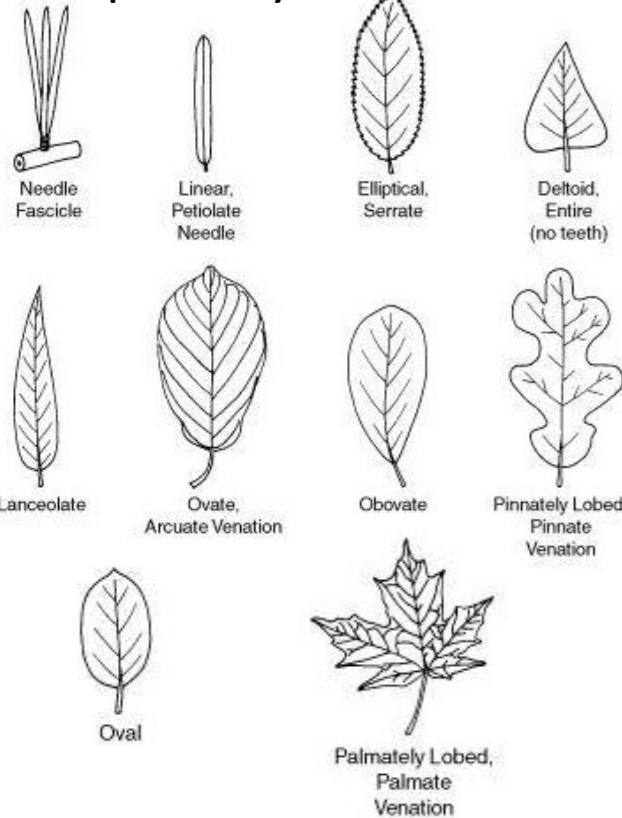


## Leaf Shape Glossary



## Weather report for the Kyeamba Valley

Robbie Lennard from the Bureau of Meteorology has prepared the following Springtime forecast for the Kyeamba Valley.

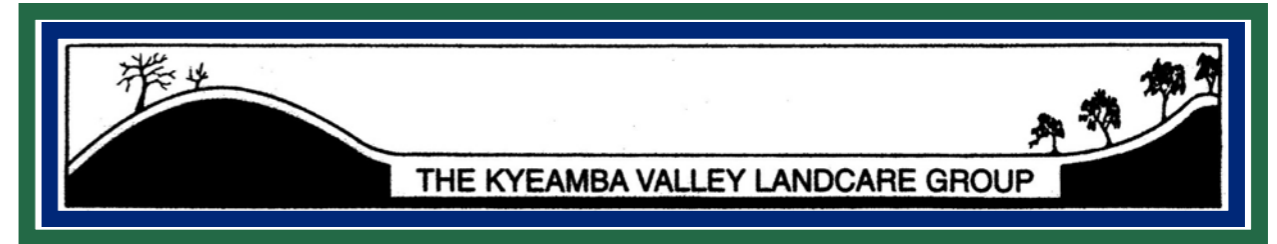
For our area the chances are for a drier than average Spring.

About a 40% chance of receiving greater than median rainfall.

About a 60 - 65% chance of receiving greater than median maximum temperatures.

About a 60 - 70% chance of exceeding greater than median minimum temperatures

For more info and explanations see the BOM website. [http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/rain\\_ahead.shtml](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/rain_ahead.shtml) or their home page <http://www.bom.gov.au>



## KYEAMBA VALLEY LANDCARE NEWSLETTER - Spring 2012

### Message from the Chairman

Peter Lawson - Chairman KVLG

Here we are, having survived putting together our first four newsletters. We hope you have got some value and enjoyment from them, or at least found something of interest. As has been mentioned before, please let us know if there are any topics of interest that you would like us to make an attempt to cover.

Coming up on the 12<sup>th</sup> September we have the Qantas sponsored Erosion Control workshop and field day. This is being put on in conjunction with the Tarcutta Landcare Group, and we will be looking at erosion control methods that will hopefully give us a raft of options we may be able to use on our own properties with minimal cost. The main aim of the day is to get as many cost-effective erosion control options presented to us as possible. We hope that individuals will be able to undertake many of these options at home, without having to do any major earth works or spend a lot of money.

We will be going to a site on the creek near Tarcutta where a demonstration will be set up using some of the methods spoken about on the day. There will also be a similar demonstration site on the Kyeamba Creek set up over the next couple of months, where we will hope to run a field day or two over the next few seasons to see what has been done and monitor how it is working. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible as it should be a very in-

formative day. Please see the details of the day in this newsletter.

In anticipation of the field day reaping rewards as far as useful methods go, we are currently preparing an application to gain some funding from the National Heritage Trust (NHT) or Government to keep it simple, to pursue some of these low cost methods of erosion control. At this stage it would be targeted at higher points in the catchment, basically meaning any creek or tributary running towards the major creeks of Kyeamba and O'Briens Creek. We felt it was better to get lots of little areas done than do one or two major works given that after the past two and a half years there are so many areas that have suffered from quite severe erosion. We shall keep you posted about the progress of our application. We do not find out if we are successful until April 2013, so don't go holding your breath waiting for it...

On a different note, we now have access to a small library of books which may, or may not, be of interest to you. Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc (MLi) has put together some titles, with our assistance, which could be useful to you at certain times but not something you would normally purchase. Please look on Page 5 for more details.

Regards, Peter

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 12th September KVLG Erosion Control Workshop

Wednesday 12th September **NO** KVLG Meeting (*due to Workshop*)

Wednesday 10th October 7.30pm KVLG Meeting—Ladysmith Hall, Ladysmith

Every Wednesday Wagga Urban Landcare Group holds Wednesday propagation days at the North Wagga Primary Industries Centre TAFE, corner of Farrer Roads and Coolamon Roads from 9:30 to 3:30. Growing and cleaning providence seed for revegetating the local area. All welcome to come and join. Phone Jeanette Coventry mobile 0409915006 or work 69395031.

### KYEAMBA VALLEY LANDCARE GROUP EXECUTIVE

Chairman  
Peter Lawson

Treasurer  
Tracey Everett

Secretary  
Mardi Pillow

If undeliverable return to:  
Kyeamba Valley Landcare Group  
170 Big Springs Road  
WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650

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AUSTRALIA

### KVLG Welcomes New Regional Landcare Facilitator - Sam Shannon

Hi, my name's Sam. I recently took over from Nicole Maher as the Regional Landcare Facilitator, with Murrumbidgee Landcare in Wagga.

I moved to Wagga from New Zealand in July with my wife Lisa and Jack Russel Monty. In NZ I was working as a Biodiversity Officer in Timaru, 2 hours south of Christchurch. I grew up on a sheep and beef farm in the North Island, and I like to think I have a balanced view of both conservation and agricultural production.

Lisa and I love to travel, and this is the fourth country we have lived and worked in since meeting in London 8 years ago (and about the 20<sup>th</sup> country we've visited!). We found the people here so friendly and inviting which makes the whole move less daunting. And the language is almost the same...

I look forward to working with you over the next 12 months with the Cross-Property Planning project and any other projects that come up. See you at the Erosion Control Workshop on 12 September!



The Kyeamba Valley Landcare Group proudly supported by:





# Swails Slow Water To Great Effect

by Bundle Lawson

For the past 12 years, Richard and Anna Allsopp have been fattening sheep and cattle on their 100 hectare property 'Pinnacle Creek' and gradually improving the water retaining abilities of their property.

"As far as environmental improvements to our property go, our main aim has been and continues to be to generally slow down the water flows across our landscape, using mostly natural means," Richard said.

"We are in the fortunate position of being able to try new ideas to see what works in our country in terms of slowing water flow and reducing erosion. We will hopefully end up developing some effective and cost-efficient techniques, learnt from our experiences.

"Our problem areas as far as erosion goes have been our creek (Pinnacle Creek) and various gullies around the farm. We have therefore been encouraging long grass to grow in gullies and the creek, placing naturally-fallen trees in and across them to encourage ponds to form and planting hundreds of trees along banks. We want to effectively stop using gullies and creeks as stormwater drains."

## Slowing the flow

During 2008, the Allsopps undertook specific earthworks in an effort to slow the water flow across their property. "We had to repair an existing dam so we decided to enlarge it and implement a swail system to slow and disperse excess water flows," Richard said.

"The swail effectively looks like a large contour bank attached to a dam, with the difference being that it is dead level, following the contours for about 300 metres."



**Edward, Richard and Hamish Allsopp amongst trees planted around the dam and swail system constructed in 2008. The dam is fenced off from livestock but is crashed-grazed with sheep when necessary.**



**The first swail system the Allsopps built in 2008 has been a great success, as it gradually allows water to seep through its banks onto the surrounding landscape.**

"We now have three swails off three dams and I have been very pleased with the results so far. I believe that the slower the water, the less damage and more hydration to the landscape. This seems to be holding true, and the swails have even stood up to the unseasonal 'rain events' over the past two years.

"It is designed to slow the water flow after a rain event, and in normal conditions it would empty within a few days as the water seeps through the swail bank onto the surrounding land. The spillway of the dam is now effectively on the peak of the ridge, so when it overflows it hydrates what are traditionally the driest areas of the surrounding landscape. This is where the true value of the swails shine, as you have moisture flowing through in dry times that otherwise would have been lost off the farm during rain events."

"My uncle has a much larger swail than ours on his property 'Mulloon Creek' and it works brilliantly to slow water movement and increase hydration. It seemed such a logical idea to us so we put a system in."

<b>Scientific name:</b>	Eucalyptus albens <i>(from Latin 'alba' - white, referring to general whitish appearance)</i>
<b>Common Name:</b>	<b>WHITE BOX</b>
<b>Occurrence:</b>	Widespread throughout this area. Found growing on well drained slopes, from good clay loams through to poor, gravelly soils.
<b>Description:</b>	Medium to tall tree, 14-20m tall, with a short straight trunk and rounded spreading crown of blue-grey foliage.
<b>Leaves:</b>	Mature leaves alternate, ovate-lanceolate, grey to blue-green, 8-15cm long x 2-3cm wide. Juvenile leaves much wider and rounder with grey to whitish surface bloom.
<b>Flowers:</b>	Creamy white and showy, occurring from March to May.
<b>Fruit/seed capsule:</b>	Large conical to run-shaped and glaucous, 6-15mm long x 5-10mm wide, disc sunken, valves below rim level.
<b>Seed collection and propagation</b>	Collect dry brown fruits before the valves open and store till seed is shed. Sow fresh seed which germinates readily.
<b>Values or Uses:</b>	<b>Shelter:</b> Useful medium to high-level cover in windbreaks. <b>Wildlife:</b> Excellent habitat. Flowers important nectar source for birds such as honeyeaters. Food source for gliders, native moths, butterflies and other insects, which provide food for insect-eating birds. Hollows provide refuge and nesting sites for many birds and mammals, including the sugar glider and squirrel glider, which obtain sap from trunks. <b>Ornamental:</b> Very attractive for larger gardens.

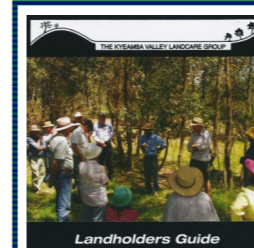


## CROSS PROPERTY PLANNING PROJECT—Continued from Page 3

Landholders who wish to participate in the project can receive funding assistance to help with the cost of on-ground works to protect and enhance biodiversity on their property. Funding is available for such things as fencing, native plants, weed control and alternative stock water to help protect and restore native habitat. Farm mapping workshops will be held with each group to determine areas on properties that may be suitable for revegetation, fencing etc. Landholders will then be supported to implement the recommended actions on their farms.

A series of workshops and field days will be held to provide information on land management that can enhance biodiversity while allowing for continued or improved farm productivity. Potential topics could include grazing management, paddock plants, healthy dams, flora and fauna, soils, farm mapping and connectivity. Anyone who is interested can attend these free events. Check the Murrumbidgee Landcare website for upcoming events: [www.murrumbidgeelandcare.asn.au](http://www.murrumbidgeelandcare.asn.au)

If you would like to be involved with this project, or would like to know more about it, please contact Sam Shannon on 02 6933 1443, 0487 953 776, or email: [sshannon@murrumbidgeelandcare.asn.au](mailto:sshannon@murrumbidgeelandcare.asn.au)



The Kyeamba Valley Landcare Group's Landholder's Guide is now available on CD for you to read from your computer. The disk is free of charge and can be posted to your home.

Please contact Tracey Everett on 6928 1344 or email [candteverett@gmail.com](mailto:candteverett@gmail.com) if you are interested in obtaining a copy.



We would like to thank the Wagga Mutual Credit Union for printing our KVLG Newsletters over the past 12 months.

By enabling us to print our newsletters we are able to distribute information to all our members and to keep people connected with our group.





## PROVENANCE SEED COLLECTION FOR PROPERTY REVEGETATION PROJECT UPDATE

by Mardi Pillow



Seedlings from our Provenance Seed Collection Project are steadily growing in size and will be ready for Autumn 2013 plantings.

The group will be meeting again towards the end of October to begin collecting seed for our seed bank and for subsequent propagation. The remainder of the course will also focus on pricking out of seedlings to be potted on into tube stock as well as several farm visits for seed collection. If any landholders are interested in having seed collected from their property and then propagated please contact Mardi on 6928 1321.

Each newsletter features plants that are indigenous to the area so keep a look out for any plants that can be identified as being locals!

<b>Scientific name:</b>	Pimelea linifolia
<b>Common Name:</b>	<b>SLENDER RICE FLOWER</b>
<b>Occurrence:</b>	Predominantly east of the Olympic Highway.
<b>Description:</b>	Variable shrub, prostrate to 1.5m high, with a thick woody Rootstock. Stems brown or red-brown when mature, yellow-brown when young.
<b>Leaves:</b>	Opposite, dull green, elliptical, or may be broader in the upper third, 5-30mm long x 2-7mm wide.
<b>Flowers:</b>	White, sometimes pink-tinged, long and tubular with 4 recurved 'petals', borne in large erect, or nodding heads of 7-60 flowers at the ends of stems. Flower heads are surrounded by 4 - 8, broadly ovate bracts. Flowering mainly spring to early summer.
<b>Seed capsule:</b>	Green, ovoid, 3-5.5mm long, enclosed in the thin, persistent flower base. Contains one back seed.
<b>Seed collection and propagation</b>	Collect seed from October to March however, growing from seed is very difficult. Propagate from cuttings, which are slow to strike.
<b>Values or Uses:</b>	Good habitat, providing nectar for native butterflies and other insects. Ornamental—excellent for rockeries. May require regular pruning to maintain shape.



<b>Scientific name:</b>	Lissanthe strigosa
<b>Common Name:</b>	<b>PEACH HEATH</b>
<b>Occurrence:</b>	Noted in many districts and catchments east of the Olympic Highway. Dry sclerophyll forest, dry scrub and heath on sandy soil. Prefers well-drained soil in filtered light.
<b>Description:</b>	Open, rigid, heath-like shrub 20-100cm high, often spreading by suckering. Often scrambling, with profuse, honey-scented, white to pink flowers.
<b>Leaves:</b>	Dark green, linear-oblong, 4-16mm long x 0.5-2mm wide with sharply pointed tips and margins curved under. Prominent parallel veins (1-3) on under surface.
<b>Flowers:</b>	Tubular urn-shaped, erect, 3-5mm long, with 5 small triangular lobes at the top (often hairy), pink to white, borne in clusters of 5-9, forming spikes at ends of branches. Profuse flowering in spring with sweet honey scent.
<b>Fruit/seed capsule:</b>	A small, flattened globular, edible berry, about 3mm diameter, pale, with a covering of short, soft hairs. Ripening early summer.
<b>Seed collection and propagation</b>	Collect fruit when mature. You can eat the ripe fruit and save the seed. Propagate from cuttings of new season's growth before it becomes too firm. Slow to strike. Difficult from seed.
<b>Values or Uses:</b>	Excellent habitat. Edible fruit eaten by small native birds.



## Swails Slow Water To Great Effect *continued*

### “Under construction

“We used a local contractor with a bulldozer and laser level to put our existing swails in. In hindsight, it would have been quicker and cheaper to use a laser levelled grader instead of a bulldozer, so we will do this for future works.

“We are hoping to do a series of swails on a dry hillside, to see if we can hydrate and restore this area of the farm.

### Outside influences

“I am also involved in the Mulloon Institute which operated Mulloon Creek Natural Farms near Canberra. This is a model farm that aims to demonstrate to future generations the benefits of **restorative natural agriculture, growing bio-diversity and building environmental capital**. A key element of the farms is work carried out to rehydrate the landscape using the principles of Natural Sequence Farming developed and practised by Peter Andrews.

“We had Peter Andrews here at Pinnacle Creek for a field day a few years ago. We haven't adopted many of his techniques directly on-farm at this stage, preferring to try the swail system initially.

“I am however a firm believer in his principles and aims relating to encouraging deposition in streams and on floodplains, restoring natural hydrology and rejuvenating the biodiversity and fertility of streams, floodplains and beyond. I therefore watch with interest his work at Mulloon Creek and may use similar techniques on our farm in the future.

“With each on-farm project I hope to be better organised in how we do things and the techniques we use, as I learn more from our own experiences and those of others. It gives me great pleasure to think we are laying the groundwork to be able to create a sustainable and economically viable farm plan into the future.”

## CROSS PROPERTY PLANNING PROJECT—by Sam Shannon, MLI

*Balancing farm production and conservation across the Central Murrumbidgee landscape*

Murrumbidgee Landcare (MLi) has been successful in securing more than \$1,000,000 in funding to continue and extend cross-property conservation planning and on-ground works at Kyeamba, Humula and to start a new group at Junee. This is a great opportunity for MLI to work directly with three of the local Landcare networks to link people, properties and native habitats.

The recent success of the Communities in Landscapes project in the Kyeamba and Humula catchment areas prompted our application for further funding to continue and extend the project to work with land managers to protect threatened ecosystems in the region. Applications to the Australian Government's Biodiversity Fund and the NSW Environmental Trust Community Bush Regeneration program have been successful.

The projects will be managed through MLI and we look forward to continuing to work Tony Cox and Jacinta Christie (NSW DPI) and Toni McLeish (GBW CMN) – all key partners in the Communities in Landscapes project. The overall aim of the project is to enhance the condition and connectivity of native vegetation including endangered Box Gum Grassy Woodlands (BGGW). As Kyeamba Landcare Group members are well aware, BGGW contain habitat for several nationally threatened species, including the Swift Parrot, Regent Honeyeater, and the endangered Wagga LGA population of Squirrel Gliders.



*The Allsopps have been allowing long grasses and reeds to grow along their gullies and creek, and planting trees on the banks, to help slow the flow of water down them.*







## EROSION CONTROL WORKSHOP - *Managing Stream Bank Erosion on Farms* 9.45am Wednesday 12 September 2012

The Kyeamba Valley Landcare Group with Qantas as our sponsor will host a workshop to address erosion control and creek bed stabilization by using low cost solutions, vegetation management and engineering techniques.

Our group will meet at the Tarcutta RSL at 9.45am on Wednesday 12th September 2012.

### AGENDA

- 9:45am TARCUTTA RSL—Arrival/morning tea
- 9:55am Welcome, introductions – Bob Schofield and Peter Lawson
- 10:00am Engineering solutions – Tim Smith
- 10:45am Low-cost solutions – Cam Wilson
- 11:30am Managing riparian vegetation to prevent erosion – Alison Elvin
- 12:15pm Lunch (provided)
- 1:15pm Flow changes over time in Tarcutta and Kyeamba Creeks – Aleks Rancic and Prof Ken Page
- 2:45pm Depart for site visit to local properties with erosion issues
- 3:00pm On-site discussion
- 4:30pm End



### THE SPEAKERS

**Tim Smith – Office of Water, Queanbeyan.** Spent a lot of time in our region after the floods in Oct and Dec 2010, assessed the many places of flood damage to help prioritise the sites that needed repair.

**Campbell Wilson – Mulloon Creek.** Attended “Advanced Watershed Restoration” course with Craig Spoonholtz at Milkwood Permaculture, currently trialling a range of low-cost options at Mulloon Creek.

**Alison Elvin – Consultant, Natural Capital.** Managing riparian vegetation to prevent erosion.

**Aleksandra Rancic – OEH Wagga.** Has been and analysing stream flow in the Tarcutta catchment from 1900 to present, and modelling changes in stream flow in response to land use change.

**Prof Ken Page, CSU School of Environmental Science.** Research on stream morphology and erosion in Tarcutta Creek and other areas, including “Monitoring of remediation works to arrest stream degradation in an agriculture-dominated catchment.”

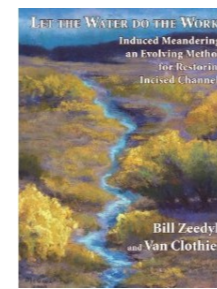


RSVP: TUESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2012

Mardi Pillow on 6928 1321 or mpillow@bigpond.com

## RESOURCES FOR KVLG LANDHOLDERS NOW AVAILABLE

Through MLI and the NSW Landcare Support Program funded by the NSW Government, we now have access to a wonderful collection of books available to all KVLG members to borrow. If you are interested in borrowing any of the books listed below or on the back page of our newsletter, please contact Sam Shannon on 69331443 or 0487 953776 to arrange pick up from Murrumbidgee Landcare office: Room 6, E Block, Wagga Ag Institute, Pine Gully Road Wagga. address. There will be further book reviews in the coming newsletters.



**Let The Water Do The Work** Bill Zeedyk and Van Clothier Paperback - 2009

This is an important contribution to riparian restoration. By thinking like a creek one can harness the regenerative power of floods to reshape stream banks and rebuild floodplains along gullied stream channels. Induced Meandering is an artful blend of natural sciences – geomorphology, hydrology and ecology – which govern channel forming processes. Induced Meandering directly challenges the dominant paradigm of river and creek stabilization by promoting the intentional erosion of selected banks while fostering deposition of eroded materials on an evolving floodplain. The river self-heals as the growth of native riparian vegetation accelerates the meandering process. Anyone with an interest in natural resource management in these uncertain times should read this book and put these ideas to work. Let’s go with the flow!

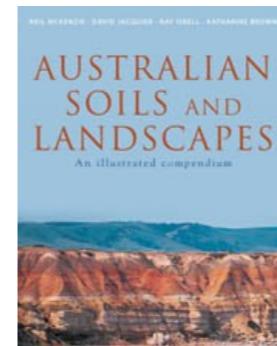
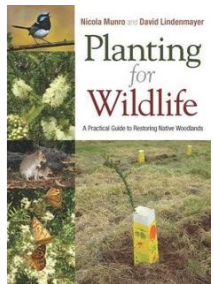
**Planting for Wildlife** A Practical Guide to Restoring Native Woodlands  
Nicola Munro & David Lindenmayer Paperback – 2011

Across Australia, woodlands are increasingly being planted on formerly cleared or semi-cleared land. Such revegetation efforts can improve biodiversity of farm wildlife, enhance aesthetics of the landscape and even boost farm production.

*Planting for Wildlife* provides the latest information on restoring woodlands, with particular emphasis on plantings as habitat for wildlife. Key topics include why it is important to revegetate, where to plant, how to prepare a site, how to maintain and manage plantings, and how they change over time.

The authors focus on the south-eastern grazing region where domestic livestock grazing and/or cropping have been prominent forms of land use. These agricultural landscapes have suffered widespread land degradation and significant losses of biodiversity. Revegetation is a vital step towards solving these problems.

The book includes high-quality colour photographs to support the themes discussed. It is ideal for natural resource managers; field staff from state and federal government agencies; landholders; hobby farmers; vineyard owners; naturalists interested in birds, conservation and revegetation; as well as policy makers in regional, state and federal government.



**Australian Soils and Landscapes - An Illustrated Compendium**

Neil McKenzie, David Jacquier, Ray Isbell & Katharine Brown Hardback - 2004

This essential reference provides an introduction to the remarkable soils and landscapes of Australia. It reveals their great diversity and explains why an understanding of soil properties and landscape processes should guide our use of the land.

Using striking photographs of characteristic landscapes, it begins by describing the basic properties of soils and how Australia's distinctive soils and landscapes have co-evolved. We gain a greater understanding of why particular soils occur at certain locations and how soil variation can influence landscape processes, agricultural productivity and ecosystem function. The book explains the impact of various forms of land use and the changes they can bring about in soil. This is followed by an invaluable compendium that describes and illustrates over 100 of the more important and widespread soils of Australia, along with their associated landscapes. There is a brief account of each soil's environment, usage and qualities as well as details on chemical and physical properties so we can make more informed decisions about appropriate land-use.



It's a  
GIRL!

Congratulations to Nicole and Ed Maher on the birth of their baby girl, Tahlia Emma who arrived on the 9th July 2012.  
May she bring you much joy and happiness as all little girls do!