



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*,

Another jam packed newsletter with offerings of something for everyone: leadership programs for teenagers, men and women; grants, especially Bulgana Wind Farm community grant - there was only one Landcare application last round, so don't miss out this time; two PPS events; a new DNA kit for weeds; a couple of stories about local Landcare happenings; events to keep you inspired; and not to forget Tuesday 30th July screening of 2040, followed by drinks, coffee and cake at the Blue Duck Hotel.

Let me know if you have any ideas for workshops, grants or anything else in the Landcare sphere.

Cheers Andrea



ps see you at the Blue Duck!



National Tree Day, Elmhurst, July 28th 2019

JULY

Tues 30, [Screening of 2040](#), Ararat Cinema, 7.30 pm

AUGUST

Sun 4, [Winter Whole Farm Tour](#), Bail to Bail, PPS

Thurs 15 Crowlands Landcare meeting

Wed 21 Jallukar Landcare AGM

SEPTEMBER

Tues 3 HALT (mens health and BBQ) Crowlands hall

Thurs 5 [Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar](#)

Wed 11 [PPS Annual Conference](#)

OCTOBER

Tues 15 International Day of Rural Women, Farmer event

Sat 26 Chicks in the Sticks, Moonambel Olives - save the date

30 YEARS of LANDCARE

[30 Years of Landcare](#)

Landcare Australia - Share your [Landcare story submission](#)

THIS ISSUE

[Stawell Regional Health](#) get their hands dirty for the environment

[Jallukar Grasslands](#) project update

[DNA tool kit](#) for Chilean needle grass and serrated tussock

[GRANTS](#)

Australia Post Community Grants

Bulgana Windfarms Community grants

Stawell Regional Health get their hands dirty for the environment

Written by Noelene Gration, Stawell Regional Health

On Sunday 21st July, about 15 Stawell Regional Health staff and some of their family members participated in a Project Platypus Plant Out at Bunjils Cave Road in Black Range.

‘Everyone who attended had a terrific time,’ Ian Martin, Director of Finance and Business at Stawell Regional Health said. ‘We definitely hope to do it again in the near future.

‘Health care services including hospitals emit high levels of carbon in their day to day activities. Stawell Regional Health has a commitment to addressing emissions where we can, and assisting with a Project Platypus Plant Out helps us to demonstrate our commitment to the environment in our local community.

‘It takes us to a whole new level and we are keen to get further involved.

More than 60 people attended the plant out planting thousands of trees, followed by a BBQ lunch. Stawell Regional Health staff worked amongst many other volunteers enjoying the beautiful weather and the chance to contribute to the community.

Stawell Times News: [Project Platypus plant out results in thousands of trees being planted](#)



SRH staff and friends at the Margetson & Bikins plant out, July 2019

JALLUKAR NATIVE GRASSLANDS PROJECT UPDATE

Written by Ange Turrell, Jallukar Landcare Group, July 2019

Jallukar Landcare Group's number one priority is to "**Restore Native Grasslands Through Building Community Capability**".

The grasslands project started in 2016 facing the huge challenge to collect enough seed and varieties of grassland plants, to be able to conduct revegetation. For example, a one hectare site needs approximately 35kg of grass seed mix and 15kg of diverse herb seeds. That's a lot of seed!

Fortunately, the Jallukar region has some excellent grassland sites and so the first step has been to collect a diversity of seeds from a range of locations. We will be conducting further field collection this summer.

The next step has involved cleaning and cataloguing seed, plus growing plants from which we can harvest more seed. For this we are lucky to have the use of a nursery in Pomonal where we have regular working bees and have showcased the project to a number of groups, including the Victorian Landcare Forum this year. To ramp things up, we have started to plant mass beds. Currently three of our members are establishing 10m x 20m sites with 1000s of plants for harvest next year. We have also identified several sites where naturally occurring native grasses can be directly mass harvested.

Going forward, our ambition is to achieve funding to begin in-ground revegetation work. We have selected a site which will be the first of many and will be used as a showcase for continued community learning and capability building.

To enable this project, we are lucky to have a group of knowledgeable members with a passion for restoring grasslands and to receive valuable expertise from Greening Australia and funding via Wimmera CMA's Landcare grants.

Along with the tangible benefits we aim to achieve in restoring grasslands (it is reported that only 1% of Victoria's native grasslands have survived clearing) is the sheer enjoyment experienced by volunteers and the community from the discovery of an amazing part of our unique and beautiful native flora story.

If your group is interested in learning more about this project please feel free to contact the Jallukar Landcare Group.



PPS Winter Whole Farm Tour

Sunday 4th August

1 pm - 4.40 pm

Price Pastoral, Pyrenees Hwy, Eversley (26 km NE of Ararat)

Farm tour - pasture and crops for hay production

Farm security - Police from Stock Theft and Rural crime Unit, to lead tour of machinery shed etc

Gourmet snacks following tours

Further information ph 0438 521 357 or email yadin@netconnect.com.au

11th Annual PPS Conference

Risk strategies to reap the rewards

“Adaptive management to reduce risk”

Wed. 11th September

8.45 am

Gum San Great Hall, Lambert St, Ararat

Guest speakers:

Adopting change, a look to the future - Cam Nicholson, Nicon Rural

New risks from oestrogenic clovers & new opportunities with Arrowleaf clover - Dr Kevin Foster, UWA

Planning for dry seasons, comparing supplementary feed supply economics - Andrew Whitelaw, Ag Concepts

Putting It Together On Farm - farmer Speakers; Tom McGuinness, Bigga, NSW & Jason Pymer Wonwondah, Vic.

MLA risk outlook - Mick Taylor, MLA

PPS Conference Bus Tour – Allanvale South, Great Western

Annual Dinner and Meeting; Chalambar Golf Club Golf Links Rd Ararat, 6 pm

Guest Speaker - Greg Gason, A F Gason P/L Ararat

CONFERENCE ONLY (includes seminar, conference book, morning tea, lunch & bus trip)

PPS members - \$50 (membership includes anyone involved in member enterprise).

Agricultural Students - \$0

Non-members - \$75 (new members can join on the day & receive member rate. PPS annual membership \$66)

BOOK www.trybooking.com or search trybooking for Perennial Pasture Systems

Or RSVP to PPS & pay at door; Eftpos available at conference

More info PPS Project Manager Rob Shea – 0438 521357 yadin@netconnect.com.au



GRANTS

2019 Australia Post Community [Grants Program](#)

Offering grants of up to \$10,000 for projects that provide positive benefits for community.

- Help people connect with each other through group activities (e.g. volunteering programs, civic engagement and environmental activities)
- Reduce barriers to participation in community life (e.g. transport, ability to pay, or access to community spaces)
- Develop skills and leadership capability to strengthen community networks

2019 Bulgana Wind Farm community [grants program](#)

Small grants up to \$5,000 and large grants up to \$20,000.

Neoen has committed \$120,000 to the second year of the BWF Community Fund. The funds are distributed via Northern Grampians Shire Council (NGSC). This is a great opportunity for Landcare groups to source funding.



Leadership Programs

Australian Rural Leadership Foundation - [OPEN TO ALL](#)

Applications close Monday 30 August 2019

\$50,000 scholarship and \$5,000 commitment from participant

The Australian Rural Leadership Program (ARLP) has been developing stronger leadership within the communities and industries of rural, regional and remote Australia for over 26 years. The ARLP is a 15-month program which takes place over five sessions, across Australia and Asia. They take over 30 diverse leaders from across rural, regional and remote Australia, on a series of unique and immersive experiences to develop their leadership capabilities.

Leadership and Mentoring Program - [RURAL WOMENS PROGRAM](#)

Do you want to improve your leadership skills? The Victorian Rural Women's Network offers funded places for eligible rural Victorian women to highly regarded leadership and mentoring programs.

Defying the Drift - [STUDENT PROGRAM](#)

Mon 23 - Wed 25 September

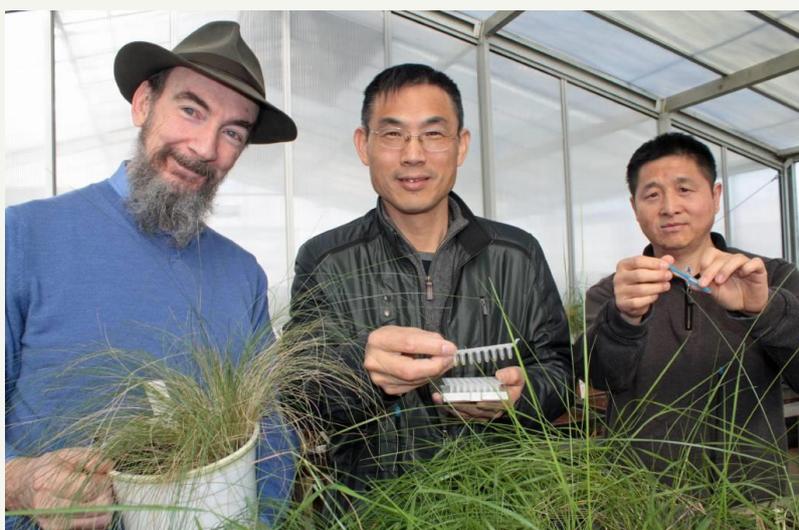
Defying the drift is a program **available to secondary students** considering a career in **agriculture and related industries**. It is an initiative of Rotary District 9780 which includes around 60 Rotary Clubs located throughout western Victoria and into South Australia.

It is run this year on campus at Longerenong College, near Horsham.

DNA tool kit for Chilean needle grass and serrated tussock, LAMP - lighting the way

A portable tool kit, with the power to identify the DNA of invasive weeds when they first appear in the landscape, could soon transform weed management. NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) scientists, David Gopurenko, Aisuo Wang and Hanwen Wu, have developed a field kit which uses LAMP technology to identify serrated tussock and Chilean needle grass in the field.

For more on this story [LAMP lights way to pre-emptive weed strikes](#)



2040 FILM NIGHT

LAST CALL FOR A NIGHT TO SUPPORT OUR REGION, LANDCARE GROUPS & OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Project Platypus Upper Wimmera Landcare Network, along with Ararat Landcare, Beyond Bolac Catchment Action Group, Grampians Pyrenees Primary Care Partnership and Upper Hopkins Land Management Group are all supporting this event.

TUESDAY 30th JULY 2019

7.15 PM for 7.30 PM seating

BUY TICKETS at the door \$12 each

ASTOR CINEMA, ARARAT

COME & JOIN US AFTERWARDS at the BLUE DUCK HOTEL for a drink or coffee and cake (RSVPs for hotel attendance only)



Wimmera 22nd Biodiversity Seminar

Thursday, 5th September

8:30 am – 9:00 pm

Rupanyup Community Centre, Gibson St, Rupanyup

The seminar includes a day session, an afternoon tour and an evening session with a dinner.

This year's theme captures the hopefulness that positive change is happening for our environment, with speakers providing insight on A Climate For Change in their fields.

Speakers will discuss the changes that they are seeing through new and innovative techniques, a look at where we have come from and how we move forward in our changing world.

Bookings [Eventbrite](#)

