

# Snowy River Mail

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Helping dung beetles do their thing at Cann River on Saturday were Robyn Korn, James Pardew, Michael and Kelly Connley, Judy McKinnon, Steve Laffy, Neil Stringer (project officer) and (front) Claire Pardew, Brooke and Jack Connley and Elliott Pardew. The field day at the Connley property was the first of four to be held in Cann River, Wairewa, Marlo Plains and Jarrahmond as part of a Far East Victoria Landcare initiative to survey sites where landholders have released dung beetle colonies in the past. The monitoring days form part of the survey and are also designed to train people on how to conduct their own beetle monitoring into the future. In order to increase the population size and species diversity of dung beetles in Far East Gippsland, 36 colonies were released between 2003 and 2008. Another aim was to extend the activity period through to winter, and so the majority of releases were of *Bubas bison*, a winter active species. And the good news, there was evidence of burrows at Cann River on Saturday and one beetle was found. Surveys were held at Wairewa (Ian and Rosanne Trevaskis) and Marlo Plains (Vanessa Ingram-Daniel) yesterday, with the last at Jarrahmond (Mick and Cindy Robinson) today. Dung beetles naturally and efficiently recycle cattle dung from agricultural pastures, lowering the amount of nutrient runoff into waterways after rainfall events. There are also a range of other additional benefits. s217-12