rockpool restoration project

**PLANTING TOGETHER:** The upper Kiewa Landcare group gathered at Rockpool Road on Sunday to continue the extensive revegetation project it has been involved with for several years. L - R, back, Roger Pollard, Barb Mason, Peter Stokie, project manager Belinda Pearce, Upper Kiewa Landcare president Alan McDonald and David Marshall-Irving; front, Dianne Passman, Jarrod and Jemima Paine, Helen Howley and Russ Bellingham.



UPPER Kiewa Landcare were busy at the Rockpool area of the East Kiewa River on two weeks ago establishing around 250 plants as part of the Rockpool restoration project.

Landcare facilitator and project manager Belinda Pearce said that they were concentrating on the area downstream of the carpark which has recently been cleared of willows and other woody weeds by the North East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA).

"NECMA has cleared areas on both sides of the river between the Rockpool carpark and the Damms Rd bridge, and we have been planting grasses and shrubs into this area to protect the exposed soil," she said.

"NECMA's Janette Curry has completed the initial work of restoring the riverbank and has turned over the ongoing maintenance to Landcare."

The group is very happy with the progress of the restoration.

"The Landmate team from Beechworth Correctional Centre has done a great job finishing the walking path from the carpark to the rock pools, and they have also erected some seats along the way," Ms Pearce said.

"It is very pleasing to see so many people making use of the area."

"Also the fishermen are very happy because their access to the stream has been improved."

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## Many hands make light work

■ Mt Beauty sites get makeover by large band of volunteers and government groups

A BEAUTIFICATION project is adding to the natural splendor of two sites near Mt Beauty.

Parks Victoria ranger, Kevin Cosgriff, said the aim of the ongoing project is to restore the Rockpools and Mermaid Beach areas on the East Kiewa River to the beautiful river side picnic area it was in the past.

The project is a joint partnership between the Upper Kiewa Landcare group, Parks Victoria, the Department of Sustainability

and Environment, Alpine Shire Council and AGL Energy.

Work to be done includes clearing blackberries and weeds in progress, slaking and mowing, landscaping of picnic areas, creating walking tracks, planting shade trees, groundcovers and grasses, rationalisation of roadworks, constructing fences and establishing a ramp.

The first stage, which is focused on the Mermaid Beach area is hoped to be

completed by the end of this summer.

"It was fantastic to see such a good roll-up and to see so much excellent work achieved," Mr Cosgriff said. They will be more working bees over the summer, and Mr Cosgriff urged local people who want to be part of this great project to contact Parks Victoria, Mt Beauty office on 5754 4693, or the Upper Kiewa Landcare group at [www.northern.landcare.org.au/upper-kiewa](http://www.northern.landcare.org.au/upper-kiewa).



**BEAUTIFYING MT BEAUTY:** Landcare volunteers help with the beautification of the Mermaid Beach area and the nearby Rockpools area near Mt Beauty. (From left) Helen Howley, Luke Bennett, John Ripper, Ian Howley and Paul L'Yvillier (both kneeling), Michael Bonhote, Michael Purnellhouse, Paul Gray, Gina Voyanis, Russell Bellingham, Trish Cross, Wendy Graham, Carol McDonald, Peter Graham, and Alan McDonald.

# More than just a normal barbecue

Landcare sub-group celebrates at restored Kiewa site

UPPER Kiewa Landcare sub-group had every reason to celebrate when members gathered for their Christmas barbecue last Wednesday.

The barbecue took place at the site of the group's biggest and most recent project – the area adjoining the East Kiewa River at the end of Rockpool Road.

Started about 12 months ago, the project is a team effort by Landcare, Parks Victoria, AGL, the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and Alpine Shire Council, aiming at returning the area to a state where it will once again be a popular recreational spot as it was in the 1950s.

Upper Kiewa Landcare sub-group president, Alan McDonald, said the first task had been to spray and slash the blackberries and other weeds which had engulfed the area.

"It was just too large an expanse to consider dealing with all of it, so we decided to concentrate on three areas: the trail river crossing where the carpark will be, Mermaid Beach and Rockpool," he said.

"We have had several working bees where the volunteers



**ROCKPOOL PROJECT:** Attending the Landcare Christmas barbecue are (from left, standing) Belinda Pearce and Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups president Peter Serpell, and (seated) Upper Kiewa Landcare sub-group president Alan McDonald and project manager Ian Howley. PHOTO: Alex Craig

came and worked at the weeds and at replanting, and we had a lot of help from Landmate, the gang from Beechworth Correctional Facility, who came and

did a lot of the heavier work. "A fence and lines of rocks have been put in place to confine cars to the carpark, and eventually vehicle access

to the area will be closed off altogether."

Mr McDonald said some people may not be happy with this at first, but they needed to understand there is no funding available for the maintenance of the roads, which are in an almost impassable condition.

"We plan eventually to revegetate with new plantings where the current vehicular tracks are," he said.

A riverside walking track has been constructed leading from the carpark upstream to the rockpool swimming area, and a gap in the fence has been left to allow access by pedestrians, prams, horses and bicycles.

Parks Victoria's Kevin Cosgriff said maintenance of the area was a huge challenge for the organisation because there was so much to be done.

"It's tremendous to see such strong and active community support of this project," he said.

Landcare is planning further working bees next year to improve the area, and would welcome new volunteers.

For more information phone Mr McDonald on 5754 1000.