

PROJECT PLATYPUS

UPPER WIMMERA LANDCARE



2017-2018 Annual Report

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Ararat Rural City Council

Ararat LLEN

Australian Government— Department of Industry, Innovation and Science

Blue Moon Alpacas

Central Victorian Biolinks Alliance

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Wimmera Catchment Management Authority



The Upper Wimmera Catchment

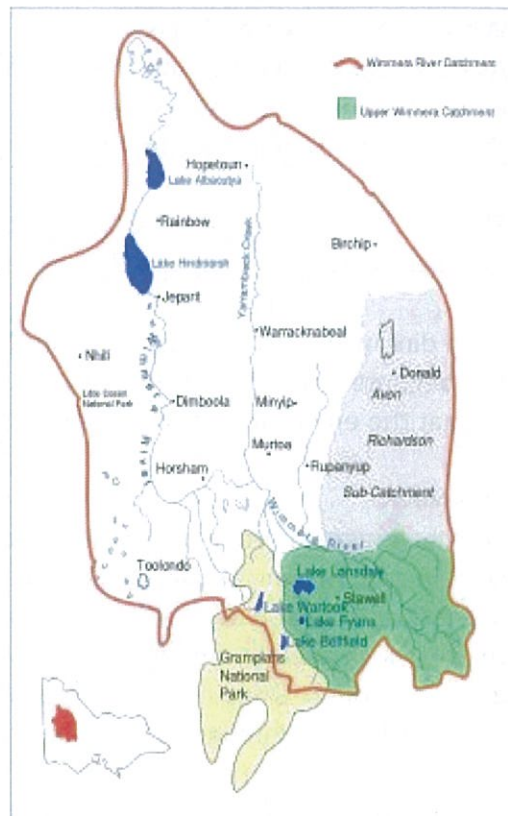
The Wimmera River in Western Victoria forms part of the Murray Darling Basin. It is Victoria's largest land locked system and terminates at Lake Hindmarsh and Lake Albacutya south of the Wyperfeld National Park. The Upper Wimmera Catchment refers to the catchment area upstream of the Mt William Creek and Wimmera River junction encompassing an area of 3,027km².

The main land use in the region is made up of mixed farming practices, largely sheep and dryland cropping, but also includes enterprises such as grapes, olives, forestry, vegetable production, cut flowers and other livestock production such as goats, cattle, pigs and poultry. The region is also home to mining industries and boasts a large tourism industry, especially within the Grampians and Pyrenees Ranges. The population of the Upper Wimmera is estimated to be around 15,000 people and is predicted to remain relatively stable into the near future.

The Upper Wimmera has a strong indigenous cultural history and contains many significant sites. Traditional owner groups from the region include the Jardwadjali, Djab Warrung, Djadja Wurrung and the Wotjobaluk People.

The region is home to an extensive array of flora and fauna including a large number of threatened and endangered species. Since European settlement, the region has been subjected to significant clearing of native vegetation, which has resulted in numerous environmental issues. These include loss of biodiversity and a degradation of water quality through over-extraction, saline discharge and soil erosion.

Wimmera River Catchment



Project Platypus

Project Platypus was founded in 1994 by Upper Wimmera Catchment Landcare group members who saw the need for a network to deliver larger scale projects across the region. The chosen icon was the platypus as it was identified that much of the network's activity would focus around improving water quality, which in turn would benefit the platypus.

Since its inception Project Platypus has achieved massive results attracting over \$14 million to undertake activities such as erosion control, revegetation, protection of remnant vegetation, establishment of perennial pastures, control of pest plants and animals and raised community awareness of environmental and land management issues.

The success of Project Platypus can be attributed to its community support, its grass-roots approach to problem solving and its ability to relate to land managers and investors. Project Platypus has been operating with fewer grant options over the past few years leading to a significant downsizing in the organisation. However we look forward to a period of consolidation and growth.

Project Platypus's mission is to support and empower the community to improve the environmental health of the Upper Wimmera River catchment while maintaining and improving productivity.

Chair's Report

Where we have come from.

As I look back and reflect on the last twenty years, I conclude we have had great highs and more recently some lows, not in on ground works but in trying to remain a significant, viable organisation in the Upper Wimmera Catchment.

The one common thread through out our years of operation is that of the volunteer, for without this, Landcare wouldn't exist, and that means Project Platypus.

With diminishing enthusiasm and motivation in our local Landcare groups, the work of Project Platypus has become essential in supporting these groups, making sure Landcare remains relevant in our region so that the environment continues to benefit.

The Now.

The challenge, in order to get things heading in a direction that is sustainable for our organisation we have had to examine various aspects of Project Platypus such as; our strategic plan, and a review of funding with greater emphases on sponsorship for roles that don't attract funding. Ongoing review of staffing arrangements, our overheads and running costs, vehicle requirements, and so on.

Action has been taken in these areas, not all complete, though they are well on the way. This rebuilding phase of Project Platypus is looking at ways to better deliver services and remain viable. With constraints and reduced funding from Government sources it has become a focus on trying to reinvent ourselves.



The major area of concern is that of the Managers role, which is a significant area of expense.

When faced without a manager, some good fortune and people in the know, John Pye came to mind he accepted this role on a voluntary basis and has performed at an extraordinary level, thank you John.

This voluntary position comes to an end at this meeting where we will again operate with a paid Manager, we are assured that John will be around during the transition.

Over the last eighteen months we have maintained a full work program. With the normal run of community plantouts, continuing fee for service work, attending to and supporting Landcare group activities, dealing with grant applications for new works, managing staff, dealing with administrative and financial management, and continuing partnership development. There are many other activities which John has been involved in, a foot in every camp.

Chair's Report

The Future.

My report is very much about the future of Project Platypus and in a broader sense Landcare, its direction and where we might be heading as it is about reporting on the past year.

In order to go forward, we need to embrace change and not to dwell on the past, but to assess the successes and failures to meet the challenges of the future.

The strategic plan review and understanding the meaning of our activities and the outcomes, has become more necessary and it is essential that we commit to and follow the plan .

Whilst we still see a vital role for environmental work, with much more to be done, such as dealing with invasive plants and animals, tree planting, protecting remnant vegetation, addressing erosion and salinity, protection of water ways, and so on. There is a growing emphasis and development in sustainable agriculture. This has long been recognized by landholders but has now been taken up by Governments with funding attached. A real change in direction.

It is my belief that with commitment and input from the Board, and input from the Manager and staff we will continue to be a significant environmental force with continued good outcomes in the Upper Wimmera Catchment Region.

In conclusion, I thank the Board for your support and belief in Project Platypus and embarking on a rebuilding period, to all staff for your confidence and in particular John, and your army of volunteers.

Thank you.



Project Platypus Board

Project Platypus is governed by a volunteer Board which meets on a monthly basis.

Board Members (Oct 2017- Sept 2018):

Chair Michael Greene - Elmhurst Landcare Group

Vice-Chair Phil Hall - Concongella Landcare Group

Secretary Mark McKew - Crowlands-Warrack Landcare Group

Treasurer Ben Hughes - Concongella Landcare Group

Members:

Leanne Jackman - Northern Grampians Landcare Group

Richard Kelleher - Navarre Landcare Group

Paul Harrington - Crowlands-Warrack Landcare Group

Ian Nicholson - Stawell Urban Landcare Group

Clive Carlyle - Jallukar Landcare Group

Ex officio members:

Joel Boyd - Wimmera Catchment Management Authority

John Pye - Project Platypus (Manager)



Manager's Report

The last financial year has been a busy year rebuilding the organisations' financial position and addressing the myriad of issues that were sidelined during that period of instability when Project Platypus was in decline.

Our success could not have happened without the generous support from the Board and numerous people within our Landcare network and beyond. I only recently discovered that Phil Kalluri from Kalluri IT, who not only volunteered his expertise in rebuilding the website and setting up the new email system, had paid the \$600 hosting charge in 2017 for us!

Whilst our financial position has stabilised there are significant challenges ahead. Project Platypus has no funding stream from government or organisations other than project grants and fee-for service work. The rent, the vehicles, the staff and all the other overheads comes from these two sources.

What has been achieved over the past year is broadening our fee-for-service environmental works which includes Shire Councils, Vic Roads, Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, private landholders, Navarre minerals and the Bulgana Windfarm. This allows us to use our expertise doing valuable environmental works, maintain a workforce that is then able to provide environmental services for our Landcare groups.

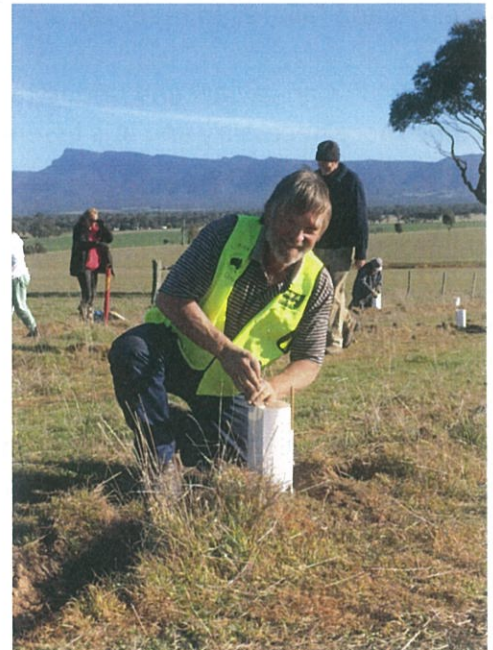
Without the staff, without the grant writing, without the expertise, without the equipment, without the administrative support, weed and vermin control cannot realistically be delivered to Landcare groups and individuals.

Funding the salary of a Manager through sponsorship is in the early stages and will take a considerable effort by the Board to roll out over the next year. This is a new approach to create a sustainable organisation. Solve this problem and our long term future is guaranteed.

Over the last year we have been reinvesting in updated technology, staff training and more recently vehicle replacement. We have moved from our computer system having one backup facility, which was extremely vulnerable to complete loss of files and data, to a second back-up system and now storing all digital files on the Cloud.

Revegetation and remnant protection continue at a reduced level, partly due to reduced funding but also highlighting the need to expand our reach. Victorian Landcare Grants administered through the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, Helen Macpherson Smith Trust and Planet Ark funded the planting of 23,010 indigenous trees and shrubs. Plantouts continue to be our most enduring and engaging volunteer activities which has been restructured with simpler delivery models.

Project Platypus also manages a three year State Government funded \$299,000 multiagency project "Biodiversity On-ground Regional Hubs Grant". This is a new approach to landscape wide projects where we pay government departments and organisations to deliver work for us. Included in this project is the establishment of colonies of endangered orchards and managing environmental threats to areas of high conservation value.



Manager's Report

Projects like these has placed Project Platypus as a significant partner organisation creating new connections, more opportunities and innovation.

The prison works crew, Landmate, features more significantly in our work. This innovative program provides the manual labour to do activities we could never fund thus enhancing the scope our projects. Although we are no longer paid to administer the program, we continue to do so as it is too valuable to ignore. **If your Landcare Group has not had the annual three free days work done by Landmate on public land, it needs to be organised.**

The Wimmera Catchment Management Authority has consistently and substantially supported Project Platypus over many years and their contribution cannot be understated. Most people are unaware of how close the partnership is and how productive the relationship.

Our success over the last year does not come down to one individual, this is truly a team approach. The Board, under the inspirational leadership of Michael Greene, the office and project staff Julie Andrew and Loki McIntyre, our Local Landcare Facilitator Andrea Mitchell, and our outdoor workers Dene McIntyre, Suzanne Cullings and Riley Morris, have worked together to make Project Platypus viable again.

Interviews were conducted this week and new Manager has been appointed.

I leave the job inspired, grateful, exhausted and with a real sense of achievement.

Thank you.



Project Platypus Office Personnel

John Pye	Manager
Julie Andrew	Finance Officer
Bronwyn Bant	River Detectives
Dene Marshall	Weed Control Supervisor
Suzanne Culling	Field Officer
Riley Morris	Field Officer
Loki McIntyre	Invasive Plant and Animal Project Coordinator
Andrea Mitchell	Local Landcare Facilitator

Landcare stories

LLEN, lends a hand, PLANTOUT, June 2018 Written by Jasmine (LLEN)

On Tuesday 19 June, Central Grampians's Thursdays program partnered with Project Platypus to take part in the Plantout project. Funding was provided by Macpherson Smith Trust. A group of seven volunteers from their time to plant trees in at Lake Fyans, near Pomonal. The Plantout project enables regeneration of habitats in the region.

John Pye and assistant Riley Morris explained to the that they were not only planting trees, but they are also planting insects, possums, sugar gliders and other natural wildlife. Regenerating habitats encourages local wildlife to flourish in the region, which in turn contributes to positive ecosystems.

Thursdays are a safety net for young people who are disengaged from full-time education or employment. By partnering with Project Platypus, young people to actively give back to their community through volunteering efforts. This volunteering exercise also allowed for young people to connect with professionals on a local level, develop new skills and create contacts who may be used as referees in future job, education or training prospects.

The group planted a total of 540 trees across the area. The project taught them about the value of caring for the environment. This physically demanding effort also tested the participants' resilience in an environment of hard work. The participants all passed the 'test' with flying colours.



Managing Waste Workshop Written by Annette Taylor, Moyston Landcare

On Sunday 24 April 2018 Moyston Landcare Group Inc hosted a Small Landholder's Day at the Moyston Recreational Reserve on Managing Waste. In the wake of the ABC's War on Waste and the more recent developments and challenges facing Australia about recycling and landfill solutions it was a timely and topical subject. La Vergne and Paul Lehmann from Grampians Central West Waste and Resource Recovery Group were the guest speakers presenting an informative and lively morning of ideas and discussion. Using a bright green open out display van the pair focused on four main areas affecting daily living challenges in house hold waste, garden waste, energy savings and larger waste items such as silage packaging and white goods. Drawing on their considerable experience all sorts of practical suggestions for reusing, reducing and recycling were delivered. Arrangements of supermarket shelves, recipes for leftovers, storing of vegetables, using less cleaning products – water being the best cleaning product, alternatives for single use packaging, sharing over production in food production, composting, utilizing chooks and worms to be rid of food scraps, mulching, cleaning and running of split system air conditioners and light globes were all discussed. The day ended at 1 pm with door prizes and a delicious lunch, ongoing discussion and plans regarding what to do next.

Landcare Stories

Bandicoots discovered at Fyans Creek! Written by Clive Carlyle, Jallukar Landcare

A population of the nationally endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot has been found 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 and Clive Carlyle suspect that dense bracken cover has allowed the Bandicoots to survive predation by Foxes. In addition, since 2017 a program 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 http://www.swift.net.au/cb_pages/southern_brown_bandicoot.php



Landcare Stories

Crowlands - Warrak Landcare join forces

Crowlands Landcare group, who formed approximately 23 years ago, have joined forces with Warrak. After much effort and legal red tape, in 2018, the new Crowlands - Warrak Landcare group formed. The benefits in combining included: generating more interest; better opportunities to apply for funding and more strength in the name change. Projects they have had up and running include gorse spraying, sheep breeding objectives workshop, Plantouts and moisture probes and automatic weather stations.

Crowlands - Warrak Landcare group installed two moisture probes and automatic weather stations north (Crowlands) and south (Mt Cole Creek) of the Wimmera river in their area. Funding came through under sustainable agriculture from the Wimmera CMA. They will use the probes as trigger points to inform farmers on soil moisture to 80cm and temperature in the top 10cms. The plan is that when the items are calibrated, signage will be installed and data will be accessed by app and website. This is a long-term project and the information gathered will be shared with the PPS network and in their reports. The only BOM weather stations in the past were at the top of Ben Nevis (800m elevation) and the next closest was Stawell Airport 35 km.



Paul Harrington President Crowlands-Warrak Landcare Group

Project Platypus research: Icons of our waterways

In a Study commission by Project Platypus with Wimmera Catchment Management Authority funding a definitive eDNA survey of Platypus, Rikali and Blackfish was carried out in the upper Wimmera River and its major contributing streams. Below is an excerpt from the report. Whilst it has been an excellent piece of science the result is deeply disappointing. Climate change and the millennium drought have changed our stream flows. However we are investigating the possibility of re-introducing platypus into the Mt Cole Creek Watch this space!

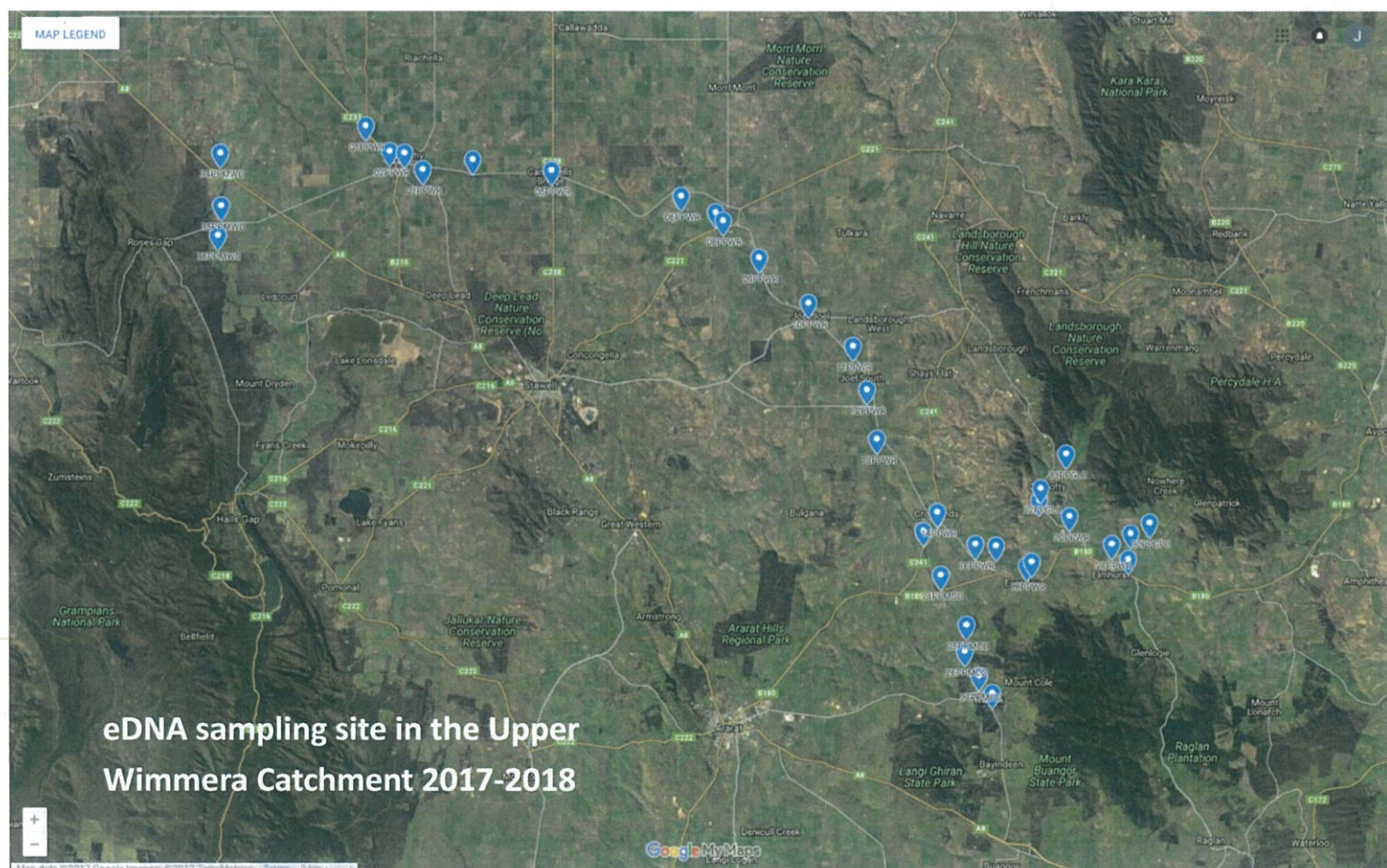
“Investigating the current distribution of platypuses, rakali, & blackfish in the upper Wimmera region. Josh Griffiths Senior Ecologist CESAR

“In particular, low flow and cease-to-flow events have increased in frequency and duration due to drought, extraction of water, reduced run-off from farm dams and reservoir construction.”

“No platypus eDNA was detected in any of the water samples collected (Figure 3 below). Platypuses were previously widespread throughout the region with live-trapping surveys as recently as 2004 capturing platypuses in the upper Wimmera River near Crowlands and Eversley (Williams and McQualter 2005). Platypuses have also been recorded in Mt Cole Creek, Glenpatrick/Nowhere Creek, and Glenlofty Creek between 1997 and 2001 (Serena and Williams 2007).

However, widespread trapping between 2008 and 2012 (Armistead 2009; Griffiths and Weeks 2013; Mitrovski 2008) as well as more recent eDNA surveys (Griffiths et al. 2016) have failed to detect any platypuses throughout the region.”

The 2017 study did not find any platypus or blackfish.



Native Vegetation Program

Three community Plantouts were well attended with volunteers and saw the introduction of a new organising model borne of necessity. With the two office staff left, fatigued from years of organising plantouts, it became apparent that a simpler model of delivery was required. Critically analysing all processes and matching the tasks so one person could organise, resource and co-ordinate a Plantout was required.

Plantouts have been our most enduring and engaging volunteer activities so it was critical to identify the successful elements. Good food, camaraderie, allowing all ages to make a valuable contribution, achievement and respecting volunteer time became the benchmarks.

Involving the local Landcare Group to do the catering on the day, providing only cakes, biscuits, soup and baked potatoes allowed the planting to be run and coordinated by one person. The Landcare group invoices Project Platypus \$200 to cover their costs and typically it also benefits the finances of the Landcare Group.

Tasks such as drivers, first aid and a second person to be at the head of the planting were capably done with well briefed volunteers on the day.

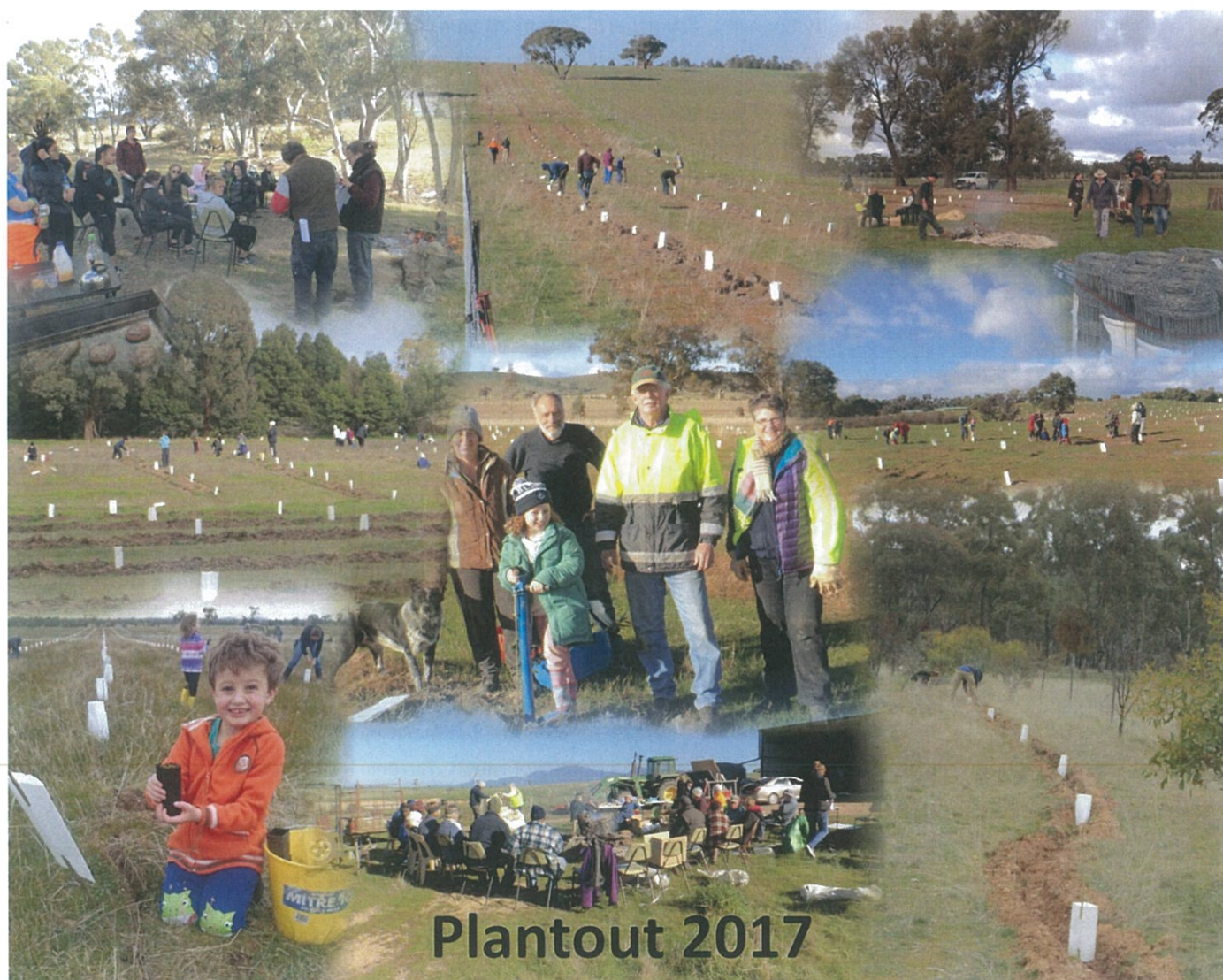
2017-2018 Projects	Partners	Achievements
Victorian Landcare Grants	Northern Grampians Landcare Group Navarre Landcare Group Black Range Landcare Group Concongella Landcare Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 18.8 hectares revegetated ◆ 10,490 stems ◆ 8 properties ◆ 17.6 hectares remnant vegetation protection and enhancement
Threatened Species Protection Initiative	Victorian State Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 17.7 hectares revegetated ◆ 6120stems ◆ 7.7 hectares remnant vegetation protection on one property ◆ 7 properties
Grampians to Pyrenees Biolink	Helen Macpherson Smith Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 15.8 hectares ◆ 6800 stems ◆ 5 properties
Wimmera Regional Community Grant	Wimmera Catchment Management Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 9.2 hectares remnant vegetation protection on one property
2017 National Tree Day	Planet Ark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 5.3 hectares ◆ 1000 stems ◆ 1 property

Native Vegetation Program

The success of Plantouts is about volunteers. Families, grandparents with their grandchildren, young, old (and those in between) and many individuals with over 10 years consecutive years of Plantouts and some with up to 17 years! It is a testament to volunteering and environmental commitment.

Projects have been supported by a number of funding bodies including a three year project funded by the philanthropic Helen Macpherson Smith Trust. The project titled *"Grampians to Pyrenees Biolink"* alludes to our guiding document for all our native vegetation works ***"Grampians to Pyrenees Biolinks : Conservation Action Plan."***

This scientifically based plan recognises that biological links allow corridors for animal movement, vegetation colonisation and genetic links between environmental assets. The need for this approach is exemplified by the local extinction of the Southern Brown Bandicoot in the Black Range. The 2006 and 2012 fires removed the dense vegetation cover and consequential predation by foxes and cats accounted for the remaining Bandicoot population. Joining this 'island' with the Grampians is imperative and returning Bandicoots to the Black Range is an achievable goal. Watch this space!



Invasive Plants and Animals

It's been another busy year in delivering invasive plants and animals work across the Upper Wimmera. We have had our regular projects through Landcare groups and significant funding from various grants and contracts through 'fee for service' work.

The Greater Grampians Threatened Flora (GGTF) project, funded by the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning's Biodiversity on Ground Action, has Project Platypus as the lead agency in coordinating and delivering invasive plant and animal work in the Grampians to Pyrenees/Upper Wimmera.

We are working closely with the Royal Botanic Gardens to assist them in a successful reintroduction of endangered native orchids by delivering weed/herbivore control on public and private land.

We have contracted Parks Vic for a broad herbivore (goat/deer) control in the Grampians National Park and DELWP to carry out studies on endangered and threatened plants in and around the Grampians National Park. Trust for Nature has been engaged to identify priority work and landholders to carry out work on covenanted properties



Blackberry control, Stoney Creek Halls Gap

We have contracts with the Ararat Rural City Council and Northern Grampians Shire Council to do roadside IPA works through to mid-2019.

This year we have worked closely with Biosecurity Officers from the Department of Economic Development, Justice, Training and Resources' with their compliance programs in the Upper Wimmera and Upper Glenelg Hopkins Catchments. It's been a great opportunity to strengthen relationships and communication, to deliver more coordinated works and better environmental outcomes. One positive discussion coming out of this contract and the Greater Grampians Threatened Flora project is the need to protect endangered and significant roadside vegetation.



Weed control in and around Stawell.

Spiny Rush (Jallukar/Moyston): We continued and extended work around the Gibling's Dip near Lake Fyans for spiny rush. This year has new landholders take up management of property previously untreated, which has substantially expanded the treated area.

Sallow Wattle control in the Grampians National Park continued into its last year of trials. Over the past three years we have worked closely with Parks Vic and Southern Ecosystems Management to trial several different methods of treatment from foliar spraying, to brush cutting and hand removal.

Wimmera Catchment Management Authority Riparian IPA (weeds/rabbits) work in the Upper Wimmera focused on Cape Tulip in the Pomonal area and also engaged several properties in ripping of rabbit warrens. Rabbit harbour destruction was carried out at Glenlofty, Moyston and Elmhurst.

Vicroads contracted Project Platypus to carry out hand fumigation of rabbit warrens along several sections of the Western Highway from Ararat to Kiata. In three weeks 17km of roadside was treated. This project created an opportunity to strengthen relations between Project Platypus and Vicroads and for Landcare groups to provide information about rabbit infestations.



Invasive Plants and Animals

Chilean Needle Grass in Moyston has been an ongoing program, with treatment each year in winter and spring. Whilst it has been a successful program, this year has highlighted that we are just containing this invasive plant. Various events at the oval reserve and contractors/private roadside mowing have resulted in this plant popping up in different locations each year. There has been a massive reduction in plant numbers and areas to treat, but eradication of this plant in the township will require a coordinated community approach to reduce new infestations.



Hand removal of seed heads at Fyans Creek

There is another patch of Chilean Needle Grass that Project Platypus is aware of and has been treating for many years in Great Western near the Salt Creek Rd Bridge. We continue to work with the Northern Grampians Shire to manage control works for this particular site.

Black Range Landcare group continues to gain funding to treat St John's Wort, Blackberry and Patterson's Curse in the Panrock Reservoir area. Some very large infestations of Blackberry have been controlled in and around the old motorbike track that has been rehabilitated. St John's Wort is treated regularly across six properties along the ridge to keep it contained.

Stawell Urban Landcare funded Project Platypus crews to carry out work around the township of Stawell for woody weeds. When this program first started many years ago weeds like flax leaf broom, cape broom and boneseed were dense and extensive along roadsides and in reserves. Through continual funding and coordinated works over the years we have seen a huge reduction resulting in healthier reserves and roadsides.

As the Invasive Plants and Animals coordinator, I would like to personally thank our devoted crew of workers who continually deliver cost effective work to a very high standard. Without their commitment to their work we would be seeing a lot more pest plants and animals in the landscape. I'd also like to extend this thanks to my colleagues and the Landcare network for all their support and information throughout the year. And finally, I'd like to thank the IPA Committee made up from representatives from Parks Vic, WCMA, Vicroads, DEDJTR and local governments. This group meets quarterly to discuss IPA issues, opportunities, share information and coordinate work throughout our region.

Lachlan McIntyre



Spiny Rush control, Jallukar

Engaging and Involving the Community

Project Platypus have completed a range of diverse activities over the 2017-2018 financial year. The events and workshops aimed to engage, inspire and provide useable skills and information that would benefit Landcare groups and the community. A highlight was Ironbarks family day. Watching the Connie's Roberto D'Andrea engage Stawell preschool children and seeing Bronwyn Bant tackle water bugs and insects to interactively learn about the environment was fun and inspiring. Teachers, parents and students came away happy and informed about their local area, the Deep Lead Nature Reserve. Cleaning up the Ironbarks saw Project Platypus spend several months campaigning and building awareness around illegal dumping of waste. Volunteer support collecting many trailer loads of rubbish from the Ironbarks was invaluable, and we also had a mattress and tyre rebate which proved popular. In 2018 we ran several workshops to upskill Landcare and community groups such as Social Media which taught marketing strategies to engage more members through Facebook and Instagram. A two day communications and leadership course for women was well attended with the aim of encouraging individuals to have a stronger voice, take on community based roles and contribute as leaders. The First Aid course we organised, trained 20 Landcare members and was most worthwhile. With a grant from Eucalypt Australia we ran an indigenous seed collection workshop at Crowlands and learned the finer points of seed collecting. Lastly we try to keep members informed: producing an e-newsletter, Down to Earth, which goes out regularly; post on our Facebook page; advertise and have stories written up in local newspapers and also have contributed to radio and television media.





Engaging and Involving the Community

Project/event	Purpose and objectives	Participants
Down to Earth e-newsletter	To provide Landcare groups and the wider community with a platform to share information on events, workshops, grants and landcare group achievements.	300+ emailed to
Plantout 2017	To connect community with Landcare groups and build revegetation corridors across the catchment as per the <i>Grampians to Pyrenees: Biolinks Conservation Action Plan</i> .	182
School Plantout 2017	To provide school students across the Upper Wimmera with opportunities to plant trees and learn about the environment and biodiversity.	246
Icons of our Waterways (Wimmera CMA funding)	Survey for Platypus, Rakali and Blackfish with eDNA testing. Sadly, the platypus was not found but the endangered Glenelg Spiny Freshwater Crayfish (<i>Euastacus bispinosus</i>) were.	80
Cleaning up the Ironbarks Project (DELWP & State Govt.)	To bring awareness to the issue of illegal dumping of rubbish in the Ironbarks, through a variety of media messages. Large clean-up of Ironbarks.	40+
Ironbarks Family Day	To encourage unstructured experiences in nature with studies suggesting this influences the development of lifelong conservation values.	50+
First Aid and CPR course (DELWP Sate Govt.)	To up-skill as many landcare groups with First Aid trained members for events, working-bees, etc	20
Social Media workshop (DELWP Sate Govt.) with Aubrey & Areegra	To understanding role of social media in encouraging landcare participation. Looked at Facebook, Instagram and e-newsletter.	13
Communication workshops X 2 (DELWP State Govt.) Wild Wacky Wonderful Women & Universally speaking	Build capacity for rural women in the community to participate in local organisations confidently. Topics included Communication Skills for Leadership and ABC of Communication Success.	44
Humanity and Trees project (Eucalypt Australia grant) Seed Collection Field Day	To learn where, when, how to collect indigenous seed, provenance for 2019 planting projects. Part of a larger project in next financial year.	13
Water the Great Connector, partnered with Biolinks Alliance.	To look at the role of water as a connector, providing passage and connecting environments. Engage participants to consider how they might begin to implement new approaches to water in their landscapes.	20+ Landcare members
Down to Earth e-newsletter	Landcare, environmental, agricultural, community, news and events.	15
Landcare week tree giveaway	To foster relationships with prospective applicants for 2018 revegetation plantings.	14
Annual General Meeting 2017	Annual report, election of office bearers and annual gathering of all affiliated Landcare groups.	31

FIRST AID COURSE

March 20 & 28
6.30 - 9.30 pm

Bookings essential
ph: (03) 5358 4410 or
email: 0491 220 386 or
info@platypus.org.au

Emergency First Aid

Session 1: First aid basics & CPR
Session 2: medical emergency

Subsidised @ \$25

Make a difference with your community group's advertising. Learn how to connect with your audience using social media.

SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING

Social network basics • DE: NANCY THOMPSON WITH:

"With our genuine understanding of the Wimmera & wider lands of rural and regional businesses, we get brands closer to customers."

MONDAY 17TH MARCH • 4.30PM
PROJECT PLATYPUS OFFICE
details contact Andrea
info@platypus.org.au or mob: 0491 220 386

EUCALYPT - COLLECT, GROW & KNOW
• SEED COLLECTION FIELD DAY 2018 •

"There is a rich & beautiful resource all around us that we can actively preserve & cultivate"

2018 day participants

BUILDING PERSONAL & COMMUNITY CAPACITY IS LEADERSHIP
INFLUENCE • INSPIRE • GROW

WORKSHOPS

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Financial Report

Project Platypus Association Inc

ABN 59 631 244 284

Committee's Report

For the year ending 30 June 2018

Committee Members

The names of committee members at the date of this report are:

Michael Greene

Ben Hughes

Mark McKew

Richard Kelleher

Ian Nicholson

Phillip Hall

Clive Carlyle

Leanne Jackman

Paul Harrington

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were: Landcare

Significant changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

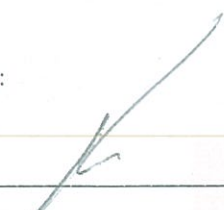
Operating Result

The deficit from ordinary activities after providing for income tax amounted to:

Year ended	Year ended
30 June 2018	30 June 2017
\$	\$
(50,214.55)	235.03

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee on:


Michael Greene


Ben Hughes

Project Platypus Association Inc.
ABN 59 631 244 284
Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
For the year ended 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
Revenue		<u>525,211.68</u>	<u>431,091.97</u>
Gross profit		525,211.68	436,169.97
Administration		41,988.36	38,372.69
Community Engagement		22,330.59	21,689.75
Employment		229,041.33	256,366.51
Vehicles		15,519.96	16,417.81
Other Project Costs		<u>266,545.99</u>	<u>98,010.18</u>
Profit (deficit) before income tax		(50,214.55)	235.03
Income tax (credit) expense		=	=
Profit (deficit) for the year		<u>(50,214.55)</u>	<u>235.03</u>
Other comprehensive income:			
Total other comprehensive income for the year		=	=
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u>(50,214.55)</u>	<u>235.03</u>

Project Platypus Association Inc.
ABN 59 631 244 284
Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash assets	2	286,398.57	485,411.42
Receivables	3	77,070.12	46,327.26
Other	4	<u>1,960.48</u>	<u>4,148.82</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>365,429.17</u>	<u>535,887.50</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	5	<u>32,929.26</u>	<u>35,187.28</u>
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>32,929.26</u>	<u>35,187.28</u>
Total Assets		<u>398,358.43</u>	<u>571,074.78</u>
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	6	203,439.83	328,563.98
Current tax liabilities		6,405.28	16,399.02
Provisions	7	<u>4,062.16</u>	<u>1,040.30</u>
Total Current Liabilities		<u>213,907.27</u>	<u>346,003.30</u>
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	7	<u>12,219.00</u>	<u>2,624.77</u>
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>12,219.00</u>	<u>2,624.77</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>226,126.27</u>	<u>348,628.07</u>
Net Assets		<u>172,232.16</u>	<u>222,446.71</u>
Equity			
Retained profits		<u>172,232.16</u>	<u>222,446.71</u>
Total Members' Funds		<u>172,232.16</u>	<u>222,446.71</u>

Project Platypus Association Inc.
ABN 59 631 244 284
Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30/06/2018

	Retained Earnings	Total
Balance at 01/07/2016	222,211.68	222,211.68
Comprehensive income		
Profit attributable to the members	<u>235.03</u>	<u>235.03</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to members of the entity	<u>235.03</u>	<u>235.03</u>
 Balance at 30/06/2017	 222,446.71	 222,446.71
Comprehensive income		
Loss attributable to the members	<u>(52,214.55)</u>	<u>(52,214.55)</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to members of the entity	<u>(52,214.55)</u>	<u>(52,214.55)</u>
 Balance at 30/06/2018	 <u>170,232.16</u>	 <u>170,232.16</u>

Project Platypus Association Inc.
ABN 59 631 244 284
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 30 June 2018

	2018 \$	2017 \$
Cash Flow From Operating Activities		
Receipts from customers & grants	493,061.03	704,922.00
Payments to Suppliers and employees	(687,251.69)	(438,449.94)
Interest received	<u>1,407.79</u>	<u>1,038.11</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities (note 2)	(192,782.87)	267,510.17
Cash Flow From Investing Activities		
Payment for:		
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(6,229.98)	(6,940.00)
Proceeds from disposal of:		
Proceeds from sale of property, plant & equipment	=	<u>23,136.36</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>(6,229.98)</u>	<u>16,196.36</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	<u>(199,012.85)</u>	<u>283,706.53</u>
Cash at the beginning of the year	<u>485,411.42</u>	<u>201,704.89</u>
Cash at the end of the year (note 1)	<u><u>286,398.57</u></u>	<u><u>485,411.42</u></u>