



Project Platypus Upper Wimmera Landcare

MISSION

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

Find us:

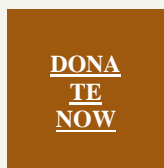
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Contact us:

11 a Ararat Rd Stawell, Victoria
 PO Box 838 Stawell 3380
 ph 03 5358 4410



Down to Earth

NOVEMBER UPDATE

Welcome to our newsletter *Down to Earth*,

Project Platypus has said farewell to manager John Pye (well sort of, he is still helping out) and welcomes newly appointed manager Al Stephens. Heaps to read in this month's newsletter, let me know if you have a local Landcare story, project or event you might like to add in the next issue.

Hope you enjoy the read.

Cheers Andrea

Local Landcare Facilitator

November

Wed 7 Dry season breakfast [workshop](#), Joel Joel

Wed 21 [National Agriculture Day](#)

18 - 23 [National Soils Conference](#), Canberra

December

Fri 14th [Chicks in the Sticks](#) Seed & Feed Tour

2019 SAVE THE DATE

March

29 - 31 Regional Landcare Forum, Hall Gap

NEWS

News article from Stawell Times News [Stawell Urban Landcare, Project Platypus & the Connies in the Ironbarks](#)

[Grant](#) opportunities

[Climate change](#) & podcasts

[Glyphosphate](#) in the spotlight

[Stavelly Arc](#) exploration licences

All about Al

Many people will know Al from his previous work for Project Platypus from 2011 to 2016. He started as Invasive Pests and Animals program manager and then worked on the revegetation program for two years. Before PP he worked for the Department of Primary Industries in Ararat doing similar IPA and revegetation on ground project works management.

Al has lived in the Grampians since 1996 and grew up in Nhill just up the road. Recently he moved into an old orchard at Pomonal with plans of bringing it back into production as a commercial business. This will be a good opportunity to use experience gained in natural resource management and agriculture in tertiary study and working life to produce sustainable organic produce on commercial scale – a long held life time goal.



Al is looking forward to building on all the hard work that John and the rest of the staff have put in over the last couple of years and we all look forward to having him on the team.

PPS & Agriculture Victoria DRY SEASON WORKSHOP

The Perennial Pasture Systems (PPS) farmer group and Agriculture Victoria are combining with Northern Grampians Shire, Project Platypus and the Wimmera CMA to present a dry season workshop for sheep farmers.

Wednesday November 7th

7.30 AM - 10 AM with breakfast provided

Joel Joel hall

This is a free workshop designed to assist sheep farmers to manage their stock and paddocks over the summer months.

Presenters: Steve Cotton – Dynamic Ag & Neil James – Agriculture Victoria

Steve will discuss management options to maintain flock health and profitability through the dry summer.

Neil will discuss how to maintain good groundcover to protect your pastures

Further details & register:

PPS Rob Shea – yadin@netconnect.com.au or 0438 523157

Agriculture Victoria, Jo Cameron - jo.cameron@ecodev.vic.gov.au or 0419 832 704

Chicks in the Sticks

*Come along for a bus trip to
Grains Innovation Park, Horsham
Featuring grain research to paddock production
Salubrious & social lunch at BAA 3400
continue the tour to...
Haven Grown, organic market garden.*

FRIDAY 14TH DECEMBER

Cost: \$15

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

More info: Lisa - OliverL@wcma.vic.gov.au or mob 0429 606 749

Andrea - llf@platypus.org.au or ph 5358 4410

SEED & FEED TOUR

Bus leaves Woolworths car park, Stawell 8.30 am. Returns 4.30 pm.

*Supported by Wimmera CMA through
funding from the Victorian Government's
Victorian Landcare Program*



Chicks In the Sticks "Seed & Feed Tour"

Friday 14th December Bookings [Ticketebo](http://www.ticketebo.com.au)

8.30 am - 4.30 pm

Big day out to **Grains Innovation Park (GIP)** for a tour of facilities and talk. GIP celebrated 50 years of agricultural research and innovation this year. Work carried out at GIP focuses on crop breeding, soil science, agronomy, farming systems and much more. Come along and find out about this world class facility that supports agriculture in Australia.

Lunch at BAA 3400.

Finish the day at **Haven Grown**, an organic market garden that supplies directly to Horsham cafes

and restaurants. A bus will be taking passengers from Stawell to Horsham and surrounds. Cost of the day \$15 (includes bus and morning tea). Pay for lunch on the day.

FARMER NEWS

[National Agriculture Day](#) On 21 November Australia will pause to celebrate the remarkable contribution of Australian agriculture. Every Australian has a stake in the success of this historic industry, and AgDay is your chance to get behind it. Events are taking place right across the nation, from Perth to Sydney - and everywhere in between. You're also invited to host your own gathering!

[George the Farmer](#) is back for another year as an official National Ag Day ambassador!

National Centre for Farmer Health [Tractor and header exercises](#) - tone your butt, tighten your tummy, trim your thighs and target your shoulders for better health in the tractor or header this season!



National Soils Conference

SOIL: The key to the Past, the Present and the Future

18-23 November

Canberra, Hyatt Hotel

If the world's soil resources are to meet future human needs we must plan for and adapt to changes. To achieve greater sustainability of soil resources we need to explore the lessons of the past, reflect on the present and develop concrete plans and goals for the future. This represents a challenge for decision making at all levels, from individuals to governments. These decisions must be underpinned with quality science and first hand experiences from land management.

For more information soilscienceconference.org.au

Online [bookings](#) close 12 November



Woolworths Junior Landcare Grants

As part of its commitment to a greener future, Woolworths in partnership with Landcare Australia, is giving your school or centre the opportunity to apply for a **Woolworths Junior Landcare Grant** of up to **\$1,000**. Some ideas for projects are below and don't forget you can ring Project platypus for help or advice.

- create a habitat restoration project
- plant a bush tucker garden
- plant a veggie garden
- run a recycling or composting project

Applications close: 23 November 2018

National Science Week Grants 2019

Provides individuals and organisations with [grants](#) between **\$2,000** and **\$20,000** to support the delivery of **science engagement activities** during National Science Week. National Science Week is Australia's major national celebration of the sciences in August each year.

The next National Science Week will be held from **10 - 18 August 2019**.

Applications close: 20 November 2018 5:00 pm



CLIMATE CHANGE Information

IPCC Report [Nature \(International Journal of Science\)](#) IPCC says limiting global warming to 1.5 °C will require drastic action

PODCAST Total Environment Centre [Australia's Energy Wars](#)

PODCAST Climate Council [Droughts & flooding rains](#)

GLYPHOSATE - rounded up and under the spotlight

Glyphosate or RoundUp as it is commonly sold is a herbicide. It is applied to the leaves of plants to kill both broadleaf plants and grasses. The molecule “glyphosate” was patented by Monsanto in the early 1970s. Roundup was introduced to the consumer market in 1974 as a broad-spectrum herbicide and quickly became one of the best-selling herbicides since 1980. It is the most commonly used herbicide for farmers in Australia and below is the investigation by the ABC and a response from Australian Farmers:

Under the spotlight following claims it may cause cancer. See [ABC 4 CORNERS](#)

[Australian Farmers](#) busts the myths and explains why the science doesn't support this claim.

Stavelly Arc

On 22 June 2018, the Victorian Minister for Resources opened a tender for the exclusive right to be considered for a minerals exploration licence over one or more of eleven blocks offered in an area within western Victoria known in geological terms as the Stavelly Arc. See map below of areas covered and for more information:

[Victorian Government Earth Resources](#)

[Geoscience Australia](#)

