

**PROJECT
PLATYPUS**

UPPER WIMMERA LANDCARE



ANNUAL REPORT

2013 - 2014

Project Platypus contact Details:

Telephone: (03) 5358 4410

Fax: (03) 5358 4441

Postal Address: PO Box 838 Stawell 3380

Email: project@platypus.org.au Web: www.platypus.org.au

Project Platypus would like to extend a warm thank you to our sponsors and partners in 2013-2014:



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 subject 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 \$7 million to undertake activities such as erosion control work, 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 adaptable and flexible, which has enabled it to maintain its strength and vitality over the years. In 2013-2014, Project Platypus's capacity to support Landcare groups and achieve on ground results is better than ever.

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

Chairman's Report

Project Platypus is now twenty years young.

As a result of a group of enthusiastic and passionate Landcare representatives meeting regularly to establish a Landcare network in the Upper Wimmera, Project Platypus was born.

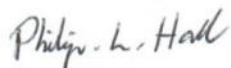
Project Platypus has grown very quickly, currently having Perennial Pasture Systems and eleven Landcare groups as members.

This year has been another very successful year with a very enthusiastic team of staff lead by a competent manager in Leigh Blackmore, combined with a dedicated board working extremely well with Landcare groups and the broader Upper Wimmera community.

Project Platypus is always looking at ways to improve, and over the last twelve months has visited Birchip Cropping Group, circulated a survey to obtain feedback on performance, had meetings with Wimmera CMA, DEPI, Corrections Victoria (Landmate Program) and had a staff member attend Landcare Group meetings.

Plantout weekends, Chicks in the Sticks events, Farm Succession planning workshop as well as regular pest plant and animal eradication projects are just a few of the many very successful projects that have been completed this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors and the many project partners that we have been involved with this year. Your ongoing support is vital to the future of organizations such as Project Platypus. Thanks must also go to the many volunteers and landholders that have been involved in projects throughout the year, as well as the people that give up their time to be involved in the many committees. A special thanks to the staff and board members of Project Platypus.



Philip Hall
Chairman Project Platypus



Project Platypus Board

Project Platypus is governed by a volunteer Board which meets on a monthly basis. The Management Committee is made up of Landcare Group representatives with a range of experience, skills and local knowledge which serves to guide the organisation's activities and provide strategic direction.

Board Members (Oct 2013 - Oct 2014):

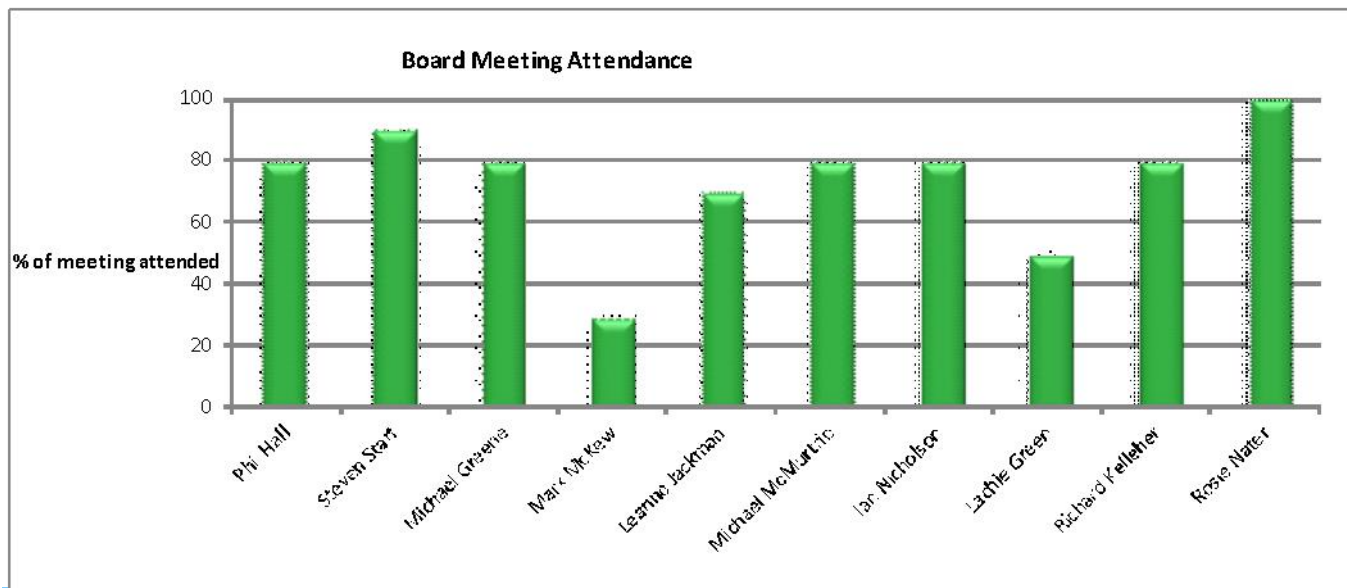
Chairman Phil Hall - Concongella Landcare Group
Vice Chair Steven Start - Crowlands Landcare Group
Secretary Mark McKew - Crowlands Landcare Group
Treasurer Michael Greene - Elmhurst Landcare Group

Members:

Michael McMurtrie - Jallukar Landcare Group
 Rosie Nater - Moyston Landcare Group
 Lachie Green - Jallukar Landcare Group
 Ian Nicholson - Stawell Urban Landcare Group
 Richard Kelleher - Navarre Landcare Group
 Leanne Jackman - Northern Grampians Landcare Group

Ex officio members:

Joel Boyd - Wimmera Catchment Management Authority
 Leigh Blackmore - Project Platypus (Manager)



Project Platypus Staff



Leigh Blackmore	Manager (Oct 13 - June 14)	1.0 FTE
Brendan Barbeti	Acting Manager (July 13 - Sept 13)	1.0 FTE
David Margetson	Project Manager-Native vegetation	1.0 FTE
Allistair Stephens	Project Manager-Invasive Plants & Animals	0.8 FTE
Bob Wallace	Regional Landcare Facilitator & Landmate Coordinator	0.8 FTE
Bronwyn Bant	Events Coordinator (July 13 - March 2014)	0.4 FTE
Cathy McDermott	Administration Officer / Events Coordinator	0.3 FTE
Graham Pearson	Weed Control Supervisor	0.8 FTE
Dene Marshall	Weed Control Supervisor	1.0 FTE
Adam McCormack	Weed Control Operator	Casual
Loki McIntyre	Weed Control Operator	Casual
Rohan Thompson	Weed Control Operator	Casual
Lucy Bowen	Weed Control Operator	Casual
Allan Stott	Weed Control Operator	Casual



Manager's Report

In 2013-2014 Project Platypus, our partners and those who surround our organisation have been able to achieve another year of valuable work. This work goes a great deal towards improving the environment and the production capacity of the Upper Wimmera Catchment, while bringing together those within our community working together towards common goals.

It gives me great honour to be part of such a network of people achieving so much. To help comprehend the impact of our work, I often contemplate what things would be like without it and I conclude that we would be living in a vastly different landscape, with weeds running rampant, treeless plains and hills, less birds and other native animals, more degraded creeks, and less productive farms. The culmination of all this Landcare work, of which Project Platypus is simply one cog in this intricate system, makes the Upper Wimmera Catchment a better place for us all to live.

In the 20th year of operation it is a great time of reflection and anyone who has been part of this amazing journey should be extremely proud. It is also an important time to look forward to the challenges and opportunities that are likely to present themselves into the future.

I encourage you to have a comprehensive read of this report, which is testament to the many of hours of hard work by so many people over the year.

Well done to ALL those involved,



Leigh Blackmore, Project Platypus Manager



Native Vegetation Program

This year saw the completion of the Federally funded 'Woodlands Revival' project that focused on restoring and re-establishing Grey Box and Buloke Woodlands, while taking in neighbouring vegetation communities with a focus of increasing connectivity across the Upper Wimmera Landscape. In this financial year a massive 165 hectares was revegetated and 71 hectares of remnant vegetation being protected from indiscriminate stock grazing and



addressing threats such as weeds and rabbits. This could only be achieved with the commitment from Project Manager, David Margetson and enthusiastic landholders and volunteers all coming together to make this possible. The outcomes of the revegetation program was also enhanced with projects undertaken with the Stawell Gold Mines, Pacific Hyrdo and the Moyston Landcare Group.

This year also saw the re-commencement of the Grampians to Pyrenees Biolink which had in the past been a partnership project between the Wimmera CMA and Project

Native Vegetation Program cont...

Platypus. A successful application submitted by Project Platypus through the Federal Government has seen the inclusion of other partners including the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority, Parks Victoria, Trust for Nature, Conservation Volunteers Australia and the Central Victorian Biolink Group. This project will be undertaken over the next three years with the aim of increasing ecological connectivity between the Grampians and Pyrenees Ranges. An exciting inclusion into this project is the development of a long term connectivity plan. This year a committee was formed with representatives from a number of different organisations and community representatives coming together to assist in developing this plan. The plan is due to be completed in 2015 and will assist in determining priorities for re-establishing native vegetation across the Upper Wimmera Catchment to achieve the best biodiversity and connectivity results.



The Native Vegetation and Waterways subcommittee met several times last year focusing on discussions such as the improvement of Landholder Agreements,

improvement of incentive rates for fencing, ensuring there are opportunities for revegetation activities across the whole Upper Wimmera Catchment and have given consideration to erosion control projects and priorities. The group consisted of group members, Phil Williams, Phil Hall, Mandy Smith, Peter Start, Lachie Green, David Margetson, Leigh Blackmore & Luke Austin. Projects ideas that the group has developed over the year which are yet to be undertaken include the enhancement of previously revegetated sites, a research project into revegetation techniques used, native grassland protection and establishment and involvement in native vegetation off-sets.



Project	Partners	Achievements
Woodlands Revival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Agriculture (Federal Government) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 165 hectares revegetated 71 hectares remnant vegetation protected 66,000 stems planted 18 properties involved 28 landholders involved 44.7 km of fencing constructed
Stawell Gold Mine Rehabilitation works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crocodile Gold 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 hectares revegetated 1,200 plants
Pacific Hydro Revegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moyston Landcare Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.5 Hectares revegetated 400 Plants 9 Volunteers involved

Invasive Plants and Animals

Headed up by Allistair Stephens, the Invasive Plants and Animals program has seen another massive year of achievements. The interesting aspect of weed and rabbit control work is that a good job often goes unnoticed to those who are not familiar with sites where works have taken place. But to those who observe what is going on in the landscape over time, a continual vigilance is maintained because they know what happens when invasive plants and rabbits are left to their own devices.

The invasive plant and animal team this year has consisted of Allistair Stephens, Dene Marshall, Graham Pearson & Adam McCormack with Loki McIntrye, Rohan Thompson, Lucy Bowen and Allan Stott helping out at busy times. All these people have put in an amazing effort. One of the best things about this team is that their commitment to improving the environment through their control works, knowing that it only takes one plant to recolonise areas, their attention to detail ensure a comprehensive job is paramount.

We have been lucky enough also to have a committed Invasive Plants and Animal Committee made up of enthusiastic community and agency representatives. This Committee met 4 times last year being chaired by Project Platypus Board Member, Ian Nicholson and attended by Kevin Spence from the Northern Grampians Shire, David Handscombe from Parks Victoria, Deidre Andrews from the Ararat Rural City Council, Malinda Godino from the Department of Environment and Primary Industries and community representatives John Stevens, Rosie Nater, Ross McGregor, Doug Boatman, Neil Marriott, Wendy Marriott & George Holden. This group has discussed priorities for the Upper Wimmera Catchment, ensured activities across agencies are coordinated and discussed new and emerging issues. Some of the focus discussions throughout the year have included feral pigs in the Pyrenees and Mt Cole areas, advocated to government to list deer as a feral species and allow commercial harvesting of kangaroos,



coordination of Landcare rabbit control works and DEPI compliance activities, development of a plan for African weed orchid control and discuss other weeds such as Bridal Creeper, Sallow Wattle, Bathurst

Burr, Broom, Chilean Needle Grass and many others. Thank you to all those involved in making this subcommittee so valuable.

Some on-ground highlights for the year include the continuation of a comprehensive Chilean Needle Grass program in partnership with the Moyston Landcare Group. The combination of detailed mapping, hand removal and herbicide application is showing some excellent results reducing the prevalence of this potentially disastrous weed. The support from the Northern Grampians Shire, Ararat Rural City Council and VicRoads has enabled us to ensure control works are being undertaken on these areas of public land to compliment private land works, as anyone with an interest in weeds and rabbits knows, that a comprehensive neighbourhood approach is the only way to combat weeds for the long term. With over 10 years of effort in Broom control in and around Stawell the partnership between Stawell Urban Landcare and Project Platypus is starting to see a substantial reduction in its prevalence showing what can be achieved over time with much persistence. The long standing partnership with GWMWater has continued this year with a focus on controlling weeds in and around their water reservoirs. This has been very successful with efforts being mainly focused on Spiny Rush and St John's Wort control around Lake Fyans and Panrock Reservoir demonstrating to landholders that they are responsible neighbours to have.

These actions described above & listed below coupled with extensive efforts from individual Landholders, Landcare Groups and other organisations makes the Invasive Plant and Animal Control program in the Upper Wimmera something to be proud of.

Roadside Control Program		
Ararat Rural City Council roadsides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ararat Rural City Council Department of Environment and Primary Industries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,456 ha various regionally controlled weed species
Northern Grampians Shire Council roadsides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Grampians Shire Council Department of Environment and Primary Industries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 ha various regionally controlled weed species controlled 1 ha Chilean Needle Grass controlled 1.3 ha of rabbits controlled
Vicroads roadsides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VicRoads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.7 ha rabbits controlled 13 ha rabbits surveyed

Invasive Plants and Animals cont...

Project Platypus & Landcare Group Partnership Control Works		
Concongella Landcare Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wimmera Catchment Management Authority Department of Environment and Primary Industries (Victorian Landcare Program) Concongella Landcare Group members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 ha of Paterson's Curse controlled 41 ha of Horehound controlled 17.3 ha of Spiny Rush controlled
Jallukar Landcare Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wimmera Catchment Management Authority Department of Environment and Primary Industries (Victorian Landcare Program) Jallukar Landcare Group members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.5 ha Cape Tulip controlled 1 ha Spiny Rush controlled
Stawell Broom Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stawell Urban Landcare Group Northern Grampians Shire Council Wimmera Catchment Management Authority Department of Environment and Primary Industries (Victorian Landcare Program) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 64 ha of Broom sp. controlled
Moyston Landcare Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moyston Landcare Group Wimmera Catchment Management Authority Department of Environment and Primary Industries (Victorian Landcare Program) Various private landholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 47.3 ha Paterson's Curse controlled
Crowlands Landcare Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crowlands Landcare Group members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.8 ha Gorse controlled
Chilean needle grass mapping & control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks Victoria Moyston Landcare Group Department of Environment and Primary Industries (Victorian Government) Ararat Rural City Council Various private landholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.02 ha Chilean needle grass controlled 2.8 ha Chilean needle grass mapped 1 ha Chilean needle grass removed

Other Partnership Projects		
Sallow Wattle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Environment (Federal Government) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 146.2 ha Sallow Wattle controlled
Victorian Landcare Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wimmera Catchment Management Authority Department of Environment and Primary Industries (Victorian Landcare Program) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 33.9 ha Paterson's Curse controlled 0.4 ha Amsinkia controlled
Jallukar Nature Conservation Reserve & Ararat Regional Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks Victoria Department of the Environment (Federal Government) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 ha Bridal Creeper controlled 58.3 ha St John's Wort controlled
Wildlife Art Museum of Australia rabbit control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WAMA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10.3 ha rabbits controlled
Nowhere Creek Rabbits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loretto College, Ballarat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 32 ha rabbits controlled
GWMWater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GWMWater Private landholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 61.7 ha Spiny Rush controlled 8.8 ha St John's Wort controlled
Antwerp cemetery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antwerp Cemetery Trust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.5 ha various weed species controlled 0.5 ha rabbits controlled



Engaging and Involving the Community

In 2011 the Project Platypus Management Committee determined that engaging and involving the community was one of the highest priorities in Project Platypus' work. This has led to large increase in these activities with over 700 people involved in our work. This includes landholders, students, community volunteers, participants in workshops, on planning committees and staff from partner agencies. In addition to this, involvement in activities of member groups, especially groups such as Perennial Pasture Systems Group continues to be strong.

This year we were able to continue our support to Landcare Groups through the employment of Bob Wallace with the part time funded Regional Landcare Facilitator program. We also developed a document which assists in communicating to groups about how we can help support. Project Platypus was able to send a staff member to each of the group meetings providing information and support as needed. In addition to this, Bob and other Project Platypus staff assisted groups with planning, project applications, project implementation and reporting. With a few groups declining in activity, the next few years will see Project Platypus putting in a concerted effort to reinvigorate these groups as local groups are the cornerstone of Community Natural Resource Management.

Again, the Project Platypus Newsletter continues to be developed and distributed to over 800 recipients. We are now up to our 43rd edition and with Cath McDermott putting in many hours of work compiling these, they continue to be of exceptional standard.

The Community Engagement Subcommittee has developed over the last year, meeting 5 times throughout the year, developing project ideas and evaluating past events. Committee members include Rosie Nater, Leanne Jackman, Madelene Townsend, Mandy Smith, Cathy McDermott, Bob Wallace and Bronwyn Bant.



2013 Plantouts were another great success continuing with the multiple weekends in July, each being themed and hosted by a local Landcare Group. These included a backpacker themed plantout near Halls Gap hosted by the Jallukar Landcare Group attracting 20 Volunteers; An electronic music themed event planting 11,760 trees attracting 90

volunteers largely made up of young people from Melbourne; a local food themed event supported by Stawell Urban Landcare Group planting 5,000 stems; a Northern Grampians Landcare group hosted plantout with 2,500 trees being planted by 20 Volunteers. Our schools plantout program also continues to be strong, involving 119 students from local schools in tree planting activities. I think we could be quite confident that not a single child from the Upper Wimmera gets through their school without being involved in planting activities, many students participating year after year.



The Chicks in the Sticks event which was spawned at the Wimmera CMA several years ago and is now a Project Platypus led activity that is cemented into the regular calendar of Upper Wimmera Landcare events. The event this year saw 50 women tour out to a Bio-dynamic farm near Marnoo. The feedback from the day was exceptional demonstrating the value that this activity has associated with it. The hard work put into this by Bronwyn Bant, Cathy McDermott, Rosie Nater and Leanne Jackman really pays off.



Other activities for the year included New Zealand Farmer and inspiring speaker Doug Avery present at the 2013 AGM, a farm succession workshop with Alan Blackburn and a tour to Peter Forster's property looking at the realities of carbon farming.

Also as part of the Grampians to Pyrenees Biolink project, Project Platypus organised two cultural heritage workshops aimed at Natural Resource Management and related organisations. These events included presentations from the Office of Aboriginal Affairs, Martang and Barengi Gadjin Land Council and looked at how our activities can impact on cultural heritage and what we can do to avoid this happening. One of the sites tours adjacent to a planned revegetation project uncovered flints used for skinning and cutting, clay balls used for cooking and a stone axe head.

Engaging and Involving the Community

Project	Partners	Achievements
Building capacity in Landcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wimmera CMA / DEPI (Victorian Landcare Grant) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Management Committee members attended "Board Builder Conference" Facilitation Training session Purchase of a new PC for community engagement activities
2013 AGM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wimmera CMA / DEPI (Victorian Landcare Grant) Waratah Stawell Farm Supplies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guest Speaker 55 attendees
Tour to Birchip Cropping Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wimmera CMA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 Management Committee and 5 Staff attended a tour to Birchip Cropping Group
Regional Landcare Facilitator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wimmera CMA Federal Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Newsletter publications Attended 30 Landcare Group Meetings Assisted groups with project applications, project implementation, reporting, working bees and other activities on 81 occasions Assisted individuals with NRM activities, information and advice on 67 occasions Assisted with 4 events Assisted with 7 publications, media articles or web based information
CFI Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Agriculture (Federal Government) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 farm Tour 11 participants
Chicks in the Sticks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wimmera CMA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x Farm Tour 50 participants 1 x Fact Sheet developed
Farm Succession Workshop (Farming in the 21st Century)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Grampians Shire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x workshop 43 participants
Ironbarks Nesting boxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stawell Urban Landcare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 nesting boxes constructed and installed 8 volunteers involved 15 students involved
2013 Community Plantout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Powercor Landcare Australia Federal Government (Department of Agriculture) Jallukar Landcare Group Moyston Landcare Group Northern Grampians Landcare Group Concongella Landcare Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 253 volunteers involved 7 Community planting events held
2013 Schools Plantout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sure Gro Federal Government (Department of Agriculture) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 119 students involved from; Moyston PS, Stawell PS, Marion College, Great Western PS, Pomonal PS, Skeene Street School and St Patricks PS
Grampians to Pyrenees Biolink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office of Aboriginal Affairs DEPI Martang Barengi Gadjin Land Council Central Victorian Biolink 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 x cultural heritage workshops with 37 NRM related employees in attendance 3 x Grampians to Pyrenees Biolink Connectivity Planning Workshops with 14 participants

Landmate Program

Ararat (Hopkins) Landmate crew have been undertaking many environmental and community works around the Upper Wimmera and Glenelg Hopkins catchments. The Ararat Landmate crew have been working on several revegetation and riparian fencing projects in the Upper Wimmera. The crew were busy over the summer period assisting landholders that had been burnt out in the Northern Grampians Fire, boundary fences and debris removal from fence lines was a high priority for the crews post fire. Landholders in the Black Range fire were assisted with urgent erosion stabilisation work, before rain commenced as well as assisting Parks Victoria with track stabilisation work. The crew planted trees for Project Platypus through winter. Other works the crew have been involved in are rabbit fumigation for landholders and Landcare groups and fencing trial plots for Perennial Pasture Systems. The Ararat Landmate crew were able to help community groups with fire hazard removal and slashing and mowing at the recreational reserve in Elmhurst and fencing repairs along the Wimmera river, removing fire hazards and digging foundations for the war memorial in Maroona.

Langi Kal Kal Landmate crew have been working on projects in the Corangamite and Glenelg Hopkins catchments. The Langi Kal Kal crew have been tree planting, riparian and revegetation fencing, cutting and painting stumps of woody weeds, rubbish removal and community work.

Project Platypus' role in this program is to take Landholder enquiries, assess eligibility, record and schedule work details, liaise with landholders and prison crew leaders. This has resulted in 223 days of NRM or community related activities. It is great the Department of Justice and Department of Environment and Primary Industries continue to appreciate the value in this program.



Waterways Program



The waterways program this year focused on the completion of the State Government funded 'Platypus Recovery' project. The final activity undertaken this year consisted of the construction of two erosion control structures on the Glenlofty Creek to address two head cuts that were threatening the largely intact chain of ponds system that was once prevalent in creeks and streams of the Upper Catchment. With initial plans put in to place by Project Platypus staff member Bronwyn Bant, the works were completed under the supervision of Brendan Barbetti who took over from Bronwyn who headed off on maternity leave. These works were also assisted by the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority and GWMWater contributing to the project financially and with technical support from WCMA officer, Luke Austin.

This year also saw a review of past erosion control works and plans put into place for maintenance works to be undertaken at Aston's Scour and Mt Drummond.

Project	Partners	Achievements
Platypus Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Environment and Primary Industries (Victorian Government) GWMWater 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 new Erosion Control Structure completed on Glenlofty Creek 1 property involved 1 Landholder involved

Landcare Group Activities



Black Range

President: Peter Brazier

Secretary: Helen Rosenbaum

Black Range Landcare group members have been conducting follow up control work of St John's Wort and African weed orchid; members are pleased with the noticeable reduction of these weeds in the area. Group members have also been involved with rabbit fumigation work. The group have been working in conjunction with the Jallukar Landcare group on a Powerful Owl Nesting box project.

Landsborough

President: Daryl Leslie

Secretary: Greg Dean

Landsborough Landcare group have been controlling weeds in and around the township of Landsborough. They have been concentrating their efforts on Gorse, Patterson's Curse and Horehound. The group have been getting assistance from the Ararat (Hopkins) Landmate crew.



Crowlands

President: Dennis Harrington

Secretary: Harold Thomas

Crowlands Landcare group have been undertaking extensive pest animal and weed control activities. The group successfully obtained funding through last year's round of the Victorian Landcare Grants. Group members are maximising their funds by carrying out a majority of the work themselves. The target weed for this project is Spiny Rush; Landholders are using the Crowlands Landcare groups spray trailer to do a majority of the work themselves.

Elmhurst

President: Bill Langcake

Secretary: Christine Baines

Elmhurst Landcare group have been working in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Landcare group members and Landholders in the Elmhurst area to undertake extensive rabbit harbour destruction. The group have been receiving "expressions of interest" from Landholders for assistance. Landcare group members and the Landcare groups 'Vermin Committee' help to determine the most cost effective areas to use this funding. Other projects the group have been involved with are fencing and fire hazard removal in the Wimmera River. This work has been made possible through the Victorian Landcare Grants.



Great Western

President: Mark Kindred

Secretary: Paul Dakis

This year the Great Western Landcare Group has not undertaken any group activities. They are interested in hearing from any members who would like to become more active next year.

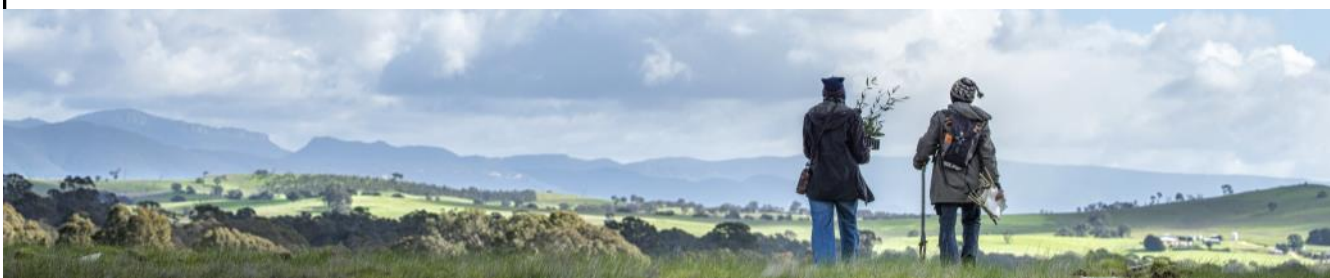
Landcare Group Activities

Concongella

President: Malcolm Nicholson

Secretary: Phil & Trudy Hall

Concongella Landcare group members have been controlling Horehound, Spiny Rush and Cape Tulip on Landcare group member's properties and the Greens Creek school site. Group members have been destroying rabbit harbour. Landcare group members have been getting involved with riparian fencing and revegetation works in partnership with the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority and Project Platypus.



Navarre

President: Shane Bibby

Secretary: R & L Kelleher

This year The Navarre Landcare Group has not undertaken any group activities. They are interested in hearing from any members who would like to become more active next year.



Northern Grampians

President: Ray Graham

Secretary: Judy Dunkley

The Northern Grampians Landcare Group have mapped Sallow Wattle, Bridal Creeper and One Leafed Cape Tulip along the creek for future control work. Group members planted trees at the plant out at Glenorchy. Northern Grampians Landcare group are in the process of conducting weed control work in their Landcare group area.



Stawell Urban:

President: Angela Baker

Secretary: Catherine McDermott



The Stawell Urban Landcare Group have completed several projects over the last 12 months. The group put on an information display in the main street of Stawell as part of 'Landcare week', to coincide with the Project Platypus 'free trees' day. Group members took Stawell Primary school students on the annual Iron Barks walk. The group planted trees at Moonlight Sands and Pleasant Creek, the trees were donated to the group. In November the Stawell Urban Landcare Group ran the Open Kitchen Garden day, the workshops included backyard bee keeping, sourdough bread making and growing and pickling olives. Members of the Stawell Urban Landcare group did a presentation at the Grampians Community Health Annual General Meeting; Grampians Community Health generously donated \$700 towards the Open Kitchen Garden

Day. In March the group were involved in a 'Clean up Australia Day' working bee along Clifton Ave towards the Iron barks, 26 people attended. Members of the group, together with Bob Wallace, met at the McCann fire dam in the Iron barks to take a look at the nest boxes that had been put up in February. The nesting boxes have several passive infrared surveillance cameras and will be checked in the next couple of months to see if the nesting boxes are being occupied. The Stawell Urban Landcare Group had several guest speakers Glenda Lewelyn and Neil Marriot from the Wildlife Arts Museum of Australia (WAMA) and Alistair Stephens from Project Platypus.

Landcare Group Highlights

Moyston

President: Adam Merrick

Secretary: Rosie Nater

Moyston Landcare Group members participated in the annual 'Plantout,' with a significant planting on Tom Eastick's. Much of the groups focus for the year was the ongoing control of Chilean needle grass infestations. The weed has continued to be mapped and treated. It is pleasing for the group to see progress being made. The Moyston Landcare group conducted a field day to inspect previous tree planting and soil conservation works on Crochan and Barton Station. The group have been generating community interest in "Landcare" by putting on a display at the Moyston Easter Market. The Landcare Group also hosted the Moyston Community Meal with a "German" theme, group members thought it was a great opportunity to promote the Landcare group's activities, and provide a social gathering for the local community. Moyston Landcare group members would like to continue to focus on both the health of the natural environment and the local Community, and believe these two things are inseparable.



Jallukar

President: Terry May

Secretary: Fred Rich



Jallukar Landcare group have been assisting the Wild life Art Museum of Australia by conducting a working bee on the proposed site. The Jallukar Landcare Group hosted the Plantout in Pomonal. Other activities include informative talks by guest speakers, a bird walk and a bus tour of past environmental plantings. The group have constructed nesting boxes for Powerful Owls in partnership with the Black Range Landcare Group. Significant weed control work has been conducted in the Landcare group area by Project Platypus, the target weeds the group have been working on are Spiny Rush, One Leaf Cape Tulip and African Orchid.

Perennial Pasture Systems

President: Paul Harrington

Secretary: Rob Shea

Perennial Pasture Systems have been busy over the last 12 months conducting several field trips and information seminars. Dr Richard Culvenor, a CSIRO research scientist, shared his insights with the group at the Meat and Livestock Association pasture update. The group learned about developing technologies for the management of pastures and animal health as well as the operations of Hassad Australia and the meat industry in the Middle East. In July, Perennial Pasture Systems facilitated the Business Essentials workshop where members of the group were able to gain information to better understand their operation's financial position. One of the highlights of the year was the tour of Hassad Australia's Barton Station at Moyston, the group look forward to going back and seeing how things have developed. Other projects being carried by the group include long term productivity and persistence trials being tested in Elmhurst, Joel and Jallukar which are trialling fescue, phalaris and uplands cocksfoot. Other trial plots of grasses and legumes are taking place at Lonsdale, Eversley and Dobie, as well as a cocksfoot comparison trial at Lonsdale. A site is being monitored for sub soil amelioration in a phalaris and lucerne pasture plot at Jallukar. Meat and Livestock Australia has provided funding to Perennial Pasture Systems for a pasture persistence project which is looking at the longevity of phalaris pastures. A study tour was held which visited farms in the Kyneton and Mansfield area. Perennial Pasture Systems are encouraged to see strong growth in the group's membership.

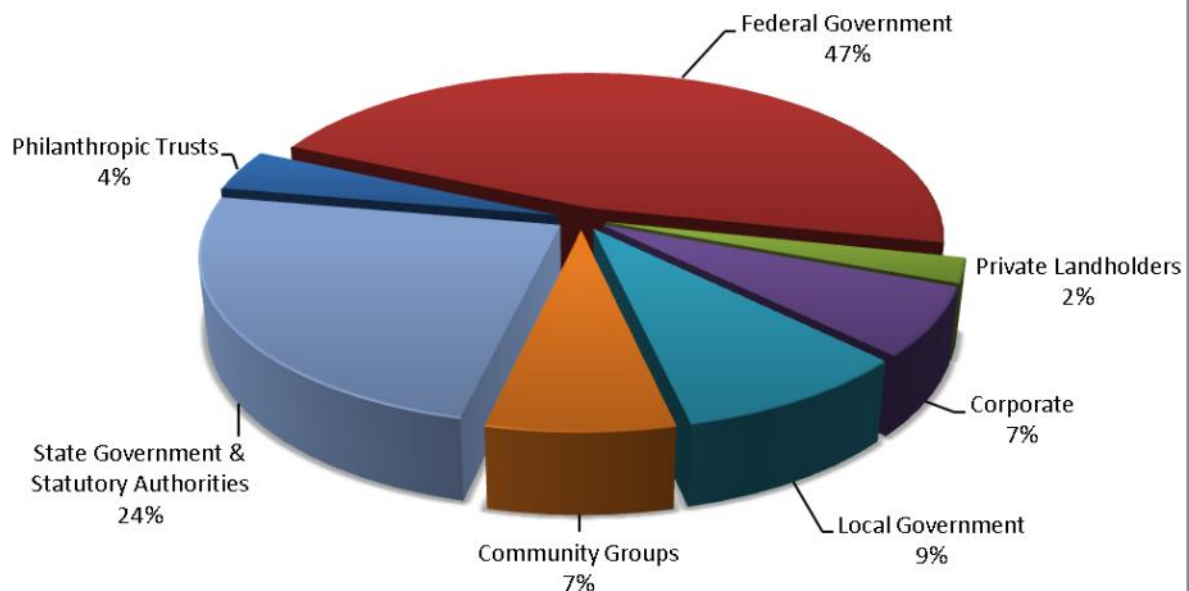


Financial Reports

OPERATING STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	2014 \$	2013 \$
Revenue		
Fees for Service	144,513	176,413
Grants Received	880,893	283,245
Negotiated Contracts	81,885	15,000
Sponsorship	43,955	6,410
Interest received	4,480	9,468
Sundry income	57,007	1,053
Profit on Sale of Assets	\$0.00	0
Total Revenue	1,212,733	491,589
Expenses		
Administration	54,097	46,553
Community engagement	26,969	48,649
Employment	423,114	413,698
Vehicles	31,301	46,102
Operational Costs	613,127	349,421
Total Expenses	1,148,608	904,423
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	\$64,125	(\$412,834)

Income Sources



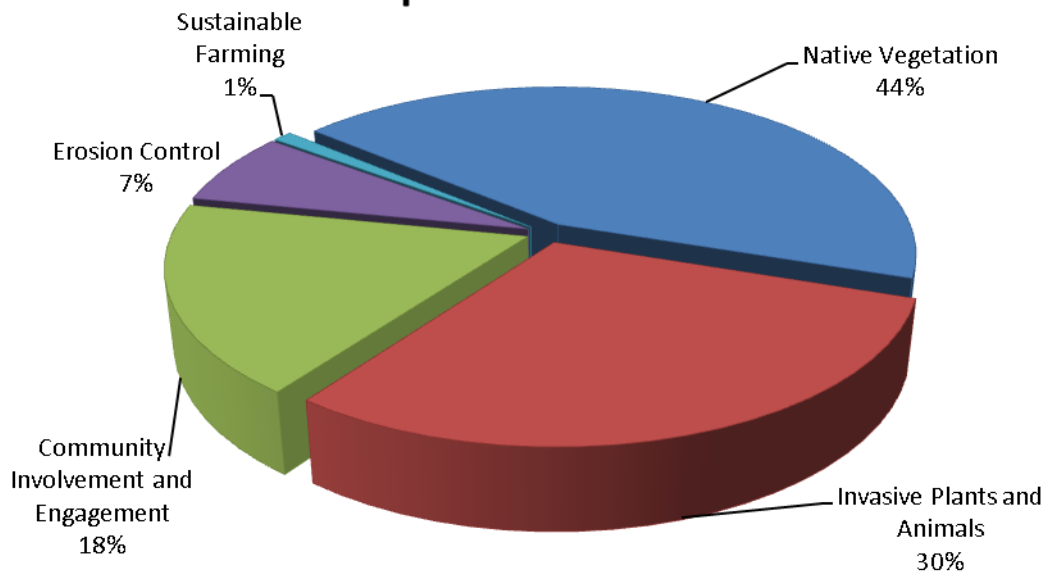
Financial Reports

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	Note	2014 \$	2013 \$
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2	223,540	191,998
Receivables	3	23,478	10,570
Total Current Assets		<u>247,018</u>	<u>202,568</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Vehicles and Equipment	4	69,542	89,195
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>69,542</u>	<u>89,195</u>
Total Assets		<u>316,560</u>	<u>291,763</u>
Current Liabilities			
Payables	5	52,523	81,536
Provisions	6	10,131	10,890
Total Current Liabilities		<u>62,654</u>	<u>92,426</u>
Non-Current Liabilities			
Payables	7	2,253	7,662
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>2,253</u>	<u>7,662</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>64,907</u>	<u>100,088</u>
Net Assets		<u>\$251,653</u>	<u>\$191,675</u>
Accumulated Funds	8	\$251,652	\$190,190

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Expenditure Profile

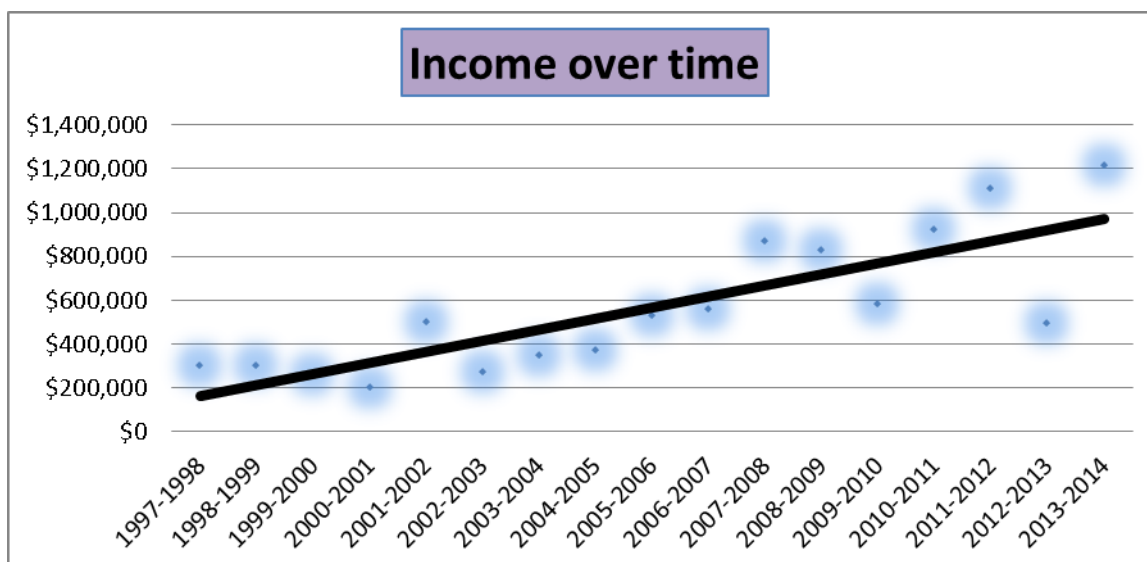


Financial Reports

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	Note	2014 \$	2013 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash received from customers		1,195,345	540,927
Cash paid to suppliers, grant recipients and employees		(1,162,136)	(838,489)
Net cash provided/(used) by operating activities	9	33,209	(297,562)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		4,480	9,468
Proceeds from the sale of vehicles and equipment		0	10,909
Payments for vehicles and equipment		0	(6,189)
Net cash provided/(used) in investing activities		4,480	14,188
Cash flows from financing activities			
Cash received from finance agencies		0	0
Cash paid to finance agencies		(6,147)	(6,119)
Net cash used in financing activities		(6,147)	(6,119)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in cash held		31,542	(289,493)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the financial year		191,998	481,491
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year		\$223,540	\$191,998

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



Financial Reports

PROJECT PLATYPUS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

Note 1. Summary of significant accounting policies

This report is a general purpose financial report representing Project Platypus Association Inc. as an individual entity.

Project Platypus Association Inc. is an association incorporated in Victoria Australia under the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)*

[a] Basis of preparation

This financial report has been prepared on an accrual and going concern basis using the Historical Cost convention except where specifically stated and all accounting policies comply with Australian Accounting Standards include Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards.

All accounting policies applied are consistent with those used in the prior year.

[b] Revenue

In accordance with changes to the Accounting Standard AASB 1004, revenue from grants is recognised in the year in which the grant funds are received, irrespective of the period the funds relate to.

Consideration has been given to provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts at balance date. No such provision was necessary.

[c] Employee benefits

Liabilities for services rendered by employees are recognised at balance date to the extent that they have not been settled. Liability for annual leave and long service leave were considered.

[d] Cash and Cash Equivalents

This item includes cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks and other short term highly liquid investments with original maturities of twelve months or less.

[e] Vehicles and equipment

These items with a value in excess of \$1000 and a useful life in excess of one year are capitalised at cost and amortised in equal instalments over their useful life.

When an asset is disposed of and the amount received is greater than the written down value of the item a gain is recognised as Revenue. Alternatively, if the disposal value is less than written down value the 'loss' is expensed.

Financial Reports

PROJECT PLATYPUS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

	2014 \$	2013 \$
Note 2. Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Investment Account	265,501	116,096
Operating Account	(42,613)	62,373
Petty Cash Advance	300	300
Public Fund Account	352	13,229
	<u>\$223,540</u>	<u>\$191,998</u>
Note 3. Receivables		
Fee for Service customers	20,130	7,915
Grants	1,000	1,500
Reimbursements, Incentives, Equipment Hire & Membership	0	218
Prepayments	2,348	937
	<u>\$23,478</u>	<u>\$10,570</u>
Note 4. Vehicles and Equipment		
Motor Vehicles	113,876	113,876
Less accumulated depreciation	(65,797)	(51,839)
Office Equipment & Furniture	6,186	6,186
Less accumulated depreciation	(5,421)	(4,900)
Works Equipment	54,075	54,075
Less accumulated depreciation	(33,377)	(28,203)
	<u>\$69,542</u>	<u>\$89,195</u>
Note 5. Payables [Current Liabilities]		
Credit Card	0	(180)
Accounts Payable	29,194	72,634
GST Liabilities	(3,926)	(2,014)
Payroll Liabilities	12,637	11,096
Accrued Expenses	14,618	
	<u>\$52,523</u>	<u>\$81,536</u>
Note 6. Provisions		
Annual Leave and Long Service Leave	\$10,131	\$12,374
Note 7. Payables [Non-current Liabilities]		
Toyota Finance [Colorado]		0
Less Unexpired Charges		0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
PowerTorque Finance [Isuzu]	2,561	8,708
Less Unexpired Charges	(308)	(1,046)
	<u>2,253</u>	<u>7,662</u>
Total Non-current liabilities	<u>\$2,253</u>	<u>\$7,662</u>

Financial Reports

PROJECT PLATYPUS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

	2014 \$	2013 \$
Note 8. Accumulated Funds		
Committed Funds Reserve		
Reserve funds are legal obligations owed for committed projects.		
At balance date obligations existed in the following projects:		
Dept of Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry [Community Action Grants]	0	7,594
Dept of Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry [Fox Project]	0	776
Dept of Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry [Wimmera Agroforestry Network]	39,575	0
Dept of Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry [Woodlands Revival]	0	75,056
Dept of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population, Communities [G2P Biolink]	58,109	0
Dept of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population, Communities [Sallow Wattle Weed Control]	7,788	0
GWMWater	4,825	0
Helen McPherson Smith [Farm Biodiversity]	25,549	0
Jallukar Landcare Group [Miller's Creek]	2,156	2,156
Landcare Australia [20 Year Celebration]	798	0
Landcare Australia [Plant Out]	0	2,979
Landsborough Landcare Group [Weed Control]	0	1,174
Mazda Foundation [SULC Nesting Boxes]	0	2,613
Moyston Landcare Group [Weed Control]	0	534
SITA Australia [Chicks in the Sticks Taranaki]	2,730	0
Stawell Gold Mines [Concongella Crk Revegetation]	329	0
Wimmera Catchment Mmt Authority [Victorian Landcare Grant]	2,855	0
Wimmera Catchment Mmt Authority [Weeds of National Significance]	0	407
	144,714	93,289
Balance of funds not committed to projects	106,938	96,901
	<u>\$251,652</u>	<u>\$190,190</u>
Note 9. Reconciliation of Operating Activities		
Net result for the year	\$64,125	-\$412,834
Non cash flows in result:		
Depreciation	19,653	39,531
Profit/Loss on Disposal of Non-current Assets	0	1,159
Expired Finance Charges	738	111
Non-cash movement in Assets & Liabilities:		
Movement in Payables	(33,160)	20,210
Movement in Provisions	(2,243)	4,923
Movement in Receivables	(12,908)	58,806
Transfer to Investing Activities:		
Interest Received	(4,480)	(9,468)
Net cash flow available from operating activities	<u>\$31,725</u>	<u>-\$297,562</u>

Audited Financial Statement

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF PROJECT PLATYPUS ASSOCIATION INC

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Project Platypus Association Inc (the association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2014, the statement of profit or loss, and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the certification by members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* (Vic) and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of Project Platypus Association Inc is in accordance with the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* (Vic), including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June 2014, and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- ii complying with Australian Accounting Standards as disclosed in Note 1.

Author's signature:  Horwath West Vic

Peter Monaghan

Address: 3-5 St George St Stawell

Dated this 13th day of October 2014