



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

FROM PROJECT PLATYPUS | DECEMBER 2020



Project Platypus Upper Wimmera Landcare

MISSION

To work in partnership with the Landcare community to improve the environmental health of the Upper Wimmera Catchment while maintaining and improving productivity.



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Down to Earth

DECEMBER 2020 UPDATE

Welcome to our newsletter *Down to Earth*,

The last issue for 2020, Christmas is around the corner and it has been a year like no other. The virtual world has taken us by storm in 2020 but it is the opportunities for face-to-face contact which are the most memorable such as the Elmhurst plant out (in-between Covid-19 waves). I think we can justifiably be proud as Victorians (especially Melbournians) abiding by lockdown rules in order to now be relatively free of the virus. This mammoth task, seemingly insurmountable, now achieved has ensured we can spend time with loved ones over Christmas and New Year. Three cheers!!!

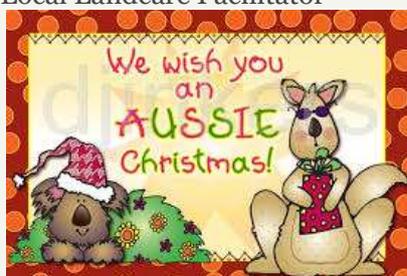
For all of those not in the know the [Landcare Facilitator Program](#) has been extended for another six months - phew! Due to COVID-19 the application process for organisations to employ facilitators beyond June 2021 has been delayed until early 2021, so too the grant funding. If you are keen to know where and how much the Victorian Government is investing in parks, zoos and biodiversity (including Landcare) - [see here](#)

Several Landcare groups have events in the lead up to Christmas which provides an excellent opportunity to catch-up or join a group. Landcare is always keen for new members.

Hedging my bets on a safe (covid-free), healthy and happy next few months. I have added a few Christmas gift ideas with a twist - scroll below!

Ciao for now Andrea

Local Landcare Facilitator



CALENDAR

November

Mon 30 Climate webinar - using seasonal forecasts in south-eastern

Australia [REGISTER](#) *Agriculture Victoria*

Sun 29 Get together and plant ID, 4.30 pm Bunjils Cave *Black Range Land Management Group*

Sun 29 *Moyston Landcare Group* AGM, 2.30 pm

December

Tues 1 BBQ and electric cars, 6.30pm, *Stawell Urban Landcare Group*

Wed 9 End of year dinner at Barneys, 7.15 pm, *Jallukar Landcare Group*

Wed 9 Renewing the regions: agriculture and energy transition webinar [REGISTER](#) *Farmers for Climate Action*

Thurs 10 Farm succession planning webinar [REGISTER](#) *AgriWebb*

Thurs 10 Five linterventions to improve soil health webinar series [REGISTER](#) *National Landcare Conference*

Sund 13 Christmas BBQ, Wimmera River, 4.30pm, *Elmhurst Landcare Group*

Friday 25 **Project Platypus office closes**

January

Monday 11 **Project Platypus office opens**

March 2021

Project Platypus Landcare network tour (for all Landcare groups)

*** PPS is organising Q fever vaccinations at Stawell in the new year. Further information call Rob Shea mob 0438 521357 ***

Grants

FRRR [Strengthening Rural Communities](#) Closes 23rd Feb 2021 (up to \$25,000)

The Ross Trust [Biodiversity conservation grant](#) (up to \$40,000 X 3yrs)

Normal Wettenhall Foundation [Small environment grants](#) Open 1st Dec 2020 (\$1000 - \$10,000)

Roddenberry Foundation [The catalyst fund](#) (\$2,500 - \$15,000)

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Latest news ...

Sharing information is one of the bonuses of a network - thanks to those that help contribute to this space.

[How life cycle assessments can be \(mis\)used to justify more single-use packaging](#) - Basically New Zealand is doing single-use plastic better with the latest systems in place. **The Conversation**

[The Australian philanthropists spending big and fast to fight catastrophic climate change](#) - Aussies throwing everything they have at climate change. **ABC News**

['The power of the earth': Bruce Pascoe on grass & fire](#) - Harvesting Australian native grains as a social enterprise **The Age**

[Biofluorescent platypus](#) - they really do glow! **Science Alert**

[Silky oaks, older than dinosaurs, drip nectar - but watch out for cyanide](#) - A short history of this iconic Aussie plant **The Conversation**

[Researchers 3D-print new homes for threatened Australian wildlife species](#) - brightest tech savvy 3D-hollows, science meets industry collaboration and invention **Eco Voice**



Image sourced from Unilad (Mammalia 2020/Shutterstock)

Seed collections basics at Lake Fyans

Julie Andrew with the support of Andrea Mitchell taught the basics of native seed collection at Lake Fyans with a small group of participants on November 13th (numbers were limited due to COVID-19). An overall discussion of the how, when and what of seed collection and provenance were discussed. Some great practical tips were learned by participants and a casual bush walk reinforced the messages. Funding from Victorian Landcare Grants 2019-2020.



Brunonia australis (Blue pin cushion) and participants in the background.

Christmas treats - indigenous style

This Christmas try some authentic Australian flavours with Indigenous businesses across Australia:

[Mayi Harvest](#) from West Kimberley is sustainable, ethical and working with nature to deliver the finest

wild harvested plants, fruits, seeds & nuts.



Kakadu Plum Co. is a social enterprise that celebrates Indigenous culture and traditional Australian bush foods. The Kakadu plum chocolate sounds irresistible!



Sobah is a non-alcoholic craft beer business based in Queensland with a social conscience and is out to smash stereotypes.



Mabu Mabu is a saying from the Torres Strait that means 'help yourself.' So much on offer including wattle seed pavlova kit and Mabu Christmas cake.



Indigiearth based in Mudgee, NSW this business provides premium bush foods made from authentic Australian native products that are ethically sourced and sustainably harvested.



Work delivered by the Project Platypus IPA team this month:

- Conundrum Holdings Stawell & Horsham Quarries – Project Platypus preferred contractor with regular annual work in autumn and spring (new customer). Over \$6K work completed. Possible revegetation work in 2021 and 2022.
- Stawell Urban Landcare Group - annual weed control work for Landcare grant \$5.5k completed.
- Crowlands Windfarm - \$12.5K of work completed with another \$5-10K remaining. Expanding into revegetation in 2021.
- Eversley Patterson's Curse - little late to conduct complete spray program. PP will work closely to secure work in 2021.
- Moyston - Chilean needle grass – started mapping and secured \$2K for work in reserve around town.
- FFMV/DELWP - Boneseed project. Liaising with project officers to identify areas and secure contract work.
- Ross Trust grant - Halls Gap Yarra burgan control. Continuing mapping and extension material.
- Practical Ecology - mapping Sandbar Rd property for upcoming rabbit/prickly pear control work.

Wimmera CMA Crew:

- Elmhurst - Gorse along Wimmera River
 - Stawell Pony Club - Bridal creeper, Spiny rush and Boneseed
 - Pomonal - rabbit control and yarra burgan control
 - Fyans Creek - gladiolus
 - Ararat Hills Regional Park - Boneseed
 - Black Range - rabbit control
 - Moyston - Chilean needle grass
 - Landsborough - Patterson's curse
 - Stawell cemetery - Boneseed
 - Murtoa Golf Course - orchid enclosure for Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (RBGV)
 - Pomonal/Redmans Rd - Bluebell creeper
 - Apex Shed (new PP Office) - weed control, demolition, construction, clean up, etc.
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PROJECT PLATYPUS CONTRACTING SERVICES

- Specialists in broad-scale and targeted weed and rabbit control
- Provide environmental services such as tree planting
- Offering competitive rates on private and public land
- Insured and licenced.

FOR A QUOTE

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OUR SUPPORTERS

Donation of support

Geoff & Helen Handbury Foundation



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