



Project Platypus Upper Wimmera Landcare

MISSION

Support and empower community.
Improve environmental health of Upper Wimmera
Catchment.
Maintain and improve productivity.

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Contact us:

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ph 03 5358 4410

Down to Earth

MAY 10 UPDATE

Welcome to our newsletter ***Down to Earth,***

Sunday May 13th is the day to celebrate mums in Australia and it also timely to consider the most influential mother of all "Mother Earth". Commemorate your mother, grandmother or special person with a plant (not only will it fix carbon in soil, convert carbon dioxide to oxygen, cool the microclimate, provide habitat and all that other good stuff, it will look pretty too!)...And you can pick up a freebie tree thanks to Stawell Urban Landcare's *Trees for Mum* program.

Hope you enjoy the read

Hooray for mums

Project Platypus team

Stawell Urban Landcare

TREES FOR MUM

Free plant giveaway to celebrate mums this Mother's Day

Sunday 13 May 2018
9 am to 10.30 am
Mother's Day Classic
North Park, Stawell

WWW.TREESFORMUM.COM

May

Sun 13 **TREES FOR MUM** - Stawell Urban Landcare

Wed 30 **AFTERNOON TEA & HEARING LOSS PREVENTION** - Perennial Pasture Systems & Girls & Grass Advisory Group

June

Wed 6 **COMMUNICATION Skills for Leadership** 1 day workshop - Project Platypus

Thur 7 **ABC of COMMUNICATION Success** 1/2 day workshop - Project Platypus

Tue 5 **Gorse Grants 2018 - 2019** (applications close)

Tue 12 **Victorian Landcare Grants 2018 - 2019** (applications close)

July - Save the dates

PLANTOUTS volunteers ably loved and adored:

Sun 8 Barkly, Vic

Sun 15 Rhydney, Vic

Sat 21 & Sun 22 Lake Fyans, Vic
School groups will be planting over June & July

[CLIMATE DOG](#) - understanding weather *Indian Ocean Diapole*

[EUCALYPT SEED COLLECTION FIELD DAY](#) - pics

[WEED & RABBIT WRAP UP](#) - Project Platypus hit the roads



TWO WORKSHOPS for WILD WACKY WONDERFUL WOMEN.

TWO BIG DAYS OF FUN & LEARNING

Trainers: [Universally Speaking](#) and [Wild Wacky Wonderful Women](#)

Bookings <http://www.ticketebo.com.au/projectplatypus>

For more information read Project Platypus events page on [Facebook](#)



Dan Frost from Seeding Victoria showing how to distinguish ripe eucalypt seed by cutting through the capsule.

Great day at the **Eucalypt Seed Collection Field Day** on April 17th, funded by Eucalypt Australia.

“There is a rich and beautiful resource all around us that we can actively preserve and cultivate” participant quote.

Project Platypus team - WEED & RABBIT WRAP UP

Ararat Rural City Roadsides – working around Buangor spraying gorse and Bridal Creeper with some pockets of broom species. A day of gorse control around the Chalambar Golf course roads was also carried out.

Greater Grampians Threatened Flora – Site inspections on Trust for Nature covenanted land carried out and Expressions of Interest sent out to landholders. IPA work to start in the coming weeks.

Landmate have started work in the Ararat Hills Regional Park removing woody weeds around One Tree Hill Rd and the Rotary ark Picnic Area. They are removing Cootamundra Wattle, Early Black Wattle, Sweet Pittosporum and will begin work on St John's Wort weather permitting.

Vicroads Wester Hwy Rabbits – There are 5 sites along the Western Hwy planned for rabbit control work. The field crew will carry out hand fumigation at the designated sites.

Moyston Spiny Rush – Spiny Rush control carried out between Wills Hill Rd and the Ararat-Halls Gap Rd.

Private Landholders – We have carried out some work in the Ararat and Crowlands areas on private land for gorse. It's great to see landholders aware and willing to take action on problematic weeds.

If you see the Project Platypus ute out and about give them a toot - they do an amazing job!



The **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)** has traditionally held influenced Victoria's rainfall in winter and spring.

Watch "[Indy](#)" the [Climatedog](#) animation for a simple explanation.

VICTORIAN LANDCARE GRANTS 2018 - 2019

The Victorian Government has committed \$1.8 million for Victorian Landcare Grants in 2018-19 to support Landcare and other environmental volunteer groups to undertake projects that protect and restore the land and environment. The Victorian Landcare Grants are delivered by Victoria's 10 Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs).

Funding:

- **Project Grants up to \$20,000** for on-ground works, education and capacity building projects to protect and restore Victoria's environment.
- **Support Grants \$500** for existing groups/networks.

- **Start-up Grants \$500** for new groups/networks

Application forms: online via SmartyGrants <https://delwp.smartygrants.com.au/wimmera1819VLG>.

To apply, go to your CMA's website to access the grant's Guidelines and complete the application form for your region.

Guidelines: Wimmera CMA's website www.wcma.vic.gov.au

Applications Close: Tuesday 12 June 2018 at 12 noon

VICTORIAN GORSE TASKFORCE Community Grants Program 2018 - 2019

- You and your neighbours and/or your local Landcare Group can attract up to \$30,000 in grants to help combat gorse in your local area.
- The VGT will support groups, starting from just two landholders, who are genuinely willing to control gorse and stay on top of it.
- Small Grants Program, up to \$5,000 (GST exclusive)
- Large Facilitated Program up to \$30,000 (GST exclusive).

More information: go to the VGT's website: www.vicgorsetaskforce.com.au project guidelines, eligibility criteria and application template, or contact the Executive Officer on **0437 798 148**.

How to apply: submit your application including checklist and maps to info@vicgorsetaskforce.com.au by **Tuesday 5 June 2018**



Set aside a weekend or two to help with this years Plantout!

Sun July 8 Greenway & Ogluzsco - **Barkly, Vic**

Sun July 15 Shea - **Rhymney, Vic**

Sat July 21 & Sun 22 Vincent - **Lake Fyans, Vic** - overnight camping, meals and entertainment

School groups will be planting over June & July

*more information to be provided in coming weeks, look out on the Project Platypus Facebook page, newsletter or contact the office 03 5358 4410

**PREVENTING & LIVING WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENT afternoon tea
GUEST SPEAKER** Bree Boag, Hearing Australia, based in Horsham.

DATE: Wednesday 30th May, 2017

TIME: 1.30pm.

VENUE: The Function Room, Ararat Racecourse, Old Geelong Road, Ararat.

COST: members \$20 non members \$25

Girls & Grass Advisory Group & PPS

RSVP by Friday 21 May, Debbie: Mob 0418 205 353

or Email: debbiejshea@gmail.com

This is an opportunity to enjoy afternoon tea and learn about prevention of hearing loss, but also to learn to make life easier with a hearing test. Tests will be available until 6pm.
