

Project Platypus Upper Wimmera Landcare

MISSION

Support and empower community.
Improve environmental health of Upper
Wimmera Catchment.
Maintain and improve productivity.



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11 a Ararat Rd Stawell, Victoria
PO Box 838 Stawell 3380
ph 03 5358 4410

Down to Earth

OCTOBER UPDATE

Welcome to our newsletter *Down to Earth*,

Plantouts are in full swing with schools around the district lending a hand to make a difference. **We are looking for more volunteers in the July Plantouts - if you have a spare half day we would love to see you** (links to registration below). **Project Platypus is also taking up the campaign with Plastic Free July** next month - a challenge indeed! Watch this space.

Hope you're not too run off your feet with end of financial year deadlines.

See you at a Plantout,

Project Platypus team



JULY

PLANTOUTS volunteers ably loved and adored:

Sun 8 **Plantout Barkly, Vic**

Sun 15 **Plantout Rhymney, Vic**

Sat 21 & Sun 22 **Plantout Lake Fyans,**

Tues 31 **Plastic Free July - Demo, Display & afternoon tea** Project Platypus

AUGUST

Thurs 2 & Fri 3 2018 Victorian Rural Women's Forum at Creswick

Fri 10th **Photography workshop Chris Tzaros, wildlife ecologist** Project Platypus

In this newsletter:

[Plastic Free July](#) We would love to know of your ideas to live plastic free

[Fun Day Out](#) by Riley Morris (new Field Officer for Project Platypus)

[June Plantout successes](#) - John Pye is looking for more volunteers

manager@platypus.org.au

[Wimmera Catchment Management Authority's \\$500 sponsorship](#) to attend Landcare conference in Brisbane

[Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants \\$5000](#) - Andrea is happy to help with an application or discuss an idea lf@platypus.org.au

[Bandicoots discovered at Fyans Creek!](#) by Clive Carlyle (Project Platypus board member)

[2018 Victorian Rural Women's Forum](#) - an opportunity for local rural women



PROJECT PLATYPUS
HAVE JOINED THE
CAMPAIGN

30 DAYS &
30 WAYS
TO BE
PLASTIC FREE

PLASTIC FREE JULY

REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE

BUY
MAKE
THRIFT
SWAP
BORROW
USE WHAT YOU HAVE

THE BUYERARCHY
of NEEDS
(with apologies to
Maslow)

July is the month that Project Platypus is rising to the challenge with its Facebook campaign "30 DAYS & 30 WAYS to live PLASTIC FREE". There will be practical tips and tricks, links on where to buy alternatives to plastic and a whole lot more. The campaign will culminate in an **DEMONSTRATION, DISPLAY & AFTERNOON TEA** on alternatives to plastic at the Stawell Neighbourhood House on **JULY 31st**.

Bookings contact Andrea mob 0491 220 386 or llf@platypus.org.au or pop in the office

Ps Take up the challenge [Plastic Free July](#)

Fun Day Out

by Riley Morris, Field Officer Project Platypus

Whether you've done tree planting before or are completely new to it, everyone in the end has a blast. This definitely can be said for the Grade 3-4's from **Stawell West Primary School** and 80 year old landowner Jack Loats. Jack, who despite his age was able to keep up with the quickness and excitement from the Grade 3-4's. They were racing each other, while Jack was trying to keep up, laughing and enjoying himself even though remembering his knees and back aren't as good as they used to be! He soldiered on and kept up proving that it doesn't matter how young or old you are everyone in the end has a blast even when **800 trees are planted!**

June Plantout successes

Stawell Primary School Grade 5 planted **1100 trees** (photo at top of newsletter) near Lake Fyans.

Marian College, Ararat planted **720 trees** at Black Range [The Stawell Times News](#)

Ararat Local Learning Employment Network planted **600 trees** near Lake Fyans.

Wimmera Catchment Management Authority's \$500 sponsorship

Up for grabs to attend the [2018 National Landcare conference](#) **10 - 12 October 2018**
Sponsorship available to community members/volunteers from the Wimmera CMA region who have been involved in natural resource management activities.

The 2018 National Landcare Conference and Awards is your opportunity to contribute to, engage with, and learn from your community and peers.

APPLY and answer **QUESTIONS**. Further information email: boydj@wcma.vic.gov.au

Application close 12th July



Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants \$5000

Your school, group or organisation could be awarded up to **\$5,000** if you have a project that focuses on:

- Improving biodiversity through the development, improvement or restoration of habitat for Victoria's native plants and animals
- Educating, involving, and engaging young people in valuing and actively caring for Victoria's natural environment

[Guidelines](#) [Victorian Junior Landcare & Biodiversity Grants](#)

Further information email: grants@landcareaustralia.com.au

Applications close 20th July 2018



Bandicoots discovered at Fyans Creek! by Clive Carlyle, Jallukar

Landcare

A population of the nationally endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot has been made on a property at Fyans Creek near Stawell.

Bandicoots are medium-sized, ground-dwelling, largely nocturnal marsupials, with long-pointed snouts. They have disappeared from most of their natural range in Victoria through a combination of habitat loss and predation by feral foxes and cats. Large scale surveys conducted in 2011/2012 across public and private land on the eastern and western fringes

the Grampians National Park found only three Bandicoots. None were found in the Black Range which had previously supported a Bandicoot population. The newly discovered Fyans Creek bandicoots are one of only two known populations of southern brown bandicoots on private property near the Grampians.

The exciting discovery was made using remote camera bait stations and detection of characteristic diggings made by Bandicoots foraging for food.

Since the initial discovery Bandicoots have been photographed regularly over a larger area.

Property owners and Jallukar Landcare members Catherine Carlyle and Clive Carlyle suspect that dense bracken cover has allowed the Bandicoots to survive predation by Foxes. In addition, since 2017 a programme of active fox bating using Canid Pest Ejectors has seen a total of 57 firings which has hopefully reduced predation.

Probably the main threat to the newly discover population is fire, which would destroy the bracken cover and make the Bandicoots very vulnerable to foxes.

A good over view of Southern Brown Bandicoots in Victoria plus a video capture from one of the cameras at Fyans Creek can be viewed at [Southern Brown Bandicoot](#).



A promotional poster for the 2018 Victorian Rural Women's Forum. The background is a photograph of two women walking through a green field. The text is overlaid on the top left. A green banner at the bottom left says 'FREE REGISTRATION'. A small logo for 'VICTORIAN RURAL WOMEN'S NETWORK' is in the bottom right. The text includes: 'Registration now open', '2018 Victorian Rural Women's Forum', 'RACV Goldfields Resort, Crowick', '2 - 3 August 2018', 'SPACES STRICTLY LIMITED', and 'More details at: extensionous.com.au/VRWNetwork/'.

Registration now open

2018 Victorian
Rural Women's Forum

RACV Goldfields Resort, Crowick
2 - 3 August 2018
SPACES STRICTLY LIMITED
More details at:
extensionous.com.au/VRWNetwork/

FREE
REGISTRATION

VICTORIAN
RURAL
WOMEN'S
NETWORK

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Our mailing address is:
PO Box 838, Stawell, Victoria 3380

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