

ALWAYS BE
YOURSELF
UNLESS YOU CAN BE A
PLATYPUS
THEN BE A PLATYPUS



Project Platypus Upper Wimmera Landcare

MISSION

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

**PROJECT
PLATYPUS**

UPPER WIMMERA LANDCARE

Find us:

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**DON
ATE
NOW**

Down to Earth

APRIL UPDATE

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

What a wonderful weekend in the Grampians - Gariwerd, for the biannual Landcare forum. Leanne Jackman (Project Platypus board member, Landcare Victoria Inc. secretary) and her committee made last weekend one to remember. More information will be in the coming issues of our newsletter.

Diverse subjects, from trees with memory to avoiding farming naked, plus a few other tit-bits are all covered in this month's newsletter.

I hope you enjoy, and if not, no use complaining because I will be on an environmental study tour to Cambodia for the next three weeks, well out of hearing distance.

Warmest regards Andrea

PS (My work mobile number has changed & I'll let you know what it is when I get back!)

APRIL

Thurs 4 [Bees, Wasps & Ants](#), SWIFFT seminar, Ararat

MAY

Sun 12 [Trees for Mum](#), Stawell Urban Landcare

Tue 28 Good Governance for Women, day 1

JUNE

Tue 4 Good Governance for Women, day 2

SAVE THE DATE

JULY

22-24 GRDC's [Innovation Generation](#) (for 18 -40 yr olds)

Every Sunday in July save for [Plantout 2019](#)

SEPTEMBER

2-8 Landcare week

[Shout out](#) - revegetation 2020

Part II Four Inspiring women of the Wimmera - [Penny Warner](#)

[Trees remember](#) heatwaves

[Don't farm naked](#). Try cover cropping.

[Retirees](#) donate savings to climate fight

Weed of the month - [Hawkweed](#)

GRANTS

National Landcare Program: [Smart Farming Partnerships](#) Round 2

Good Governance for Women 2019

May 28th June 9.30 am - 3.30 pm

Tues 4th June 9.30 am - 3.30 pm

Stawell

Project Platypus with funding from the Wimmera CMA will be hosting a two day governance workshop

in Stawell.

The **purpose** of the workshops is to learn about good governance and how it fits into personal and professional development goals for participants.

AIMS:

- build confidence amongst participants regarding the core knowledge needed to be on a Board
- develop skills to enable members to contribute to a Board
- build understanding about the components of medium term and long term strategic planning
- develop a Good Governance action plan for the Board

GOALS:

1. What it means to be on a Board or committee – the 4 Rs :Responsibilities, Roles, Risk, Rules
2. Being an effective Board or committee member – the BUSH guide; being purposeful and strategic; using evaluation, showing leadership; having the right structure and processes
3. Planning for the future; what is planning?; scanning the environment; SWOT; developing your plan; communicating your plan
4. Making a difference; developing a plan for your Board

For more info or bookings through the Project Platypus office 5358 4410



REVEGETATION 2020 - PLAN AHEAD

Project Platypus is currently looking for **revegetation projects for 2020**. Suitable projects will be supplied with trees and guards and planting organised by Project Platypus during July 2020. A fencing incentive payment may also be available to cover the majority of cost for stock exclusion fencing if required for your project. If you have plans for a revegetation corridor or block on your property please get in contact with **Al Stephens** manager@platypus.org.au or **53584410**

Four inspiring women of the Wimmera - Penny Warner

Born and bred in Stawell, Penny Warner's connection to the land started in childhood when she visited her grandparent's farm in Moyston. "Every holiday I went down to the farm," she said. "I love the land,

I love the land.”

Penny has helped Project Platypus Upper Wimmera Landcare Network for several years at their annual plant outs. The plant outs require a huge commitment from volunteers – not just in tree planting, but also in catering and organising.

For the past four years Penny has prepared morning-teas of cakes and scones for the plant outs. Her evening leisure time is spent making up hundreds of tree guards.

She is a great community asset. Penny volunteers because she simply enjoys it. “I get to mix with people, instead of sitting at home. And I get out in the bush and it is beautiful,” she said.



Penny Warner volunteering her leisure time to making tree guards for Project Platypus Upper Wimmera Landcare Network plant outs.

* Note this article was published in the summer edition of the 2019 Victorian Landcare [magazine](#)



Jade Killoran, guest speaker, AGF seeds

Don't farm naked. Try Cover Cropping.

Written by Mark Maclean

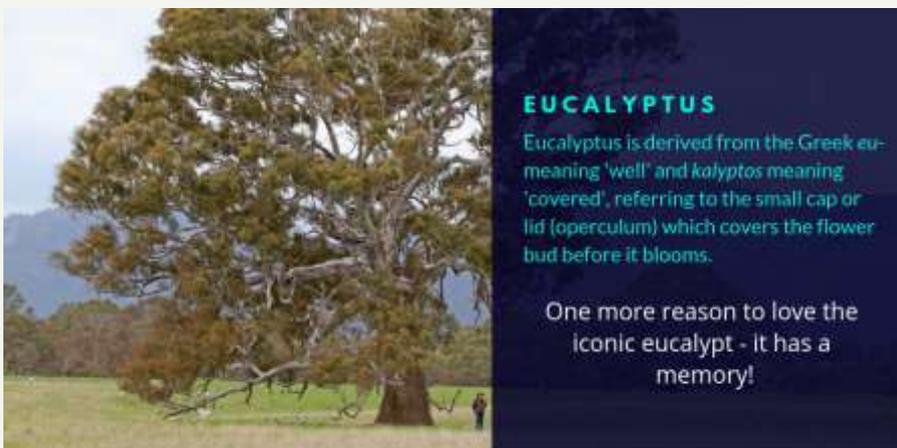
The **Concongella Landcare Group** held a "**Boosting productivity with cover cropping**" workshop on March the 13th at Joel Joel Hall. Attendees were given a great overview of why and how to start using summer and winter cover crops to improve soil structure and increase feed amount and quality for stock by Jade Killoran from AGF seeds. Many options were covered to economically integrate cover crops into current farming systems and rotations. This included adding cereals to existing lucerne stands, sowing sorghum, millet and brassicas in mid to late spring for summer cover and sowing cereal mixed with other grains in early Autumn for winter cover. The group also visited a summer cover crop site to get a first hand look.



Trees remember heatwaves

Sounds ridiculous, I know, that trees have a "memory". An Aussie eucalypt can 'remember' past exposure to extreme heat, which makes the tree and its offspring better able to cope with future heatwaves, according to new research from Macquarie University. This finding could have important implications for restoring ecosystems and climate-proofing forestry, as the number of hot days and heatwaves increase due to climate change.

For more information read : [SCIMEX](#) or the journal article: [Evidence from the proteome for local adaptation to extreme heat in a widespread tree species](#)



Trees for Mum

The project is supported by funding through the Victorian Government's Victorian Landcare Program



Stawell Urban Landcare

is again giving away free plants
as a living legacy to mums

Sunday, 12th May, 2019

from 9.00 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.

at Mother's Day Classic

North Park, Stawell

www.treesformum.com



Save the date. Project Platypus Plantout 2019. Looking for Volunteers:

Sunday 7th July - Pomonal

Sunday 14th July - Halls Gap

Sunday 21st July - Jallukar

Sunday 28th July - Elmhurst

National Landcare Program: Smart Farming Partnerships Round 2

The Australian Government is inviting applications for projects to deliver services under the [National Landcare Program - Smart Farming Partnerships Round 2](#). Projects are expected to commence before

the end of 2019 and be complete by 30 April 2023.

The purpose of Smart Farming Partnerships is to foster sustainable natural resource management innovation. Smart Farming Partnerships deliver against the Australian Government's policy of using innovation to cultivate more sustainable, productive and profitable agriculture, forestry, fishing and aquaculture industries; protect Australia's biodiversity; protect and improve the condition of natural resources (in particular on-farm soils, water and vegetation); and assist Australia to meet its national and international obligations.

The purpose will be achieved through substantial projects, funded, at least in part, by grants, that deliver against either or both of the outcomes described below:

Outcome 1 – Innovation in sustainable resource management practice

Outcome 2 – Innovation in capacity building and promotion of sustainable resource management practice

More information: [Community hub grants](#)

ph 1800 020 283 or email support@communitygrants.gov.au.

Native Bees, Wasps and Ants - video conference

4th April

DELWP Office, Video Conference room, Barkly St, Ararat

Time to think about the small things in life and gain a better understanding of these insects, their role and conservation status.

SWIFFT have been running quarterly seminars for over 10 years with increasing popularity. These interactive sessions help connect researchers, land managers, government agencies and community groups and allow a platform for us to share our stories. The seminars are free and anyone with an interest is welcome to attend.

Contact: Jane Moorfoot (03) 5355 0521



Notoncus sp. of ants. are essential in attending to the larval phase of the Eltham Copper Butterfly.

[Video conference agenda](#)

Innovation Generation

24 - 26 July

Ballarat

Innovation Generation (IG) is the best opportunity for 18-40 year olds in the Australian agricultural industry to network, learn and be inspired. Over three days IG brings together growers, agribusiness professionals, industry pioneers and innovators to explore a diverse range of issues, ideas and opportunities.

Contact Rebecca for more info 02 9286 2000 or rebecca.wilde@graingrowers.com.au
www.innovationgeneration.com.au/

Private property to nature reserve

[Retirees donate savings to climate fight](#) - at Emu, Victoria

In a moment of catharsis a couple donate \$1 million to convert private property into nature reserves and help create habitat links for plants and animals to adapt to a changing climate. It is the humble bullock *allocasuarina leuhmanni* that will benefit - presently only 3% of bullock woodland exists since European settlement and subsequent clearing.

Hawkweed - *Pilosella* or *Hieracium* species.

Hawkweed is a State prohibited weed, which is in the highest category of declared noxious weeds in Victoria. By definition they are either not yet in Victoria, or are here in small numbers, where their eradication is still possible.

Hawkweeds are perennial herbs native to Europe. They are **aggressive spreading weeds** in the USA, Britain, Canada and New Zealand. Hawkweeds could cause significant harm to ecosystems in Victoria's high country, through restricting the growth of neighbouring plants by releasing chemicals into the soil. This results in native plants being displaced with a dense mat or monoculture of hawkweeds.

Report sightings to Agriculture Victoria ph 136 186 or email

weed.spotters@ecodev.vic.gov.au.

Agriculture Victoria will treat, remove and dispose of hawkweed safely, at no cost to the land owner.

Hawkweeds:

- can grow over a wide range of climates and can tolerate various habitat conditions – gravel or acidic soils, full sun, part shade, frost or snow.
- can spread quickly by seeds that are carried in the wind, they also spread from stolons (above ground runners) and root fragments.
- It is important to note that orange, dandelion-type flowers are very unusual, especially clustered together in flower heads.
- have been found and removed from gardens around Victoria as a legacy of trade, prior to their declaration as a State prohibited weed in 2003.
- some species that look similar to hawkweeds: Smooth hawksbeard (*Crepis capillaris*), but the stems are erect and smooth, unlike hawkweed species; Cat's ear or flatweed (*Hypochaeris radicata*) usually only has a single flower per stalk; common dandelion which is hairless and has a single flower per stalk.

*Note - scientific name for hawkweeds has been changed from Hieracium to Pilosella. Agriculture Victoria continues to refer to Hieracium as this is the name listed in the legislation.

More information: [Hawkweed Ag Vic](#)



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Our mailing address is:
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