



DEMONSTRATIONS

BUD – Grasslands web portal, a 'gamma' version

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'Building Understorey Diversity (BUD) – Grasslands' is a collaborative online network developed around innovative programs delivered by Greening Australia (GA), Friends of Grasslands (FOG) and the Myer Foundation–Kosciuszko to Coast (K2C) Grasslands Project.

The portal offers information on Grasslands and Grassy Woodland ecosystems with links to key references developed over the years by members of K2C, GA, FOG, NSW Office of Environment & Heritage, Victorian agencies and the Commonwealth Department of the Environment. The ecosystem information focus areas are:

- BUD Seed Projects with information access to Greening Australia projects,
- BUD Grassland Fauna projects and resources across the ACT, NSW and Victoria,
- BUD Flora with uploaded images and access to photo libraries, online access to field guides, native grasses brochures and species lists, descriptions of plant communities.

Management case studies and references are provided. They assist in understanding improvements and conservation of grasslands, through Greening Australia restoration, revegetation of specific sites and whole-of-paddock-rehabilitation across a range of sites, and through FOG's enhancement of public sites as well as the K2C work in recording material on private landholdings on the Monaro and in the Lake George basin area.

A landscape view of grasslands considering biodiversity, connectivity, urban planning, mapping and monitoring as well as the Commonwealth listing of grasslands will offer links to key research and reference documents. Many of these are due to come on line in 2015 through the publication of the Myer Foundation Native Grassland projects from the University of Melbourne, the ARC for Urban Ecology, and RMIT. A separate landing page on Maps, Apps and Monitoring will offer easy access to applications for downloading and reporting.

The first iteration of the Database of Demonstration Sites, a list of 25 public grassland sites with a wide list of attributes, is available as a spreadsheet. The listing of 25 private grassland sites will be completed once survey information is analysed. This will allow users to search across management issues as well as link to management plans. The database functionality will be dependent upon additional development.

Indigenous management of grasslands offers articles and links to 'Adopting Indigenous values in the community' in the Canberra to Cooma areas, and the work of the Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council in developing the Bundian Way from Kosciuszko to Eden on the south coast. There will be a focus on the 'Aboriginal Women at Yam Fields' project, aimed at reinvigorating the yam fields in the grasslands on the Bundian Way, which is supported by K2C and GA.

Updates will be occurring regularly through new material, RSS news feeds from local organisations and posts available to users to promote events. Subscriptions are available to a seasonal newsletter. Articles, comments, posts and subscriptions are welcome as we progress through to a beta version, currently at <http://66.147.244.110/~budorgau/>.

Kathryn Wells is the Manager of the Myer Foundation–K2C Grasslands Project. Kathryn spent years of her childhood in the wildflower country of Western Australia. Later, she completed a Masters in Australian history looking at Aboriginal trade in artefacts in south-eastern Australia. Kathryn has worked for many years with Indigenous land management projects, especially in the Northern Territory. Later, when she managed the Australian Government Culture Portal for five years, Kathryn contributed to the development of a simultaneous data search tool across the national and state institutions, and later did data mapping for the NSW Chief Scientist.