




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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Down to Earth

AUGUST UPDATE

Welcome to our newsletter *Down to Earth*,

Project Platypus has been out every week and most weekends in July completing the annual Plantout. Many thanks to volunteers, schools, landmate, landcare groups and John Pye who have ensured planting success in 2018. Almost finished, just a few plantings to go.

If you are in the office on a cold, wet day scroll down as there is info on: Woodlands & photography, AGMs, National Landcare Conference, Network Connect-rural womens mag, climate change, trees for soil stabilisation, mud balls, GRANTS funding (get in quick, its local), 30 WAYS & 30 DAYS to live plastic free, weeds-cape tulip & bridal creeper & much more

Hope you enjoy

Cheers Andrea

August

Wed 8 - Jallukar Landcare AGM

Wed 8 - Jallukar Landcare working bee 10am - 1pm

Thurs 9 - Northern Grampians AGM

Fri 10 - Birds, Bush & Beyond + Photography class

September

Wed 12 - 10th Annual Conference PPS

Fri 21 - Project Platypus AGM

October

Wed 10 to Fri 12 - National Landcare Conference and Awards Program

Birds, Bush & Beyond Talk + Photography Class

Friday August 10

10 AM

NOTE Venue change Stawell Health & Community Centre, Sapphire room

Project Platypus is proud to present 'conservation MEGASTAR', Chris Tzaros, ecologist and photographer who will be talking about woodland systems and birds and photography in the field.

\$10 includes morning tea

BYO lunch, sturdy shoes, camera and wet weather gear as we are heading out to Deep Lead Nature Reserve for workshop

BOOKED OUT (space will only be available if there are cancellations)

Contact Andrea lf@platypus.org.au or mob 0491 230 386

Jallukar Landcare AGM and general meeting Wednesday 8th August

Venue: David & Rita Margetson's - Bungils Cave Rd

Time: **5.30 pm**

Bring a meal to share

RSVP Glenda Lewin mob 0409 423 827

Northern Grampians Landcare AGM Thursday 9th August

Our Landcare Group is planning an evening to share a meal, and to have a meeting to talk about the year ahead. Local Landcare Facilitator, Andrea Mitchell will share opportunities and events coming up.

Our venue is the home of Kevin and Michelle Jess, 81 Jess Road, Glenorchy. We are planning a **6.30pm** start for dinner, let us know if you might be later and we will keep dinner warm for you. Meeting to follow the meal. Please bring family and friends, either a Hot Pot/Warm Savoury Dish to share, or a dessert to share. And one or two drinks of course.

Call Kevin & Michelle 5359 0250 or Leanne 0427 321 624 if you have any questions.

Let's get together and enjoy our community.

Project Platypus AGM - FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 21

Preliminary notice

Guest speaker, Farmers for Climate Action, Corey Watts - evidence, risks, questions, adaptations

Dinner meeting

Entertainment Jacqui Ridler on guitar

[National Landcare Conference](#) in Brisbane, October 10-12, for three days of knowledge sharing and insightful discussion, as well as informative presentations by pioneers, leaders of NRM bodies, scientists, academics, government, and environmental, climate and biodiversity experts.

[Network Connect](#) - Victorian Rural Women's Magazine

[Droughts, heatwaves and floods](#): How to tell when climate change is to blame

[How planting trees and grasses can help stabilise farmland in a changing climate](#) ABC news article

[Where trees rain from the sky so tiger quolls might roam again](#) [The Canberra Times](#) - could this be the next landcare workshop, making seed balls?

Perennial Pasture Systems 10th Annual Conference

Gum San Chinese Heritage Centre, Ararat

Wednesday September 12th 2018 commencing at 8.45 am.

The PPS group is continuing to bring productive and sustainable pasture research and extension to the region and the annual conference forms a vital part of the group's calendar.

This year's conference is taking a theme around lifting farm profitability through productive pastures and management systems, and is titled "PPS 10 years on; looking back and moving forward". President Tony Roberts explains "We have lined up a range of quality speakers for the day as well as a visit to a highly productive PPS member farm."

This year's seminar speakers include:

- Leading economist Dr Bill Malcolm from Melbourne University looking at the question of Pasture Improvement, does it pay?

- Dr Belinda Hackney from NSW Dept of Agriculture will be explaining the possible reasons behind under-performing legumes.
- Cameron Allan from Meat & Livestock Australia will be outlining a brief look into the future of the sheep meat industry.
- Leading farmers: Shaun Beasley, Bairnsdale and Henry Goode, Kingston SA. will put in plain words how to put it together on farm.

*A farm tour to a PPS member farm at Maroona will complete the day session. Conference dinner at the Chalambar Golf Club, Ararat with noted agricultural consultant Ken Solly as guest speaker.

Tickets can be booked on [trybooking](#): or contact Project Manager, Rob Shea, 0438 521 357.

Community Fund Grant- Bulgana Green Power Hub \$5 & \$20 k GRANTS available

BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR GRANT FUNDING LOCALLY...if you have an idea and want some support or help writing the grant call Project Platypus Neoen Australia, owner of Bulgana Wind Farm (BWF), is contributing to Northern Grampians community by providing grants to community groups. Each year, through the BWF Community Fund, they will invest \$120,000 in funds to successful applicants.

Distributed through Northern Grampians Shire Council:
small grants up to **\$5,000** and large grants up to **\$20,000**.

Projects applying for financial support must align with at least one of Neoen's community growth focus areas:

- **Environmental sustainability**
 - inspiring participation, development and uptake of new technologies and ideas
- **Health and Wellbeing**
 - contributing to improved health and wellbeing outcomes in regional communities

- **Strong connected communities**

- encouraging community participation, involvement and connection

- **Sport and recreation**

- increasing participation in sport and recreational activities

- **Arts and culture**

- fostering creativity and connection in the community through art and culture activities or programs

- **Skills, education and training**

- addressing local skills development and adding value to educational opportunities

Eligibility - group/organisation is based within the Northern Grampians Shire Council (NGSC) municipality or surrounding the Bulgana Green Power Hub

Closing date AUGUST 27th 2018

More information: [BWF Community Fund](#)

Lynley 0459 021 425 or email lynley.hoiles@ngshire.vic.gov.au

Plastic Free July facebook campaign with all the good stuff.

30 WAYS & 30 DAYS to avoid single use plastic

All of the information is available in a word document. If you would like it emailed contact Andrea llf@platypus.org.au

Day 30 of 30 DAYS & 30 WAYS to cut the addiction to plastic. As if 30 days isn't challenge enough, moving forward try - **100 Steps to a Plastic Free Life** -

It's all up to you 😊 😊 <https://myplasticfreelife.com/plasticfreeguide/> Have you any new tips and tricks to avoid plastic?

Day 29 of 30 DAYS & 30 WAYS of keeping the love affair with plastic at bay. The biggie - **DRINK BOTTLES**, where to start. It takes up to 3-7 ltrs of water & 1 ltr of oil to produce 1 ltr of bottled water. When Australia was first introduced to bottled water in the late 1980s, we all thought it was a joke. Us Aussies would never be so foolish as to buy bottled water. Well, the joke is on us! In a triumph of

marketing over reason we are buying bottled water in droves! The average Australian drinks 30 ltrs of bottled water per year. Australians buy more than 118,000 tonnes of plastic drink bottles a year. More info at:

<https://www.coolaustralia.org/bottled-water-secondary/> Onya stainless steel drink bottles are safe, BPA-free, replaceable lids & a sustainable way of carrying your water on the go. The packaging is sustainable too. <https://www.onyalife.com/product/stainless-steel-drink-bottle-1000/>

Onya stainless steel drink bottles are safe, BPA-free, replaceable lids & a sustainable way of carrying your water on the go. The packaging is sustainable too.

<https://www.onyalife.com/product/stainless-steel-drink-bottle-750/>

Day 28 of 30 DAYS & 30 WAYS to take a breather from plastic. Wash cloths and sponges - we all use them, but many are synthetic. These cheap sponges are cotton, absorb 20 X weight in water and replace synthetic sponges and paper towel and they come in plastic free packaging.

<http://www.goinggreensolutions.com.au/if-you-care-natural-sponge-cloths-pk-5.html>

Day 27 of 30 DAYS & 30 WAYS to tear yourself away from plastic – it's hard I know. How about trying a **bread bag**? Made from up to 10 recycled plastic bottles, large size so they will fit most loaves or 6 bread rolls. The bags are BPA Free and freezer safe so you can minimise waste by freezing your bread. They have a double lining to help prevent freezer burn. With a roll and clip closure, you can simply roll down the closure. <https://www.floraandfauna.com.au/onya-reusable-bread-bag-aqua>

Day 26 of 30 DAYS & 30 WAYS to imagine life with less plastic. Buy a bamboo **utensil pack** or make your own, leave it in the car or your bag ready for you next impromptu take away meal.

<https://www.shopnaturally.com.au/reusables/reusable-cutlery/>

Day 25 of 30 DAYS & 30 WAYS to live without plastic. Pegs have mostly been plastic so how about trying **Stainless Steel pegs**. Introducing, the one-piece stainless steel peg or “wire peg” that will last a lifetime. These pegs aren't only great for the washing. They are handy paper clips, for bunting, clips in the garden, hanging photographs, and so much more. They're also a fabulous gift idea – not only useful, but will be a reminder of you every time that person does their laundry (not so sure about the last part!) <https://www.biome.com.au/.../buy-best-stainless-steel-wire-p.../>

Day 24 of 30 DAYS & 30 WAYS to live a little less plastic reliant. Travel and what to take. **Backpack/ travel bag/ on board luggage** for carry on. Photo

below contains:

2 stainless steel cups or try a **keep cup** or **thermo cup**

2 containers (protects snacks squishing everywhere you go)

1 cutlery wrap (with knife, fork & spoon)

5 cloth bags (for all the extra things)

1 water bottle (refill at airport, anywhere & everywhere)

1 tea towel

Or you can always look at the Plastic Free July website for inspiration

<http://www.plasticfreejuly.org/travel.html>

16 shopping bags for each metre of global coastline (excluding Antarctica) is the best estimate by CSIRO of our global plastic bag use to date. <https://blog.csiro.au/plastic-problem-a-global-solution/>

Day 23 of 30 DAYS & 30 WAYS to live plastic free. World first, **reusable sandwich bags. Stasher Bags** are made to replace single use zip lock bags. They are completely plastic free, self-sealing and can be used for storage, freezing and cooking in the microwave. Made from platinum grade silicone, they are perfect for your lunch box and will change the way you think about disposable plastic bags forever. They can be bought online at: <https://www.shopnaturally.com.au/brands/stasher/>

Plastic bags are so yesterday. The majestic Plastic bag a mockumentary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLgh9h2ePYw&feature=share>

Day 22 of 30 DAYS & 30 WAYS to live plastic free. Locally in communities like Horsham **Boomerang bags** are making a

difference <https://www.facebook.com/abcwesternvic/videos/2002339189786074/UzpfSTIyMDEwMjI3MTM1MTA2NDoyMjQ0NjQyNzc4ODk2OTkz/>

<https://boomerangbags.org/> and

Day 21 of 30 DAYS & 30 WAYS to live plastic free. Went to a baby shower today and the gift of the day were the **new, modern, easy clean cloth nappies** by My Little Gumnut: <https://mylittlegumnut.com.au/collections/modern-cloth-nappies> It takes around 400 years for each disposable nappy to completely decompose in landfill. That means EVERY disposable nappy ever used (and its contents) are still out there somewhere – yuck! By using just 1 reusable nappy per day, you will reduce the amount of disposables in landfill by around 900. Even when taking into consideration the manufacturing and laundering of MCN's, the environmental impact is still significantly less. Modern Cloth Nappies are made to last, which means they can be used for your first and subsequent babies. Thus, they will have a

very long life before they eventually make it into landfill (use old MCN's as rags in the shed before throwing them away - try doing that with a disposable!). The natural materials used in the manufacturing of will also break down a lot quicker than disposables.

Day 20 of 30 DAYS & 30 WAYS to live plastic free. At best only 20% of plastic in Australia is recycled. Prepare - have that **keep cup & shopping bag** & set of **utensils** packed in your car ready to go. #waronwaste

<https://www.facebook.com/ABCTV/videos/10160448663210543/>

Day 19 of 30 DAYS & 30 WAYS to live a plastic free life. Use **glass jars** for storage, even in the freezer. Watch how Perth lady lives completely plastic free...not sure about the washable toilet paper though!

<https://www.facebook.com/7NewsPerth/videos/10155851309994072/UzpfSTIyMDEwMjI3MTM1MTA2NDoyMjM4NDg3OTUyODQ1ODA5/>

Day 18 of 30 DAYS & 30 WAYS to live plastic free. Keep cup, way better than a take-away cup any day. The local pharmacy in Stawell sells keep cups that are completely biodegradable. Ask for more eco-friendly products - Fiona will be there to serve you - don't forget to mention Project Platypus

Day 17 30 DAYS & 30 WAYS to live plastic free. Be like Helga. Helga is an eco-warrior, walking the talk, buying locally and living plastic free. At Newton's Butchers, Stawell, Victoria Helga buys **wax-covered cheese** and brings in her **own containers to butcher** and **canvas bag** to avoid plastic. Helga has heaps of tips and will be at our Plastic Free July Party, July 31st. Check out our event page for more information.

Day 16 of 30 DAYS & 30 WAYS to live plastic free. Instead of shiny plastic wrap for gifts (especially at Christmas), use a recycled scarf or piece of material and try Japanese **Furoshiki**.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fhPumcPla0&feature=share>

Day 15 30 DAYS & 30 WAYS to live plastic free with big picture thinking - Australian research and incentives to reduce and recycle waste are a feature of the below article. The process of burning waste to create energy means that recyclable materials are lost forever as renewable resources. This isn't the ideal way to look at materials – metals can be repurposed, and many plastics can be reformed and reused a number of times. A team of researchers at the Centre for Sustainable Materials, Research and Technology (SMaRT), at University of New South Wales have developed a range of technologies to reform waste into valuable materials to be

used in existing and new manufacturing

processes. https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/jun/28/with-incentives-industry-could-tackle-australias-waste-crisis?CMP=share_btn_fb

Day 14 of 30 DAYS & 30 WAYS to live plastic free. I have had Onya **produce bags** for several years and can highly recommend them. The bags are made from recycled plastic drink bottles, weigh 10 grams each, lightweight and strong, each bag can carry up to 2 kilos, measure 30 cm wide x 25 cm and have a draw string tie. They can be purchased online at <https://www.onyalife.com/product/reusable-produce-bag-8pack/>

Day 13 of 30 WAYS & 30 DAYS to live plastic free. Let's talk feminine hygiene, **period underwear** - As an Aussie company, Modibodi actively supports causes and organisations close to their heart and are equally committed to the empowerment of women such as www.SustainablePeriodProject.org. Have a go ladies at this product with a social conscience: <https://www.modibodi.com/our-story/>

Day 12 30 DAYS & 30WAYS to live plastic free. Stawell Primary School is taking part in a competition delivered by Colgate and Teracycle. The school that collects the most oral hygiene waste (tooth brushes, floss containers, toothpaste tubes etc.) can win a school garden or a piece of teracycle furniture! All that is collected will be recycled, so it's a win win. Just drop in at Project Platypus - Bronwyn Bant has a box on her desk for you to place old products in. When you are replacing them why not try **bamboo toothbrushes** - at about \$4 each they won't break the bank: <https://www.solanderandbanks.com/collections/oral-health>

Day 11 of 30 DAYS & 30 WAYS plastic free motivation – keep up the good work. One small act can make a huge difference! When a lawyer finds his childhood beach buried in trash, he makes a decision that leads to the return of a forgotten creature...

<https://www.facebook.com/TheAnimalBible.net/videos/1413159798786617/UzpfSTIyMDEwMjI3MTM1MTA2NDoyMjI1MDA4ODEwODYwMzkw/>

Day 10 of 30 DAYS & 30 WAYS to live plastic free. How about **silicone reusable wraps** that replace 3 commonly used kitchen wraps: cling film, aluminium foil, and baking paper. It contains no petrochemicals, BPA, or lead. It's breathable, doesn't store odours, and you can just wash it with warm soapy water and reuse again and again. <https://www.agreena.world/>

Day 9 of 30 DAYS & 30 WAYS to live plastic free. Bin liners are normally plastic, so maybe try this **newspaper bin liner**. Or are there any other suggestions

out there in cyber-land for alternatives other this origami construction?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5B0GDC8Ln84>

Day 8 of 30 DAYS & 30 WAYS to live plastic free - in the bathroom....

<https://www.facebook.com/1MillionWomen/videos/10160158927205393/> 1 Million Women <https://www.1millionwomen.com.au/>

Day 7 Advertise party

Day 6 of 30 WAYS & 30 DAYS to live plastic free. Try this **Who Gives a Crap toilet paper**, 100% recycled paper with no plastic wrapping and 50% of profits going to build toilets for those in need.

<https://au.whogivesacrap.org/collections/all>

Day 5 30 DAYS & 30 WAYS to live plastic free - try the pyramid below and let us know how you have used less plastic? **Use what you have – Borrow – Swap – Thrift – Make – Buy**

Day 4 30 DAYS & 30 WAYS to live plastic free. Take a hint from Tim Minchin and "**Take your canvas bags to the supermarket**"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFgtIziShmc> If you're in business and need bags maybe calico bags are the go. Check out this Aussie business:

<https://www.smartbag.com.au/custom-bags/calico-bags>

DAY 3 - 30 DAYS & 30 WAYS to live plastic free. Best **reusable bag** ever, big claim I know and I can vouch for this product as I am still using some that I bought 10 years ago! Bags can be bought in shops or online. One Aussie owned and made business is <https://www.annabeltrends.com/zoo-portraits-shopping-tote-2...> ...Or can you let us know of a local supplier? Post below.

<https://www.annabeltrends.com/collections/zoo-portraits/zoo-portraits-shopping-tote-2661.html>

DAY 2 of Project Platypus's 30 DAYS & 30 WAYS to live a little more

plastic free - how about **reusable straws**? Paper, stainless steel, bamboo or even glass! One Australian store that sells a selection of these straws on line

is: <http://www.shopnaturally.com.au> Anyone know of a local business that offers a straw deal?

DAY 1 of 30 DAYS and 30 WAYS to use alternatives to single use plastic -

Shampoo in a bar, perfect for travelling. Has anyone tried this product? We would love to hear feedback. There will be samples at our Plastic Free July Party on July 31st. Stockists: <https://au.lush.com/>



CAPE TULIP

Wimmera CMA status: Regionally controlled

Glenelg-Hopkins CMA status: Regionally controlled

Distribution notes: Mainly found in the Pomonal, Dadswells Bridge, Concongella and Black Range area, infestations are often found or originate from old house sites as it was once planted as an ornamental garden plant. Underground bulbs and prolific seed production make it difficult to kill and eradicate infestations once established.

Seed viability: < 2 years

Time to reproductive maturity: 2 + years

Control options: Isolated plants can be dug out by hand but be sure to get all of the bulbs as there may be more than one for each plant. Spraying is possible from August up until flowers start to die off in October when plants are actively growing. Metsulfuron Methyl 600g/kg at a rate of 15g + penetrant (Consume, Pulse etc.) + dye per 100 litres of spray mix has proven to be very effective. Glyphosate 450g/kg at a rate of 1 litre per 100 litres of spray mix is also effective but will kill surrounding grasses and other plants.



Bridal Creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*)

Wimmera CMA status: Restricted

Glenelg-Hopkins CMA status: Restricted

Distribution notes: Found right across the upper Wimmera, Bridal Creeper was once

planted in gardens for its attractive foliage. A real problem environmental weed able to invade areas of native vegetation without the need of soil disturbance (fire or machinery baring the soil) for it to become established. Birds carry the seeds after eating the fruit and excrete them out in their droppings, plants are usually found under trees or a fence line where birds have perched. Underground rhizomes (bulbs) make it difficult to kill with herbicide often requiring a number of years of sequential control.

Seed viability in soil: < 10 years / rhizomes < 5years

Time to reproductive maturity: 3 + years

Control options: Isolated plants can be dug up and the rhizomes left on the soil surface to dry out in warmer weather. The foliage dies off in early summer, resprouting in May – June with the autumn rain. Plants can therefore be difficult to locate once the foliage has died off. Metsulfuron Methyl 600g/kg at a rate of 15g + penetrant (Consume, Pulse etc) + dye per 100 litres of spray mix has proven to be very effective over many years of control work by Project Platypus. Glyphosate can also be used but does not seem to be as effective at killing the rhizomes under the ground. Repeat spraying may be necessary in subsequent years as some rhizomes lay dormant each year and produce foliage a year or two later.

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